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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Legal Aid, Coalition for the Homeless Release Letter Memorializing Conversations with the City Regarding Information on Shelter Intake Data and Procedures

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society and the Coalition for the Homeless released a <u>letter</u> today that memorializes a recent meeting with the City regarding information that local officials have agreed to share regarding shelter intake and procedures.

According to those conversations, the City has agreed to provide Legal Aid and the Coalition with the following:

- data on the increase in applications at the New York City Department of Homeless Services' Prevention Assistance and Temporary Housing (PATH) intake center in the Bronx and other intake offices in the city, including the daily reports from May 1, 2022 to date;
- the number of people recorded as having arrived at PATH before and after 10 p.m. and how many of them spent the night in the PATH office;
- a review of the process for recording arrival times at PATH to confirm that everyone who is entitled to a bed that night is counted;
- information on new capacity for homeless families with children, including the names of shelter sites, capacity per shelter, service provider names, and locations of sites already opened or that will open in the future, and to update this information regularly;
- details on plans to increase staffing and to notify Legal Aid and the Coalition about other potential measures the City might pursue to bolster shelter capacity by helping people to move out of shelters and into permanent housing.

The Legal Aid Society and the Coalition for the Homeless stated, "The City knew about this crisis months ago but failed to notify us as counsel to homeless New Yorkers and class representatives or to take meaningful preparatory action to ensure that all these families, including asylum seekers, were provided shelter accommodations in accordance with their respective needs and in compliance with a court order and local law. This information is critical for us to assess whether the City is able to meet the moment, or whether we need to pursue litigation in order to protect these families and their enshrined rights."