

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Stay Home, Stay Safe: Protecting Tenants during COVID-19**

*Councilman Lavarro and Northeast New Jersey Legal Services partner to inform area renters of their rights during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**Jersey City, NJ, Friday, April 24, 2020** – While residents of New Jersey are asked to stay at home to help “flatten the curve” during this global health crisis, avoiding displacement remains a priority for New Jersey Governor Murphy. In early March 2020, Governor Murphy enacted [Executive Order 106](#), putting a moratorium on evictions and other removal proceedings. To help understand what the Executive Order means for residents, Councilman At Large Rolando Lavarro and Northeast New Jersey Legal Services (NNJLS) are presenting a free webinar on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM covering tenants’ rights, responsibilities, and protections during the COVID-19 pandemic. Individuals interested in watching the webinar can RSVP to Councilman Lavarro’s office at [RLavarro@jcnj.org](mailto:RLavarro@jcnj.org).

Councilman Lavarro said, “As Jersey City residents face an unprecedented health and economic crisis, the renters who make up 70% of our residents are concerned if they will have a job to return to and money to address their most basic needs—putting food on their table and paying their rent. It's important that they know their rights, responsibilities, and protections during this COVID-19 pandemic.”

It is critical to keep tenants housed to decrease the spread of COVID-19. However, it is equally important for tenants to understand how far—and for how long—these protections extend, especially for residents who have lost income and likely face additional, prolonged economic stress. “Now, more than ever, renters need to understand tenant protections and what to expect when the state of emergency has ended. There is a tremendous amount of uncertainty today and knowing your rights is an essential key to protection your future,” emphasizes Lawrence Sindoni, Housing Unit Managing Attorney at NNJLS.

Beyond the webinar, Northeast New Jersey Legal Services can provide advice and representation to eligible clients faced with housing problems including landlord/tenant issues, illegal lockouts and emergency repairs.

Both Councilman Lavarro and the team at NNJLS are carefully monitoring the shifting landscape and the April 28<sup>th</sup> webinar aims to answer understandable questions and concerns from the community.

**About Northeast New Jersey Legal Services:**

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services, with a mission to ensure equal access to justice, is a private non-profit public interest law firm that provides free legal assistance in civil (non-criminal) matters to low-income and underserved individuals and families residing in Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic Counties, NJ.

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