



As you know, at this point in annual Rent Guidelines Board deliberations we'd typically be asking you – the diverse members of RSA in every New York City neighborhood – to schedule a time to testify at an upcoming public hearing.

Considering recent tenant activist aggression and violence, requesting that would be irresponsible and dangerous. So we're going to do something different this year.

We're asking you to email over some information about how difficult it is managing and running your building with decreased income (rent) and always-increasing costs.

Ideally, you'd provide no more than 6 or 7 sentences and the neighborhood of your building. No need to provide a specific address and no need to use your full name. Something like, "Sharon S. in Crown Heights, Brooklyn" would suffice.

We all know RGB hearings and meetings involve theatrics. But beyond the usual chanting and shouting and noisemakers and yelling, which is

unfortunately to be expected, the meeting to set the preliminary rent increase range took a severe turn. City Councilmembers stormed the stage, leading activists to disrupt the proceedings of another city decision-making body. They did this to intimidate the RGB members and the public.

But it's still vital that the RGB members get to hear from you. It's vital that they hear about why the maximum possible upwards rent adjustment is needed to maintain your building. Include as much information as you feel appropriate. It all helps.

Remember that the preliminary ranges voted on by the RGB are **2%-5% increases on one year lease renewals** and **4%-7% on two year lease renewals**.

Some of you have already responded with your stories, which has been a help. We need to hear from more of our members!

As with all our work, everything depends on you speaking up.

Thank you.

Please send your paragraph to **RSA Membership Director Michael Tobman** at **mtobman@rsanyc.org**. He'll work your testimonial into RSA's written submission to the RGB.