



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 1529

By Council Members Levine, Gibson, Rosenthal, Cohen, Adams, Chin, Cornegy, Ayala, Powers, Reynoso, Levin, Rivera, Richards, Constantinides, Menchaca, Brannan, Torres, Ampry-Samuel, Lander, Rose, Perkins, Grodenchik, Van Bramer, Moya, Salamanca, Koslowitz, Rodriguez, Louis, Kallos, Cumbo, Lancman, Eugene, Treyger, Maisel, Cabrera and the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams)

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the office of the civil justice coordinator to collaborate with community groups in engaging and educating tenants of their rights in housing court

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 13 of title 26 the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 26-1306 to read as follows:

§ 26-1306 Community Engagement. The coordinator shall work with community organizations to engage and educate tenants of their rights in housing court, including but not limited to hosting know your rights trainings and other workshops for tenants, distributing written information to tenants, assisting tenants to form and maintain tenant associations, referring tenants to designated community groups, and any other activity to engage, educate or inform tenants about their rights in housing court. For such efforts, the coordinator shall prioritize rent-stabilized tenants, senior citizens, and tenants most at risk of entry into the shelter system. Such efforts must include utilizing designated community groups. Engagement and education shall be provided in designated citywide languages.

For the purposes of this section, the term “designated community group” means a not-for-profit community organization that has the capacity to conduct tenant outreach, engagement, education, and information provision.

§ 2. Section 26-1304 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new

subdivision c to read as follows:

c. No later than January 30 of 2020, and every January 30 thereafter, the coordinator shall submit to the council and post online a report on community engagement and education pursuant to section 26-1306 for the previous calendar year. The report shall include figures from community organizations, including but not limited to the number of buildings in which outreach was conducted, the number of workshops offered, the number of attendees at those workshops, the number of people referred to nonprofits, the number of focus groups created, the number of know your rights trainings offered, the number of community forums conducted, and the number of new tenant associations formed.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately.

MKW
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