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

Legal Aid, Coalition for the Homeless Respond to Court Ruling on East Village Intake Shelter

(NEW YORK, NY) — **The Legal Aid Society and the Coalition for the Homeless** issued the following statement in response to the court’s ruling granting the plaintiffs a temporary restraining order in litigation challenging the planned opening of a men’s homeless intake site in the East Village:

“This situation highlights the consequences of the City’s failure to create permanent affordable housing for the lowest-income New Yorkers. If adequate affordable housing were available, tens of thousands of New Yorkers would not have to rely on shelters every night.

“The site at 8 East 3rd St. has long served as a shelter and previously functioned as a men’s intake center, making its current use consistent with its history. Opposition from some neighbors lacks a good-faith basis and appears to be little more than NIMBYism, given both that history and the urgent need for a functioning, legally compliant shelter intake facility.

“At the same time, we have serious concerns about the building’s accessibility and the City’s ability to comply with the [Butler](#) settlement, the Americans With Disabilities Act, and other disability protections, particularly given the accelerated timeline. The City has committed to making the site fully accessible, and we are actively negotiating the specific steps it will take to operate as an intake facility and to ensure the site is accessible to all single men seeking shelter.

“New Yorkers experiencing homelessness deserve — and are entitled to — safe, accessible shelter and services, and the City must prioritize long-term housing solutions to reduce homelessness and prevent these challenges from occurring in the first place.”

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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 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.

www.legalaidnyc.org

The Coalition for the Homeless is the nation's oldest advocacy and direct service organization helping homeless individuals and families. We believe that affordable housing, sufficient food and the chance to work for a living wage are fundamental rights in a civilized society. Since our inception in 1981, the Coalition has worked through litigation, public education and direct services to ensure that these goals are realized.