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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

NYCHA RESIDENTS HAVE FILED OVER 130,000 HEAT AND HOT WATER OUTAGE COMPLAINTS SO FAR THIS HEAT SEASON

(NEW YORK, NY) – **The Legal Aid Society** condemned the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) for failing thousands of residents so far this heat season with widespread heat and hot water outages. According to testimony delivered by NYCHA at today’s City Council hearing on the Housing Authority’s readiness for winter, residents have submitted 130,000 individual complaints for heat/hot water outages this heat season, which started on October 1, 2019. According to NYCHA, the Independence Houses lodged the most of these complaints.

This past August, Legal Aid slammed NYCHA for failing to provide basic services to its tenants based upon information NYCHA provided in response to a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request which revealed that 131,301 of its approximately 175,000 housing units and [291,537 public housing residents](#) were plagued by unplanned heat and/or hot water outages last heat season, which lasted from October 1, 2018 to May 31, 2019.

In 2018, The Legal Aid Society filed a [lawsuit](#) demanding rent abatements for tenants who suffered through severe heat and/or hot water outages. The [appeal](#) in that lawsuit is pending decision before the New York State Appellate Division, First Department.

“By this measure, NYCHA is clearly not ready for winter,” said **Judith Goldiner, Attorney-In-Charge of the Civil Law Reform Unit at The Legal Aid Society**. “An unacceptable number of residents – seniors, the disabled, and young children – have already suffered outages. This is

nothing that the Housing Authority should tout but rather something to apologize for. The Legal Aid Society again calls on NYCHA to issue rent abatements to those households who have gone without critical utilities this heat season.”

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The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 140 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>