

April 28, 2022

Dear Governor Hochul, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Heastie, State Senator Kavanagh, Assemblymember Glick, Assemblymember Niou, and Assemblymember Fall:

Enclosed please find a resolution approved by Downtown Independent Democrats on April 27, 2022 in support of an expansion of the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and the Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE).

Sincerely,

Richard Corman President

enclosure

cc: Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator Hon. Harvey Epstein, Assemblymember

Hon. Eric Adams, New York City Mayor

Hon. Brad Lander, New York City Comptroller

Hon. Jumaane Williams, NYC Public Advocate

Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President

Hon. Christopher Marte, New York City Councilor

Hon. Carlina Rivera, New York City Councilor

Hon. Eric Bottcher, New York City Councilor

Tammy Meltzer, Chair, Man. Community Board 1 Jeannine Kiely, Chair, Man. Community Board 2

Paul Rangel, Chair, Man. Community Board 3



Resolution by Downtown Independent Democrats in Support for SCRIE and DRIE Expansion

Whereas:

- 1. The Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) Program¹ exempts low-income renters who are 62 or older eligible from some or all rent increases, and exempts low-income senior owners eligible from their cooperative's carrying charges, capital assessments, or voluntary capital contributions, as long as the residents are paying at least one-third of their disposable income on rent.
 - a. The SCRIE benefit is administered as a real estate tax credit to landlords who would otherwise receive the increased rent. Seniors living in Mitchell-Lama housing, Article XI cooperatives, federally-assisted cooperatives, or rent regulated apartments may be eligible.
- 2. The Disability Rent Increase Exemption Program (DRIE)² exempts disabled renters from some or all rent increases, and exempts disabled limited-equity owners from their cooperatives carrying charges, capital assessments, or voluntary capital contributions, as long as the residents are paying at least one-third of their disposable income on rent. Tenants must receive eligible state or federal disability-related financial assistance to be eligible for the program.
 - a. The DRIE benefit is administered as a real estate tax credit to landlords who would otherwise receive the increased rent. Eligible persons living in Mitchell-Lama housing, Article XI cooperatives, federally assisted cooperatives, or rent-regulated apartments may be eligible.
- 3. Rents in New York City have increased by +33% between January 2021 and January 2022, rapidly eroding affordability.³
- S06903/A07986 would expand eligibility for SCRIE and DRIE to tenants whose landlords have entered into such agreements subject to the approval of HPD and are tenants in former Mitchell-Lama buildings in New York City.
 - a. The buildings in our area that will benefit from the expanded SCRIE & DRIE, are those in Independence Plaza and Southbridge Towers. Additionally, Confucius Plaza and Knickerbocker Village would benefit as well.

https://furmancenter.org/coredata/directory/entry/disability-rent-increase-exemption

¹ Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE), NYU Furman Center, https://furmancenter.org/coredata/directory/entry/senior-citizen-rent-increase-exemption-program
Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE), NYU Furman Center,

³ Rents Are Roaring Back in New York City, The New York Times. https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/07/nyregion/nyc-rent-surge.html#:~:text=Rents%20in%20New%20York%20rose.cities%20tracked%20by%20the%20group



Therefore be it resolved that the Downtown Independent Democrats:

Supports an expansion of SCRIE and DRIE, as proposed by State Senator Brian Kavanagh and Assemblymember Deborah Glick in bills S06903 and A07986, respectively.