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*****MEDIA ADVISORY FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024*****

Advocates, Elected Officials, Tenants to Make Announcement on Litigation to Force the Adams Administration to Implement CityFHEPS Reform Laws

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society, the Coalition for the Homeless, VOCAL-NY, Neighbors Together, Women In Need NYC, Safety Net Activists at the Urban Justice Center, members of the Homes Can’t Wait Coalition, along with elected officials and tenants, will convene Tuesday, October 1 at 11 A.M. to make an announcement regarding *Marie Vincent et. al. v. Mayor Eric Adams*, litigation brought this past February to compel Mayor Eric Adams and the City to fully implement a package of legislation passed by the New York City Council that would reform and remove barriers to the City Fighting Homelessness and Eviction Prevention Supplement (CityFHEPS) program, a local housing voucher for New Yorkers on the brink of or experiencing homelessness.

In August, the New York County Supreme Court of the State of New York dismissed the petition on the grounds that state law deprives the City Council of any social services policymaking authority.

WHAT: Press conference to make announcement regarding litigation to force the Adams Administration to implement a package of legislation to reform and expand CityFHEPS.

WHEN: Tuesday, October 1, 11 A.M.

WHERE: Outside Manhattan Housing Court, 111 Centre St, New York, NY 10013

WHO: The Legal Aid Society, the Coalition for the Homeless, the Homes Can’t Wait Coalition, New Yorkers facing eviction and homeless who would qualify for CityFHEPS under new laws, current CityFHEPS voucher holders, and elected officials.

Background on *Marie Vincent et. al. v. Mayor Eric Adams et. Al.*

This past February, Legal Aid [filed](#) *Marie Vincent et. al. v. Mayor Eric Adams et. al.* on behalf of New Yorkers who would be eligible for CityFHEPS under the new laws but who are barred from accessing the rent subsidy because the Adams Administration has refused to implement the reforms.

The New York City Charter requires City agencies to enforce and implement all measures enacted into law, including those enacted via a Council override. Moreover, State law allows for parties to sue localities when government officials have “failed to perform a duty enjoined upon [them] by law”.

Memo of law: <http://tinyurl.com/5n9ykhwr>

Petition: <http://tinyurl.com/5588jtmb>

Legal Aid’s lawsuit seeks the full implementation of:

- [Local Law 99 of 2023](#), which permits voucher holders to lease apartments for the full voucher amount without having to first deduct utility expenses, placing CityFHEPS families on par with Section 8 vouchers holders;
- [Local Law 100 of 2023](#), which increases income eligibility from 200 percent of the federal poverty line to 50 percent of area median income to expand access to more New Yorkers in need;
- [Local Law 101 of 2023](#), which expands eligibility for CityFHEPS to any income eligible household at risk of eviction;
- [Local Law 102 of 2023](#), which precludes the City from basing eligibility on employment status.

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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 nearly 150 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