Mt. Vernon United Tenants, Inc.

Mail: P. O. Box 2107, Mt. Vernon, N. Y. 10551
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NEXT MYUT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING TUESDAY - APRIL 3, 2018 - 7:00 PM MYUT OFFICE - 2 GRAMATAN AVE. - SUITE 304

Neighborhood Preservation Program

Still time to write the State Legislators with letters. We provided a draft two (2) mailings ago. Plus, we're still accepting donations to retire the Albany bus costs of March 12.

Building Organizing

In addition to the four (4) buildings of *The Westchester Plaza*, and the four (4) buildings we cited in the last mailing, we've begun organizing campaigns in two (2) new buildings:

525-27 Riverdale Avenue in Yonkers and 10-12 Bonnefoy Place in New Rochelle

VISTA/HUD/NAHT

Dennis and our *VISTA* volunteer, Monique Boamah will be travelling down to Virginia the day after our *General Membership Meeting* on April 4 through Sunday April 8 for the "Early Service Training" (EST) sponsored by the *National Alliance of HUD Tenants* (NAHT). If you need to speak with Dennis or Monique, make sure to call by Tuesday April 3.

Statewide "Source of Income" Anti-Discrimination Campaign

MVUT is one of thirty-eight (38) groups statewide that make up the Statewide Source of Income Coalition. The Coalition has just forwarded a letter to Governor Cuomo and State Legislators calling on them to amend the New York State Human Rights Law to include "Source of Income" as a protected class. We're enclosing a copy of the letter. Please feel free to draft your own letter as a supporting follow-up.

(PLEASE SEE OVER)

Earned Sick Time Campaign

Another *Coalition* effort that *MVUT* is involved in is getting closer to success. On March 27 representatives of the *Coalition*, *MVUT* included, met with Catherine Borgia, Majority Leader of the *Westchester Board of Legislators* (W-BOL) to iron out some loose ends of the proposed legislation. There should be a Public Hearing scheduled shortly for one (1) of the *W-BOL's* Monday night meetings. We'll let our members/friends know of the date of said meeting and we'll help organize transportation to the Meeting. Please join us.

<u>Upcoming Meetings with County Executive George Latimer</u>

There are two (2) meetings in April with the new County Executive where *MVUT* is scheduled to participate:

Tuesday April 10

- Non-Profit Westchester at the Greenburgh Public Library

Thursday April 26

- Hudson Valley Affordable Housing Summit: Novel

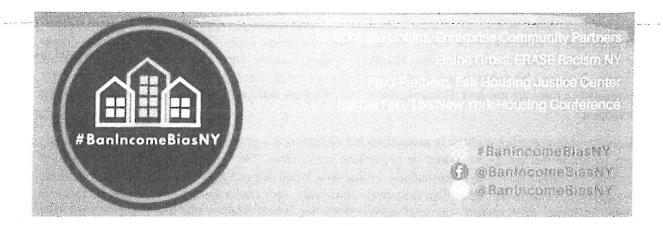
Strategies for Novel Times at Pace Law School

MVUT Membership

Most of you receiving this mailing had at one (1) time paid dues (\$ 25.00/year) to *MVUT*. Many of you have not paid this annual fee for a while. We're enclosing a *Membership Form* and a self-addressed return envelope for you to enclose your contribution. Please do so today and help us to secure more victories for tenants in Mount Vernon and throughout Westchester – as the *Membership* flyer says – "Become Part of the Solution"!!

Support Tenants' Rights
Support Affordable Housing!!
Support MVUT!!

(MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY!)



2018

Dear Governor Cuomo and Members of the New York State Legislature:

On behalf of the Statewide Source of Income Coalition, we write to you in full support of amending the New York State Human Rights Law and expanding the protected classes to include "Lawful Source of Income." This would extend legal protections to individuals using sources other than employment to cover housing costs, including, but not limited to, Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8), Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, unemployment insurance, disability, child support, retirement pensions, alimony, and veterans benefits. The Statewide Source of Income Coalition supports the SOI protections in bill A.10077 (Mosley)* amended to include uniform statewide exemptions that are consistent with current exemptions in the State Human Rights Law (i.e., owner-occupied two family or less). The Coalition would support the passage of a 2018 bill offering these protections.

We encourage you to make this a policy priority in the upcoming legislative session. By establishing a statewide source of income protection, and equipping state and local agencies with resources for enforcement, you will continue to be a champion for our elderly citizens, persons with disabilities, domestic violence survivors, homeless individuals, children, ethnic and racial minorities, and veterans. Advocating for statewide source of income protections, which was initially included in the Women's Equality Bill then subsequently removed, will further illustrate the importance of addressing women's issues. A commitment of this magnitude will demonstrate that leaders in Albany are serious about tackling injustices against our most vulnerable, and we sincerely thank you for your leadership.

The Statewide Source of Income Coalition supports the SOI protections in bill <u>A.10077</u>(Mosley)* amended to include uniform statewide exemptions that are consistent with current exemptions in the State Human Rights Law (i.e., owner-occupied two family or less). The Coalition would support the passage of a 2018 bill offering these protections.

Source of income discrimination is pervasive and it perpetuates much of the widespread residential segregation found throughout New York State. Studies indicate that the success rate of Housing Choice Voucher holders in finding a decent home is significantly higher where local or state law protects against discrimination based on source of income. Further, source of income discrimination has a disproportionate and adverse impact on African Americans, Latinos, individuals with disabilities, and female-headed households; each of these groups rely heavily on the Housing Choice Voucher.

Across the country, source of income legislation has been enacted in California, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Utah, Vermont and Wisconsin. Places in New York State including Buffalo, Hamburg, Nassau County, New York City, Rockland, Suffolk County, Syracuse, Westchester and West Seneca have statutes that include expanded protections related to how housing costs are covered. However, many New Yorkers still live in areas without source of income protection.

The current laws are not uniform in protections nor effectiveness, meaning it is now more important than ever to ensure that consistent, statewide protections are in place. The ability to expand lawful source of income protections statewide is particularly critical now, when demand for apartments affordable to low-income households is far higher than the supply. Nationally, only one in four eligible households receive rental assistance, and enacting source of income protection would promote true housing choice for New York's lowest income families.

We look forward to working with you on the implementation of this historic commitment.

Sincerely,



^{*}The Senate "same as bill" with the exact same language will be added to this letter when the bill is introduced.

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JOIN MYUT - BECOME PART OF THE SOLUTION!!

Your membership can help MVUT prevent homelessness! MVUT stops over one hundred and fifty (150+) evictions every year! Think about how much that saves County taxpayers in paying Emergency Shelter costs! Not to mention, preserving the dignity of those who stay in their homes. Maybe you will someday need our services, or someone you know?

Your membership can help MVUT organize tenants within buildings to fight for increased services, more affordable rents and a lessening of landlord harassment. Get Organized!!

Your membership in MVUT can help MVUT fight for stronger tenant protection laws and for policies that benefit low-income residents.

In the age of Trump, we must fight back! Get Involved.

Yes, I want to help MVUT fight for tenants and for housing and economic justice. Enclosed find my contribution of:							
Barrier 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1	\$ 25,	\$ 50,	\$ 75,	\$ 100,	\$ 200	\$250	
	_Other.						
Name:							
Address:							
Telephone	•	Email:					

ORGANIZED TENANTS CAN WIN!!