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Legal Aid Statement on New Report Showing Gap Between NYC Wage Growth and Rent Growth is Widest Since 2008

Albany Must Immediately Enact “Good Cause” Legislation to Protect New Yorkers from Rent Increases and Unjust Evictions

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society, in response to a new [report](#) by StreetEasy which found that rent growth outpaced wage growth by 23 percent in New York City in August – the widest gap since the 2008 financial crisis – called on Albany lawmakers to convene a special session to enact “[Good Cause](#),” critical budget-neutral legislation that would equip millions of tenants in unregulated units with basic protections against extortionate rent increase and unjust evictions.

According to the report, wages in New York City were down 9.1% year-over-year in August, while rents were up 13.4% year-over-year.

“Our clients and all New Yorkers earning lower wages cannot continue to bear the brunt of the City’s skyrocketing rents. Nearly half of the City’s essential workers earn enough to afford just 10 percent of the rental inventory that was available this past summer,” said **Judith Goldiner, attorney-in-charge of the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “It is unconscionable that these workers, many of whom provided essential services throughout the pandemic, must now face increased housing instability after putting their own lives at risk to keep New York City running. Albany must convene a special session to pass ‘Good Cause’ to help ensure that families can remain in their homes.”

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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