

RTCNYC Tool 10.2.1

[Contact Information: ____]

— **MEDIA ALERT** —

Tenants, Advocates, Community Leaders and Council Members Call on Mayor de Blasio to Protect Tenants from Illegal Evictions, Pass Right To Counsel Bill; Deliver 7,000 Petitions

On December 13, 2016 at 11A.M. Tenants, advocates, community and City Council Members will hold a rally on the steps of City Hall to call on Mayor de Blasio to make the Right to Counsel Bill, which has the support of the vast majority of the City Council, law. The bill would ensure all tenants who are forced by their landlords to go to Housing Court have access to a lawyer. Currently, 90 percent of landlords have a lawyer present in Housing Court, while 70 percent of tenants do not. In 2013, nearly 30,000 people were evicted; half could have been prevented if the tenant had a lawyer.

WHO: Right to Counsel Coalition members, Council Members Mark Levine and Vanessa Gibson, the bill sponsors, tenants and other community leaders

WHAT: Rally at City Hall and deliver 5,000 petitions to Mayor de Blasio

WHEN: December 13, 2016, 11A.M.

WHERE: Steps of City Hall

Coalition Members Include: New Settlement's Community Action for Safe Apartments, Housing Court Answers, NYC Central Labor Council, The Community Development Project at The Urban Justice Center, LiveOn NY, Coalition for the Homeless IMPAACT Brooklyn, New York Legal Assistance Group, Legal Services-NYC, The Legal Aid Society, MFY Legal Services, Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, Goddard Riverside Law Project, Housing Conservation Coordinators, West Side Neighborhood Alliance, South Brooklyn Legal Services, Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A, Brooklyn Defender Services, DC 37, Cooper Square Committee, CAMBA Legal Services, University Settlement, South Side United HDFC--Los Sures, Bronx Defenders, Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing, Banana Kelly CIA, Catholic Migration Services, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, AARP.