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Ahead of NYC Rent Guidelines Board Preliminary Vote, Legal Aid Calls for Rent Freeze to Protect Low-Income Tenants

(NEW YORK, NY) — **Adriene Holder, chief attorney of the Civil Practice at The Legal Aid Society,** released the following statement ahead of the New York City Rent Guidelines Board (RGB) Preliminary Vote scheduled for Tuesday, May 2 at 7:00 PM on proposed lease adjustments for rent-stabilized apartments:

“New York City is facing an [affordability crisis](#) worse than anything we have seen in the past two decades, and raising rents by any margin at this time would have catastrophic consequences for some of our city's most vulnerable tenants, the overwhelming majority of whom reside in Black and Latinx neighborhoods.

“Given the [severity of last year's rent hikes](#) coupled with the ongoing citywide housing crisis, the Board should unequivocally reject any proposed increases for tenants in rent-stabilized units and commit to an outright freeze. Per a recent Fund for the City of New York report, half of the city's households are struggling to pay rent, access sufficient food and basic health care, and afford transportation. Raising rents for already struggling low-income New Yorkers is not only unnecessary, but immoral.

“The Rent Guidelines Board was not established to line the pockets of landlords, but rather to responsibly weigh current data to establish reasonable rent adjustments. There is no way to justify the range that's being proposed. Ahead of Tuesday's vote, we call on the Board to prioritize keeping all tenants safely housed and preserve the finite stock of rent-stabilized apartments in New York City.”

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