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Legal Aid Statement on Mayor Mamdani's Housing Plan

(NEW YORK, NY) — **The Legal Aid Society** released the following statement in response to Mayor Zorhan Mamdani's housing plan:

“It is no secret that New York City is in the midst of an unprecedented housing crisis. Rents continue to skyrocket, affordable housing remains out of reach for countless families, and far too many New Yorkers are living one paycheck away from eviction, homelessness, or displacement.

“This comprehensive housing plan recognizes that this crisis demands a bold, multi-pronged response. Increasing funding for Right to Counsel — a landmark program that has been replicated across the country because of its effectiveness — and ensuring that more New Yorkers have access to attorneys in Housing Court are essential and long overdue. The plan's commitment to reducing rent burdens for the lowest-income New Yorkers by capping rents at 25 percent of household income in new City-financed affordable housing will also provide meaningful relief to families struggling to remain in their communities.

“Moreover, the plan's focus on reducing and preventing homelessness through supportive housing and faster pathways to permanent housing, coupled with investments in NYCHA repairs and preservation, reflects a serious commitment to protecting affordability, preserving public housing, protecting tenants, and expanding housing opportunities for working families across the five boroughs. The plan also recognizes the importance of preserving the existing affordable housing stock by ensuring that unsafe and unlawful housing conditions are corrected and that tenants are empowered to enforce their rights.

“Housing is fundamental to stability, dignity, and opportunity. When people have a safe and affordable place to live, they are better positioned to support their families, maintain employment, address health and mental health challenges, and build sustainable lives. This plan is grounded in that belief, and as we have for 150 years, The Legal Aid Society stands ready to work alongside the Mamdani Administration to help ensure these reforms meaningfully reach the communities we serve every day.”

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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.

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