

******For Planning Purposes: Thursday, December 8, 2016******

[Contact Information]:

Faith Leaders Rally Hundreds at Community Forum in Harlem to Call on the Mayor to Pass Right to Counsel to Stop Displacement

Faith leaders, tenants and advocates call on the Mayor to pass Right to Counsel

WHO: New York Interfaith Commission for Housing Equality, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, The Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing, The Right to Counsel NYC Coalition, Council Member Mark Levine, Council Member Vanessa Gibson, Hundreds of tenants and advocates.

WHAT: Nearly 22,000 households were evicted by City Marshals in 2015, and a much larger number gave up their homes under the threat of eviction. New Yorkers forced out of their homes face a housing market that leaves them with few options – they are left homeless or in more expensive housing than they left. While 27% of tenants have attorneys in Housing Court, the vast majority don't, making Housing Court a center of displacement and eviction, and a key tool for landlords to drive displacement and speculation.

Intro. 214-A would provide attorneys for tenants and homeowners who are facing eviction and foreclosure in Housing Court and who make 200% of the poverty line or below. Intro. 214-A would give low-income New Yorkers a fighting chance to stay in their homes and communities. While 42 sponsors have signed on to support the bill, and there was unanimous support for the bill at a hearing in September, the bill has yet to come to a vote. Every day without a right to counsel, is a day with unjust evictions.

Faith Leaders are calling on the Mayor to pass Right to Counsel, as a moral, civil and human rights issue.

WHEN: Thursday, December 8, 6-8pm

WHERE: Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 201 Lenox Ave, Harlem NY.

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