

**RTCNYC Tool 8.3**

**Interfaith Forum Agenda on Right to Counsel, 12/8/16**

Registration—two tables at entrance. Music when people come in.

Materials:

- Sign in sheet: include name, cell number email, address, and affiliation
- Right to Counsel postcard
- Anti-displacement postcard
- Packet: Right To Counsel Fact Sheet, Flyer for 12/13 press conference, Proposed Anti-Displacement Legislation, Commission Manifesto, Info for calling your elected officials

Roles:

- We need at least 4 people at registration to greet people
- We need ushers to pass baskets and help collect cards
- Time-keeper

**Program**

- 1. Welcome** **6:15 pm**
  - a. Prayer
  - b. Overview/Framing/Agitation/Displacement Leads to Homelessness
  
- 2. Introduction of Panelists** **6:25 pm**
  
- 3. Panels** **6:35 pm**
  - a. Panelist 1, 7 minutes
    - i. Context of Community Anti-Displacement Housing Equality
    - ii. Displacement and Fighting Back—REBNY and control of housing policies
    - iii. Government actions including rezoning and 421-A caused rents to soar, not improved the economics of the city.
    - iv. RTC and sponsorship of Community Displacement Anti-Displacement Legislation is one of many solutions
  - b. Panelist 2 , 7 minutes
    - i. What it's like to be a tenant in housing court without an attorney
    - ii. The importance of the attorney
    - iii. The perspective of rights and building tenant power and the power and momentum of this campaign
    - iv. Would be the first city in the nation to have right to counsel
  - c. Panelist 3, 7 minutes
    - i. What the bill is and will do
    - ii. The big picture reality for tenants
    - iii. The amount of cases that have to be turned away
    - iv. The reality of housing court and what would be different

- v. The complex nature of the law—all tenants need attorneys
- d. Panelist 4 (City Council Member) 10 minutes
  - i. Why this legislation is important to you
  - ii. The status of this legislation—why with 42 sponsors hasn't it passed yet, etc.
  - iii. What community members can do

**4. Q&A,**

**7:05pm**

- i. We will have standing mics for folks to line up at.
- ii. Please encourage people to be concise and to ask clear questions.

**5. Call to Action**

**7:30pm**

Good Evening Everyone!

You all have the power to make right to counsel happen! You all have the power to make this the first city in the nation to make it a right for people to defend their homes! You all have the power to say that *this* City is *our* City and we will *not* allow one more unjust eviction to happen in our city. We want to live in a city where tenants are protected, supported, defended and LOVED. Are you ready to feel your power? Do you believe you have the power? Alright, to claim our power, we have to act!

You can do 3 things:

**#1: Sign two petitions.** In your programs, you have two postcards. One is a petition to the mayor, urging him to support Right to Counsel. The other is a petition supporting community-based anti-displacement legislation. Ushers are coming around now to collect those petitions.

**#2: Call your City Council Member, the NYC Council Speaker and the Mayor:** They need to know that you support this bill, that the city needs this bill and that they need to call the bill to a vote. In you packets you have a sheet that gives you a script and the number for your city council member, the speaker and the mayor. How many of you will leave here tonight and pledge to make 3 calls tomorrow?

**#3: Show up to Support Right to Counsel:** Next Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, we are having a rally and press conference on the steps of city hall to deliver the more than 7,000 signatures we've collected, to the mayor and to the speaker!!! We will also be delivering a letter from faith leaders to the mayor, urging him to pass this bill. Again it's next Tuesday, at 11am at City Hall. You also got a flyer for this in your program. How many of you will join us next Tuesday?

**AMAZING.** Now that you all have pledged to show your power, we need to know your pledge in order to show our collective power!!! Right now, we are passing out **commitment cards** for you to fill out to say what you are able to commit to. That way we can follow up with you about your commitment and provide any support

you may need. The ushers will also be coming around to collect the commitment cards when you are done filling them out.

**6. Closing, Bishop**

**7:40pm**

- i. Acknowledge the Faith Leaders who are present
- ii. Remind people about the faith leaders' sign on letter. We have about 150 signatures, our goal is to have 200 in time for next Tuesday's press conference.
- iii. Wrap Up and Next Steps
- iv. Closing Prayer
- v. Music

**8:00 pm**