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In Response to Rising Rents, Legal Aid Calls on Albany to Enact “Good Cause” Legislation to Protect Tenants in Unregulated Units From Unwarranted Evictions and Rent Increases

(NEW YORK, NY) - **The Legal Aid Society**, in response to a recently issued [report](#) on skyrocket rents in New York City, called on Albany lawmakers to pass and sign into law “Good Cause” eviction legislation to equip tenants in unregulated units with basic protections to defend against unwarranted evictions and rent increase.

According to the [report](#) released by Douglas Eillman, the average median rent in Manhattan for this past January rose to \$4,097, a 15.4 percent increase from \$3,550 compared to January 2022.

The median rental price in Brooklyn last month jumped 25 percent to \$3,499 compared to \$2,800 from a year ago.

Lastly, median January 2023 rents in northwest Queens increased 14.2 percent from \$2,950 to \$3,369 compared to January 2022.

“Despite decreasing inflation, rents remain at unprecedented levels, forcing tenants from their homes and onto the streets or into local shelters,” said **Judith Goldiner, attorney-in-charge of the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “So long as Albany fails to advance ‘Good Cause’ to equip tenants with basic protections from unwarranted evictions and rent hikes, this troubling trend will continue. Governor Hochul and members of the Legislature must immediately answer the cries from their constituents and finally codify ‘Good Cause’ into law.”

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

Last month, Legal Aid released an [analysis](#) of City data which revealed that since the statewide eviction moratorium lapsed last year, executed evictions in New York City have increased almost every month.

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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