



Mt. Vernon United Tenants, Inc.

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EARLY OCTOBER, 2020
“NEWS & UPDATE”

MVUT normally holds its ANNUAL MEETING on the first Tuesday of October. However, because of the Pandemic, we cannot successfully “Social Distance” in our office for the number of people required. Accordingly, we will continue to provide our program delivery until such time when we can successfully conduct our ANNUAL MEETING. The current Board of Directors will remain in their seats until that time.

Census 2020

Great News! A federal judge in California has overturned the Trump administration’s shortening of the time to complete the Census questionnaire from September 30, 2020 to its original date of October 31, 2020. The extra month provides us the opportunity to significantly raise the percentage of Mt. Vernon residents to complete the questionnaires. THIS IS VITALLY IMPORTANT! Mt. Vernon stands to lose millions of dollars over the next decade if we do not dramatically increase the percentage of Mt. Vernon residents. We can all play a roll in making this happen. As of September 30, only 56.7% of Mt. Vernon residents have successfully completed the Census. We are tied for last among all of Westchester municipalities in our response rate! That is unacceptable and it will irreparably harm Mt. Vernon for the next decade. MVUT is working with various others to increase our Census numbers.

What can you do?

- 1) If you or anyone you know has not filled out the Census questionnaire, come to the MVUT office and we’ll quickly help you do so.
- 2) If there are many people in your building who have not completed the Census MVUT will come to your building for a meeting in your lobby to help people complete the questionnaire.
- 3) As in #2, maybe you’d like to set up a meeting in your church where we’d likewise set up a table to help complete the questionnaire.

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- 4) If you know of any community events where a crowd is expected, let us know and we'll try to get volunteers there to help with the Census.

Remember, this is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to secure major federal dollars for Mt. Vernon. Let's make the most of it!

Election Day – November 3, 2020

This is probably the most important election in all of our lifetimes. In the last mailing we provided a list of times and places for "early voting" from Saturday, October 24 through Sunday November 1. If you or someone you know is not registered to vote and wants to register, they must do so by Friday, October 9. We have voter registration forms in our office. If you have questions about the voting process you should call the **Westchester Board of Elections** at **(914) 995-5700** or check out their website, citizenparticipation@westchestergov.com

Eviction Moratorium

On Monday, September 28 Governor Cuomo extended the eviction moratorium under the State **Tenant Safe Harbor Act** to January 1, 2021. While this is perhaps seen as merely "kicking the can down the road", it does provide tenants with time to work out plans for rent repayment, but more importantly gives the federal government more opportunity to provide economic relief to cities and states, which could be utilized to protect tenants who are in serious arrears.

Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of New York State (NPC/NYS)

The **NPC/NYS** for a long time has been MVUT's largest funding source. The **NPC/NYS** normally holds their Annual Meeting and Conference in October. However this year as a result of the pandemic, there will be no Conference. In its place the **NPC/NYS** has decided to host a series of Webinars on various housing issues. We're enclosing a list and descriptions of the five (5) Webinars. We'll be participating in these Webinars from our office. If you'd like to sit in at our office for any of these Webinars from our office, call the office and we'll try to facilitate that.

SUPPORT TENANTS' RIGHTS!

SUPPORT AFFORDABLE HOUSING!!

Support MVUT!!!

Webinars (5):

Housing, Racial Disparity & COVID - what have we learned and what are next steps?
Presented in conjunction with NeighborWorks America: Working Together for Strong
Communities <https://www.neighborworks.org/Home.aspx>

Presenters:

Dr. Don Trahan Jr. - Director of Race, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative at NeighborWorks America
Eileen Anderson - Senior Director, Northeast Region NeighborWorks
????? - working on one or two more presenters

Date & Time:

Tuesday, October 20th 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Housing Stability & Tenant Protection Act of 2019 - a year in review, how COVID affected the new
laws, what worked and what more needs to be done?

Presenters:

NYS Senator Brian Kavanagh - Housing Committee Chair
NYS MOA Steven Cymbrowitz - Housing Committee Chair

Date & Time:

Thursday, October 22nd 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

HCR - Back to basics and going forward - what are the next steps?

Commissioner RuthAnne Visnauskas - to say welcoming remarks. She has agreed to participate, need to
finalize with her schedule / staff specifics

Presenters:

Elisabeth Draper - Neighborhood Preservation Program Director, Homes and Community Renewal
Diane McClure - Access to Home & RESTORE and
Stephanie Galvin-Riley - HOME program

Date & Time:

Tuesday, October 27th 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

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Housing and the Federal Government - what happened in 2020 and what does 2021 look like?

Presenters:

Diane Yentel - President & CEO, National Low Income Housing Coalition - <https://nlihc.org/about/staff>
Frank Woodruff - Executive Director, National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations - <https://www.naceda.org/frank-woodruff>
???????? - Federal Elected Official

Date & Time:

Thursday, October 29th 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

State Funding Post COVID - will there be any money for Not for Profits?

Presenters:

Roberta Reardon - Commissioner, NYS Department of Labor
Doreen Harris - Acting President and CEO, NYS Energy Research and Development Authority
Greg Olsen - Director, NYS Office for the Aging
Fran Barrett - NYS Interagency Coordinator for Nonprofits

Date & Time:

Tuesday, November 10th 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

These speakers are confirmed (12):

Diane Yentel - President & CEO, National Low Income Housing Coalition
Frank Woodruff - Executive Director, National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations
NYS Senator Brian Kavanagh - Housing Committee Chair
NYS MOA Steven Cymbrowitz
RuthAnne Visnauskas - Commissioner, HCR
Roberta Reardon - Commissioner, NYS Department of Labor
Doreen Harris - Acting President and CEO, NYS Energy Research and Development Authority
Greg Olsen - Director, NYS Office for the Aging
Fran Barrett - NYS Interagency Coordinator for Nonprofits
Elisabeth Draper - Neighborhood Preservation Program Director, Homes and Community Renewal
Diane McClure - Access to Home & RESTORE, HCR
Stephanie Galvin-Riley - HOME Program, HCR