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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

Legal Aid Statement on Mayor Adams' Last-Minute Rent Guidelines Board Appointments

(NEW YORK, NY) - The Legal Aid Society today released the following statement condemning Mayor Adams' last-minute appointments to the Rent Guidelines Board (RGB) — mere days before his administration ends:

“These last-minute appointments by the outgoing mayor could undermine incoming Mayor-Elect Mamdani’s proposed rent freeze meant to bring urgently needed relief to tenants.

“Over the past four years under Mayor Adams, New York City renters have endured a cumulative rent hike of 12 percent — a steeper increase than all those approved collectively under his predecessor. These new appointments threaten to lock in yet another rent increase, precisely when families across the city are struggling to make ends meet.

“This policy decision at the eleventh hour undermines the will of the people — and the ability of the next administration to act responsibly in the public interest.

“A rent freeze is not a political luxury — it is a lifeline for countless New Yorkers. In the communities we serve, many families are just one paycheck away from eviction; many are juggling medical bills or childcare amid inflation and stagnant wages, which have already stretched budgets to the breaking point. Rent increases only deepen the crisis, pushing vulnerable tenants toward displacement, instability, and homelessness.

“The Legal Aid Society stands firmly with those fighting to stay in their homes. We must allow the RGB to move forward unimpeded.”

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The Legal Aid Society is a nonprofit law firm that 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 the people we serve and helps improve our communities.

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