

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: I am a retired attorney and an active participant in NoHo Home Alliance and Temple Beth Hillel's Homelessness Task Force. I am concerned that this matter has not moved forward. No matter how many new beds are created, more people become homeless than the city is able to shelter. We need to make sure that folks do not lose their apartments for the wrong reasons. This city ordinance will help to prevent folks from becoming homeless because of a misapplication of the law, a mistake of facts or an overreaching landlord. One statistic indicates that 75% of the evictions are prevented when the tenant is represented by counsel. Our society recognizes the need for attorney assistance in criminal cases to prevent a person from losing their liberty without due process of law. Because there is such a shortage of housing and therefore a high likelihood that an evicted person may end up living on the street, losing housing may be almost as devastating an experience as imprisonment. We need to provide meaningful due process for folks facing eviction, by implementing this pilot project as quickly as possible.