



MID-FEBRUARY, 2022
"NEWS & UPDATE"

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A belated greeting to our members and friends. We haven't reported to you since before then holidays. We're still busy though, helping to keep tenants in their homes and preparing for significant challenges into 2022.

ERAP – Emergency Rental Assistance Program

MVUT has been extremely busy and successful in utilizing the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) to secure back rent assistance for tenants who had had a loss of income or additional expenses as a result of Covid-19. MVUT has helped over three hundred (300+) tenants process ERAP applications. We do not have an exact count of successful ERAP applications but we know that a majority of our clients did receive assistance and were able to remain in their apartments. There have been talk and rumors, etc., that ERAP is finished. IT IS NOT! MVUT is still helping tenants submit applications at this time. However, ERAP could end before long. If you, or anyone you know, could be eligible for ERAP, we encourage you to contact MVUT ASAP. Call Andrew at (914) 699-1114 x 304.

EVICTION MORATORIUM

For most of 2021 there was an EVICTION MORATORIUM in effect for tenants who had filled out and submitted a "Financial Hardship Declaration" to the court and/or their landlord. MVUT assisted literally hundreds of tenants in filing such "Declarations." However the moratorium ended January 15, 2022 despite the pleas of MVUT and the broad tenant movement in recognition of the overwhelming, continuing need. We're expecting that there will be a huge increase in court proceedings against tenants as a result of the ending of the moratorium. We are prepared to push for the re-instatement of the moratorium should the courts become overwhelmed and more and more tenants become homeless. If that happens we ask that you raise your voice as well. We'll provide information and guidance as needed.

NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION PROGRAM (NPP)

The NPP has been MVUT's largest funding source for years. However, each year we have to fight for funding for the NPP despite the great work that the 133 Neighborhood Preservation Companies (NPCs) do in their economically distressed communities.

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Unfortunately the governor proposed funding for the NPPs at the same amount as last year - \$12.8 million. We are asking the legislature to add \$1.7 million bringing the total to \$14.5 million. This would provide each group with at least \$100,000.00. The \$12.8 million which has been static for a number of years now actually represents a "cut" via inflation. The housing needs of all our neighborhoods continue to increase – often dramatically. Funding should increase as well! We're also requesting that our statewide coalition be granted a long-overdue increase in funding from \$150,000 to \$250,000.

We're enclosing a copy of the Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of New York State "2022 Legislative Advocacy Agenda". We're also enclosing a two-sided flyer describing the Coalition and tallying some of the impacts of the numerous member "companies." We'd ask that all of our members and friends reach out to their State Senator and State Assemblyperson and push them to support to the NPC/NYS Legislative Advocacy Agenda both requesting additional funding and their support for two (2) important bills – Right To Counsel (Bills S06678, A 07570) and Good Cause Eviction (Bills S03082, A05573). For Mt. Vernon tenants your legislators are:

Senator Jamaal Bailey – Room 707
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247
(518) 455-2061, (718) 547-8854 BAILEY@NYSENATE.GOV

Assemblyman Gary Pretlow – Room 845
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248
(518) 455-5291, (914) 667-0127 PRETLOJ@NYSASSEMBLY.GOV

If you live elsewhere call the League of Women Voters (194) 949-0507 for your Senator and Assemblyperson info. Please make those calls and send letters or emails. If you have questions, call the MVUT office at (914) 699-1114.

We're also enclosing another two-sided flyer from Westchester County "Help is Available" for back rent and heat and utilities. As for back rent, most tenants know they can also contact MVUT! Let your neighbors know too.

Support Tenants' Rights!

Support Affordable Housing!!

Support MVUT!!!