

# THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Justice in Every Borough.

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## ***In Response to a Report on Record Average Rent Increases for the Month of August 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 on average rent increases for the month of August 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 August 2022, the average monthly rent in Manhattan climbed to \$5,246, a 28.1 percent increase from August 2021. This surpasses July’s record monthly rent average of \$5,113 for the borough.

Brooklyn’s rent price for last month averaged \$3,976, a 23.6 percent increase compared to August 2021, and rents in northwest Queens averaged \$3,368 an increase of 13.8 percent compared to August 2021.

“Tenants throughout New York City in unregulated units are now experiencing first-hand what happens when landlords have complete control over lease adjustments: rents double, and people lose their homes,” said **Adriene Holder, chief attorney of the Civil Practice at The Legal Aid Society**. “This is not a reality we have to accept, and pending statewide legislation - ‘good cause’ - would finally equip tenants with the necessary tools to defend against unwarranted rent increases and unjust evictions. Albany may be in recess until next year, but Governor Hochul could use her powers to convene a special session for lawmakers to advance this needed measure. Anything short of immediate action would amount to a dereliction of duty from 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”.

This past July, 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](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)*