

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Joseph Strasburg

There's an important theme running through most of the articles and information in this month's Reporter: your voices and your stories.

Your stories about how you and your family run your buildings. About the challenges of being an affordable housing provider, the rewards of having relationships with your tenants, the frustrations of dealing with government agencies. About the financial hardship you're facing and why.

It's your voices that matter most in the policy debates impacting stabilized buildings and the wider residential real estate economy. It's your voices that public officials respond to. What the RSA professional staff does – day in, day out – and what other owner groups do – amplifies your voices. Your voices are authentic and speak to the experiences of the New Yorkers who built and house this city.

Among the voices that make up RSA are:

- 7,995 who own buildings with 6-10 units
- 3,230 who own buildings with 11-20 units
- 2,551 who own buildings with 21-50 units
- 1,106 who own buildings with 51-99 units
- 1,390 who own larger buildings

RSA voices also include thousands of owners of smaller buildings as well as owners of co-ops and condos who rent their units. Our voices also include owners of apartment buildings outside New York City and owners of non-regulated buildings.

The voices and stories of RSA members, taken individually, matter to the elected legislators representing your neighborhoods.

The voices and stories of RSA members, taken together, matter to the Mayor and the Governor.

The voices and stories of RSA members, combined with those from owner groups from every region of our vast state, matter to everyone everywhere.

We are not who our opponents think we are. Those who malign us do so in order to popularly define themselves in opposition to so-called sinister forces that control their misguided view of the world. Your voices and your stories define who we are and prove the haters wrong.

It's easy to criticize and even easier to second guess. It's hard work to navigate the complicated world of affordable housing. It's easy to lose your way in the midst of the yelling and noise that unfortunately makes up most of public discourse these days.

It's your voices and your stories that serve as the North Star for our work. RSA's membership – who you are and what you do – keeps advocacy for affordable housing providers centered just as it keeps the entire affordable housing market stable.

As detailed in this issue of the Reporter, your voices and your stories are being shared with the Rent Guidelines Board as we advocate for the highest possible (and desperately needed) rent adjustment. Your voices and your stories are driving the fight against reckless Good Cause Eviction. Your voices and your stories fill the pages of our petition asking for Supreme Court review of our federal lawsuit challenging New York's broken rent laws.

At the beginning, middle and end of every policy fight, every legislative effort and every court case is you.

Which is why this issue about our advocacy in the city and state, and in the courts, is about your voices and your stories. ■

In Memoriam: Danielle Montalto

It is with profound sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the sudden passing of RSA Insurance Agency team member **Danielle Montalto**.

Though with RSA less than a year, Danielle was a beloved colleague who quickly became a trusted and productive member of our professional staff and a part of our work family. As an insurance broker, Danielle loved her work and the gift of being able to touch so many lives in a helpful and meaningful way each day. She was committed to her clients and could always be counted on to bring professionalism and cheerful engagement to every encounter. When we heard this awful news from her

parents, they were quick to share that Danielle loved working at RSA and talked at home about her colleagues and clients with affection and excitement.

With her easy smile, bright blue eyes and an iced coffee (no matter the weather), Danielle spent most mornings before work in front of RSA's building in Lower Manhattan on the phone with friends and family but always interrupted her calls to say good morning to her colleagues. Danielle was a kind and beautiful person. We will miss her more than words can express. ■

Rent Stabilization Association ♦ 123 William Street New York, NY 10038-3804 ♦ <http://www.rsanyc.org> ♦ (212) 214-9200

Disclaimer: Every effort is made to provide accurate and up-to-date information in RSA publications and bulletins. However, information or advice provided in these publications should not be taken as legal opinions. Always consult your attorney when in doubt. The RSA Reporter is intended for the exclusive use of RSA members. This publication may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, without the written permission of the RSA. The RSA welcomes comments, suggestions and questions from its members.

Editor: Michael Tobman **Production:** Christine Chu. Copyright 2023, Rent Stabilization Association of N.Y.C., Inc., 123 William Street, NY, NY 10038.

The RSA Reporter (ISSN #1089-9375) is published monthly (except August) by the Rent Stabilization Association of N.Y.C., Inc., 123 William Street, New York, NY 10038-3804. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The RSA Reporter, 123 William Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10038-3804.