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**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

***Single Mother Who Cares for Daughter and Elderly, Disabled  
Mother Faces No Cause Eviction from Brooklyn Home of  
Nearly 15 Years***

***In Response, Legal Aid Attorneys Call on Albany to Enact  
“Good Cause” to Equip Residents of Unregulated Units With  
Basic Tenant Protections***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society called on Albany lawmakers to enact “[Good Cause](#)” legislation – a critical measure to ensure that tenants in unregulated units have basic protections against unwarranted evictions and exorbitant rent increases – in response to a [report](#) about a Legal Aid client whose family is facing a no cause eviction from their Brooklyn home of almost 15 years. If “Good Cause” were to become law, this family would have protections to defend against these unscrupulous practices.

Ms. King has lived in her East New York apartment with her teenage daughter who attends Stuyvesant High School, and her elderly, disabled mother. Ms. King is a hard-working nanny, who makes a living taking care of children. She has always paid her rent on time and is a model tenant, yet because she lives in a non-regulated building, her family has no legal recourse to fight the eviction.

The landlord lost the building in foreclosure a few years ago, and Ms. King was never informed about the foreclosure while continuing to pay rent to the former owner until March 2022, when she was served with a legal notice that she would be evicted. The new owner, SKZF 737 Mazel

LLC, which is associated with thousands of [buildings](#) across New York City according to public records, subsequently brought a holdover proceeding, which is a case unrelated to non-payment, against Ms. King.

“Good Cause” eviction, which New York State legislators seemed to support on the Senate and Assembly [one-house budgets](#), is the only measure that could help this family remain in their home.

“Mr. King’s story is tragic, but it isn’t an outlier. Model tenants throughout New York City are facing exorbitant rent increases and warrantless evictions simply because the existing statute does not provide New Yorkers with basic protections to defend against these practices,” said **Leigh Mangum, staff attorney in the Brooklyn Housing Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “In the midst of an unprecedented housing crisis and with a possible recession months away, we need policies that work to keep our neighbors housed, and that’s why Albany must include ‘Good Cause’ in the final budget.”

Recently, the *New York Daily News* [reported](#) on a Bronx family of ten – a couple and their eight children, ages six to twenty – who currently face eviction as their landlord refused to renew their lease without providing any justified reason.

In Brooklyn, *Patch* [reported](#) on a similar story of a man who has lived in his home for 15 years and is facing eviction despite being a model tenant for all those years.

[Pix11](#) covered a formerly homeless family of 10 who are facing eviction and could be forced back into the shelter system. “Good Cause” would also help these tenants remain in their home.

### **Background on “Good Cause”**

“Good Cause” would require landlords to demonstrate a justification or “good cause” for evicting tenants in unregulated units, and would protect tenants from exorbitant rent hikes, restricting rent increases to either three percent or 1.5 times the inflation rate, whichever is higher.

The budget-neutral legislation would prevent landlords from denying lease renewals to tenants who have consistently abided by the terms of their leases, allowing tenants to advocate for repairs without the fear of retaliation.

The legislation has robust support across the state, with nearly [70 percent of New Yorkers, including policy and political science experts](#) from all levels of government, in favor of passing “Good Cause.” [Small landlords](#), [leaders of New York’s largest labor unions](#) and [New York State Attorney General Letitia James](#) also support “Good Cause.”

In January, 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.

While it is unclear which of these evictions are related to non-payment or a holdover, it is safe to conclude that many of these tenants would have benefited if “Good Cause” were enacted statewide, given the depth and breadth of the legislation.

Legal Aid Housing Court attorneys currently represent New Yorkers in hundreds of no-cause holdovers across the five boroughs, often involving the most vulnerable tenants, whose eviction would be avoided should “Good Cause” pass into law.

Earlier today, Douglas Eillman [released](#) a [report](#) showing that rents in New York City have continued to skyrocket in the post-COVID housing market.

According to the report, the median rental price in Manhattan for this past March rose to \$4,175, a 12.8 percent increase from \$3,700 compared to March 2022, [the highest on record](#).

The median rental price in Brooklyn last month jumped 16.4 percent to \$3,493 compared to \$3,000 last year.

Lastly, median March 2023 rents in northwest Queens increased 13.9 percent from \$2,898 to \$3,300 compared to March 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)*