

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

June 21, 2022

Contact:

Redmond Haskins
Director of Media Relations
The Legal Aid Society
929.441.2384
rhaskins@legal-aid.org

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Ahead of Tonight's Rent Guidelines Board's Final Vote, Legal Aid Calls for a Freeze on All NYC Rent Increases

(NEW YORK, NY) - Adriene Holder, Chief Attorney of the Civil Practice at The Legal Aid Society, released the following statement ahead of tonight's final vote by the New York City Rent Guidelines Board on proposed lease adjustments for rent stabilized apartments, lofts and hotels:

“At a time of great economic uncertainty, with so many everyday essential needs priced at record highs, we call for an immediate rent freeze from the Rent Guidelines Board.

Increasing rents on some of our most vulnerable neighbors - seniors, working class families, the disabled and others who predominantly reside in communities of color - is ill-advised and punitive.

Too often, we hear from our clients that they face a Hobson's choice between paying rent, buying groceries, or securing medical needs, and any increase would only exacerbate this suffering, inevitably forcing families from their homes onto the street or into homeless shelters.

Pushing our clients further into poverty is not the answer, prioritizing policies that allow them to remain housed is, and the Board must freeze rents for the over 1 million New Yorkers who call these units home. An outcome short of this will have devastating consequences citywide for the marginalized communities we represent.”

###

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