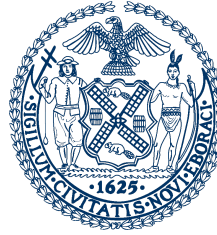




OFFICE OF THE MANHATTAN
BOROUGH PRESIDENT



THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK

May 10, 2023

Nestor Davidson
Chair, New York City Rent Guidelines Board
1 Centre Street, Suite 2210
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Davidson:

We write to you today in response to the recently announced Rent Guidelines Board public hearings. The three scheduled public hearings taking place in-person - in The Bronx on June 5th, Queens on June 8th, and Brooklyn on June 15th - are insufficient to allow for the many New York City residents across the five boroughs who wish to testify about the proposed rent increases. We respectfully request an additional hearing, specifically in person in Manhattan, to allow for all who wish to testify to do so.

The Rent Guidelines Board has a history of hosting multiple in-person public hearings, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, in 2019, there were four hearings in: The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan. In 2018, 2017 and 2016, there were five hearings in: The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, upper-Manhattan and lower-Manhattan. As we emerge from the pandemic and resume in-person public hearings, we need to ensure that they are accessible. Last year, we wrote a similar letter to the Rent Guidelines Board successfully requesting a hearing in Manhattan. We would like to express our appreciation for your work in making that happen and allowing Manhattanites the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.

Approximately 1 million of the city's apartments are rent stabilized. As of 2022, data shows the stock of registered rent stabilized units spread across the five boroughs as follows: 243,955 in Manhattan; 236,944 in Brooklyn; 208,208 in The Bronx; 158,740 in Queens; and 8,254 in Staten Island. The borough with the most rent stabilized apartments - and residents who would be most interested in testifying about proposed rent increases - reside in Manhattan.

We have heard from many constituents and members of our communities who wish to attend a public hearing and testify about the proposed rent hikes, but are potentially unable to commute to the hearing locations in The Bronx, Queens, or Brooklyn. Therefore, we request an additional in-person public hearing in Manhattan where a large portion of rent stabilized tenants reside to ensure the most public participation in the Rent Guidelines Board's process.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Majority Leader Keith Powers
New York City Council, District 4



Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine



Council Member Chris Marte
New York City Council, District 1
Co-Chair, Manhattan Delegation



Council Member Shaun Abreu
New York City Council, District 7



Council Member Carlina Rivera
New York City Council, District 2



Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala
New York City Council, District 8



Council Member Erik Bottcher
New York City Council, District 3
Co-Chair, Manhattan Delegation



Council Member Kristin Richardson Jordan
New York City Council, District 9



Council Member Julie Menin
New York City Council, District 5



Council Member Carmen De La Rosa
New York City Council District 10



Council Member Pierina Sanchez
Chair, Committee on Housing and Buildings



Council Member Gale Brewer
New York City Council, District 6