

I am a resident in Manhattan community Board 1. Together with a group of 12 other tenants in my building, we have had support from our local City Council Member Margaret Chin and from our other elected representatives, which has protected our housing through the pandemic. CM Chin's staff enlisted the invaluable support of Cooper Square Committee and Mobilization for Justice. I don't know where we would be without this assistance. I frankly had no idea that elected officials could make such a personal difference in one's life.

Eight of us are senior citizens, most in our 70s, some with serious health issues, and five have had their income reduced or eliminated by the pandemic. Fortunately, we were all able to pay our rent until the landlord refused payments and initiated eviction proceedings. Without the assistance of our elected representatives, CSC, and MFJ, I don't know where we would be.

Being as close to the edge as we are, I understand the distress of those who are without work and income, cannot pay their rent and may never be able to afford to repay it in the future. I implore you to cancel the unpaid rent that is accumulating for these tenants and to provide subsidies for the landlords who need it. For many, this pandemic has been a natural disaster, like a hurricane, and our government should provide disaster relief to those who need it.

Reports on the efficacy of the vaccine suggest that the economy will begin to recover later on in 2021, which means we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. The bills that would give tenants who are without income the support that they need through this period of time must be approved.

Thank you

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