

Justice in Every Borough.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Legal Aid Statement on NYC Rent Guidelines Board Voting to Increase Rents on Vulnerable New Yorkers

(NEW YORK, NY) - Adriene Holder, chief attorney of the Civil Practice at The Legal Aid Society and former tenant member of the New York City Rent Guidelines Board (RGB), released the following statement condemning the RGB for voting to increase rents for residents of stabilized apartments, lofts and hotels:

"With tonight's vote to increase rents for some of our most vulnerable neighbors, more New Yorkers will find themselves displaced from their homes and communities onto the streets or in local shelters.

"As detailed in a <u>report</u> issued by Board staff this past April, the majority of tenants in rent-stabilized units are already significantly rent burdened. Moreover, another recent <u>report</u> revealed that New York City is in the midst of the worst affordability crisis of the last two decades.

"This willful increase from the Board is both immoral and bad policy that will deepen the local homelessness and eviction crisis that Albany and City Hall seem unable and unwilling to even address.

"For years, landlords enjoyed rubber stamp increases from the Board, and these continued hikes will bear devastating consequences on the New Yorkers most in need of assistance, care and a place to call home."

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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 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