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Legal Aid Condemns Rent Guidelines Board’s Preliminary Vote to Increase Rents on Low-Income New Yorkers, Calls for Rent Freeze to Protect Vulnerable Tenants from Displacement

(NEW YORK, NY) — **The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement after the New York City Rent Guidelines Board’s (RGB) voted to increase rents for residents in rent stabilized dwellings:

“We strongly condemn the Rent Guidelines Board for their preliminary vote to increase rents for New Yorkers living in rent stabilized units. This increase will have devastating consequences for low-income tenants, many of whom are already rent burdened or severely rent burdened.

“Regardless of the disappointing outcome of tonight’s vote, the Board still has the opportunity to reconsider this decision and vote for a much-needed rent freeze come the final vote in June.

“Before then, we urge the Board to listen to the cries of tenants and take into account how any rent increase will inevitably lead to higher rates of eviction, displacement and homelessness for the more than two million New Yorkers who reside in a rent stabilized dwelling.

“In order to remain in accordance with its own stated mandate of preserving affordability, fighting against unconscionable rent hikes, and preventing the uprooting of long-standing communities, the Board must vote for an outright freeze on rents for stabilized units at the final vote in June.”

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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