May 4, 2021

Contact:

Alejandra Lopez
The Legal Aid Society
917-294-9348
ailopez@legal-aid.org

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

Ahead of Rent Guidelines Board Preliminary Hearing on Wednesday, Legal Aid Calls for Rent Rollback Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

(New York, NY) - Adriene Holder, Attorney-in-Charge of the Civil Practice at The Legal Aid Society and former tenant member of the New York City Rent Guidelines Board, released the following statement ahead of tomorrow’s Rent Guidelines Board preliminary vote urging the Board to implement a rent rollback amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic:

“New Yorkers are still reeling from the economic devastation that COVID-19 has caused, and will be for the foreseeable future. Many are still out of work following unprecedented unemployment levels, while others are struggling to catch up on past rent they were not able to make. In this climate, raising rents on low-income tenants is simply cruel and tantamount to an eviction.

The fact that the Rent Guideline’s Board preliminary is virtual, instead of their typical in-person meeting, underscores that the pandemic is still very much our reality. The Board must act appropriately and vote for a rent rollback for tenants in nearly 1 million rent-regulated apartments across the city, many of who are already at a breaking point after the effects of COVID-19.”

###

The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For 145 years, we have protected,
defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. www.legalaidnyc.org