Dear friends,

The letter below was sent to City Council today.  E&A members are also encouraged to send a personal letter to Council, especially if you are represented by one of the five members that currently do not support a stronger version of Good Cause Eviction legislation.  They are Councilmembers Gruber, Harris, Melendez, Monroe, and Patterson.

Peace,

Shirley

Honorable Members, Rochester City Council

30 Church Street

Rochester, NY  14614

September 4, 2024

Housing is a human right.  This statement sums up the position of members of Elders & Allies, a group whose mission is to dismantle structural racism in all its forms in the Greater Rochester community.  We write in support of the City-Wide Tenant Union of Rochester recommendation to strengthen and pass Good Cause Eviction legislation being considered by the Rochester City Council.

A community that ensures a fair housing environment for all its residents is a community that has taken a step toward stabilizing the wellbeing of its citizens.  The operative word here is “fair.”  Landlords who maintain their properties and respect renters should not be concerned about Good Cause.   It is behavior of those landlords that raise rents exorbitantly and refuse lease renewals – **for no good reason** – that the proposed legislation should address.  The landlords who retaliate against tenants requesting basic repairs are the ones who would be affected.  Currently, they need not give a reason for their actions, and the result is that tenants, most of them women, children, and People Of Color, are left without housing.

The correlation between housing insecurity and homelessness, crime, poor educational outcomes, mental health, and mortality is clear.   Below are links to a sampling of studies that have shown the devastating educational, economic, social, and psychological effect of housing instability and evictions, yet, as CWTU notes, **City Council’s version “is the weakest in all of Upstate, denying tens of thousands of renters protections**from predatory landlords.”  It includes the LLC Loophole, excluding landlords who own 10 or fewer units.  A majority of eligible buildings would be excluded, affecting approximately 35,000 renters.  Landlords who own fewer units must follow basic health and safety standards; Good Cause should apply as well.

Elders & Allies urges the five City Council members who have been resistant to reconsider their position and please pass strong Good Cause Eviction legislation.

Sincerely,

Jane Ballard, 14608

Beverly Brown, 14618

Liz Brown, 14608

Janet Chaize, 14534

Paula Hansen, 14620, City

Joyce Herman, 14618

Steven Jarose, 14534

Padme Livingstone, 14625

Ruth Marchetti, 14526

Madeline Schmitt, 14623

James Thompson, 14616, City

Shirley Thompson, 14616, City

<https://economics.yale.edu/news/230926/new-research-sheds-light-economic-consequences-evictions>

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/want-to-curb-city-crime-evict-fewer-tenants-study-says/>

<https://thechildrensagenda.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Housing-Stability-FINAL.pdf>