

For Planning Purposes Only: April 5, 2024

Media Contacts:

Chris Natoli, Fifth Avenue Committee, cnatoli@fifthave.org, 917-693-7747

Alejandra Lopez, The Legal Aid Society, ailopez@legal-aid.org

Emmitt Mendoza-Gaspar, Assemblymember Marcela Mityanes, mendoza-gaspare@nyassembly.gov



****ADVISORY: Press Conference – Apr. 5, 11:30am****

Maimonides Tenants, Assemblymembers Mitaynes, Forrest, Senator Salazar to Hold Press Conference to Call on Hospital to Stop Mass Evictions

Hospital Plans to Move Forward with Evicting Long-time Essential Workers and Retirees

Tenants Call on State Legislature to Pass Good Cause Eviction as Last Lifeline to Save Their Homes

BROOKLYN – Maimonides staff who rent their homes from the hospital will gather with elected officials and housing advocates outside the apartment buildings on Friday, April 5th, at 11:30am to demand that Maimonides drop the eviction cases against them. Approximately 60 families are currently in eviction proceedings in court.

The tenants will also call on the state legislature to pass Good Cause Eviction, which could be their last resort to remain in their long-time homes. Good Cause may pass in the next week as part of the state budget. In addition, tenants are protesting the horrible building conditions they've suffered through, including visible damage from a fire in October that has not been fixed.

WHO: Maimonides/Iris Tenant Union; Elected officials, including Assemblymembers Marcela Mitaynes and Phara Souffrant Forrest, Senator Julia Salazar; Neighbors Helping Neighbors; 1199 SEIU; Fifth Avenue Committee; The Legal Aid Society

WHEN: Apr. 5, 2024 – 11:30am ET

WHERE: Outside 974 47th St, Brooklyn, NY 11219

Background:

Maimonides Hospital is evicting nearly 60 hospital workers and retirees without cause, despite decades of services to Maimonides. The hospital owned eleven nearby buildings, where nurses and hospital staff rented apartments. Maimonides chose to cash in on these real estate assets, [selling](#) seven of the buildings in 2018 to Iris Holdings Group for \$68 million. Now they are clearing out two more buildings which house current hospital employees. Tenants vowed to fight the evictions and stay in their homes.

Pressure is now mounting for Maimonides to drop their eviction cases against longtime residents and essential workers. Last month, [Attorney General Letitia James](#) urged the hospital to halt the planned evictions, and [Maimonides tenants traveled to Albany](#) to meet with 14 Brooklyn legislators including the Speaker of the Assembly Carl Heastie, calling on them to support them in their fight to stay in their longtime homes and to pass Good Cause Eviction.

Good Cause Eviction, which would protect the Maimonides tenants as well as nearly all tenants in the state from evictions without cause, has strong momentum to pass as part of a larger housing package in the state budget this year. Both the Senate and the Assembly have backed the measure.

Maimonides has not maintained the buildings that they own or the units they rent from Iris Holdings Group for remaining workers and retirees. Tenants have faced bed bug and roach infestations, leaks, broken doors and buzzers, and dirty conditions ([see photos and videos](#)). Repairs from Maimonides were rare and many tenants improved their apartments out of pocket. Amid negligence from Maimonides, there was a major fire at 974 47th St on Oct. 13, 2023, but Maimonides has done nothing to repair the dangerous conditions in the building following the fire. The Legal Aid Society, on behalf of tenants at 974 47th St. and 968 47th St. has commenced cases against the hospital, urging the court to appoint an administrator to take charge of the buildings and make repairs. Those cases are scheduled to be heard on April 15.

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[Fifth Avenue Committee](#) is a community development corporation in south Brooklyn that provides community-centered affordable housing, grassroots organizing, policy advocacy, and transformative education, training, and services. [Neighbors Helping Neighbors](#) is an affiliate of Fifth Avenue Committee serving Sunset Park residents through housing counseling and tenant organizing and advocacy.

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.

[Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes](#) represents the 51st Assembly District, including Red Hook, Sunset Park, Northern Bay Ridge, and parts of Boro Park, Park Slope, and Gowanus. She is a Peruvian immigrant and previously a tenant organizer in her community for more than 10 years, playing a key role in the passage of the 2019 Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act. She is the first Peruvian-American in the New York State legislature.

[Housing Justice for All](#) is a statewide coalition of more than 80 organizations representing tenants and homeless New Yorkers, united in our fight for housing as a human right.