

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

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In Response to a Report on Record Rent Increases for the Month of July in NYC, Legal Aid Reaffirms Demand for Albany to Act on Key Protections for Tenants

Attorneys Call for a Special Session to Enact “Good Cause” Legislation

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society** - in response to a recent [report](#) from Douglas Elliman and Miller Samuel on rent increases for the month of July in New York City - called on Albany to immediately convene a special session for lawmakers to enact “[Good Cause](#)”, critical legislation that would equip tenants in unregulated units with basic protections against unjust rent increases and unwarranted evictions.

According to the report, for July 2022, the average monthly rent in Manhattan climbed to \$5,133, a 27.5 percent increase from July 2021. This surpasses last month's record monthly rent average of \$5,000 for the borough.

Brooklyn's rent price for last month averaged \$3,833, a 16.8 percent increase compared to July 2021, and rents in northwest Queens averaged \$3,426, an increase of 11.5 percent compared to July 2021.

“Tenants across the economic spectrum in unregulated units are now experiencing first-hand what happens when landlords have carte blanche over lease adjustments: rents double, and people lose their homes,” said **Adriene Holder, Attorney-In-Charge of the Civil Practice at The Legal Aid Society**. “This is not a reality we have to accept, and pending legislation in Albany, ‘Good Cause’, would finally provide tenants with basic tools to defend against extortionate rent increases and unwarranted evictions. The New York State Legislature may be adjourned until early next January, but Governor Kathy Hochul could call lawmakers back for a special session to enact this critical protection. Anything short of immediate action would amount to a colossal dereliction of duty by our local elected officials.”

Background

Support for “Good Cause”, which is budget-neutral, continues to grow statewide, with [polls](#) frequently revealing that the majority of New Yorkers support this legislation. Moreover, earlier this year, [leading statewide unions](#), including 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, District Council 37 and others reaffirmed their support of “Good Cause”.

Last month, Legal Aid released an [analysis](#) of City data which showed that executed evictions have increased month-by-month from January 2022 to June 2022.

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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 over 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