



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CITY HALL
NEW YORK, NEW YORK, 10007

May 1, 2022

Dear Members of the Rent Guidelines Board:

As elected officials representing some of the most vulnerable New Yorkers, we urge you to vote against any proposed rent increases for rent-stabilized tenants. Last year, this board imposed the highest increase in a decade on a city that already could not afford the rents. This year's vote is approaching at a time Mayor Adams is proposing an executive budget that cuts funding to education, CUNY, libraries, along with a failure to fill crucial roles in agencies that provide vital services. New Yorkers do not have more to give.

The affordability crisis in New York is real: This year's RGB Affordability study found that most New Yorkers cannot afford their rents based on the federal 30% of income standard. About 365,000 low-income households living in rent-stabilized housing are particularly impacted, and in 2022, *14 percent* of rent-regulated tenants experienced an eviction attempt, according to the Community Service Society's Unheard Third Survey.

This Board relies on data from 2021, which should not be grounds to raise rents on today's rent stabilized tenants, as conditions which have dramatically changed, and more updated information is available. Ownership of rent-stabilized buildings remains extremely profitable, with landlords continuing to net 37.8% of every rent dollar.

New York City is deeply unaffordable, and more rent hikes are only going to fuel homelessness, displacement, and push more families over the edge. The RGB was created to protect the tenants from "oppressive rents", not impose them. We are asking you to do the right thing and stand with tenants – do not vote to raise rents this year.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Pierina Sanchez".

Council Member Pierina Sanchez
Chair, Committee on Housing and Buildings

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Carmen De La Rosa".

Council Member Carmen De La Rosa
Council District 10



Keith Powers
Majority Leader, Council District



Diana Ayala,
Deputy Speaker



Shahana Hanif
Council District 39



Erik Bottcher
Council District 3



Gale Brewer
Council District 6



Crystal Hudson
Council District 35



Shekar Krishnan
Council District 25



Kristin Richardson Jordan
Council District 9



Alexa Avilés
Council District 38



Tiffany Cabán
Council District 22



Lincoln Restler
Council District 33



Mercedes Narcisse
Council District 46



Lynn Schulman
Council District 29



Sandy Nurse
Council District 37

Amanda Farías
Council District 18

Shaun Abreu
Council District

Carlina Rivera
Council District 2

Jennifer Gutiérrez
Council District 34

Julie Won
Council District 26

Chi Ossé
Council District 35

Althea Stevens
Council District 16

Rita Joseph
Council District 40

Nantasha Williams
Council District 27

Christopher Marte
Council District 1

Charles Barron
Council District 42