

TESTIMONY OF DEPUTY BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT DIANA REYNA

RENT GUIDELINES BOARD
PUBLIC TESTIMONY
BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Good Evening. I want to begin by welcoming everyone to Brooklyn Borough Hall.

I want to thank the Rent Guidelines Board Members for conducting this public hearing in Borough Hall for the first time since the 1990s.

My name is Diana Reyna and I'm Deputy Brooklyn Borough President, here, on behalf of Brooklyn Borough President Eric L Adams.

I want to express our office's strong support for a rent freeze for the nearly 1 million households in rent stabilized apartments across New York City to ensure New York City remains affordable. Also, I want to commend and acknowledge Mayor de Blasio for making affordable housing a focus of his agenda. The new administration understands that affordability is critical for establishing an economically prosperous and sustainable city.

Over 300,000 Brooklyn households – more than any other Borough – live in rent regulated units. We must protect New York's rent regulated housing by increasing enforcement among landlords. Throughout my former City Council district in North Brooklyn there are several well documented instances of tenant harassment. The Borough President and I support strong enforcement mechanisms against unscrupulous landlords who violate rent regulations.

As of 2014, median rents in Brooklyn were over \$2,700 per month. Tenants and working class families are priced out of communities and in this new environment we must strengthen not weaken our laws protecting tenants and halt the rapid rise in rents on our Brooklyn families.

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