



The City of Plattsburgh, New York

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The Office of the State of New York Attorney General & The Clinton County Task Force

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First Annual North Country Housing Forum will provide information and resources to residents

(PLATTSBURGH - Wednesday August 31st, 2022) - On Saturday, September 24th, from 9:30AM - 5:45PM, the First Annual North Country Housing Forum will take place at City Hall in Plattsburgh. The goal of the forum is to provide education and resources to tenants and landlords in the North Country. This event is free and open to anyone in the North Country looking to educate themselves about topics such as landlord/tenant rights, mediation, code enforcement and pathways to homeownership.

A Collaboration of Community Organizations

The Housing Forum is being organized by a committee consisting of representatives from the New York State Attorney General's Office, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Behavioral Health Services North, and the Housing Assistance Program of

Essex Country. The committee also includes a representative from the City of Plattsburgh to serve as a liaison between the City and the committee.

Programming

This year's forum will include presentations and interactive workshops on the following topics: Landlord and Tenant Rights and Obligations, a Panel Discussion on local resources, code enforcement, using mediation in disputes, and pathways to homeownership. The forum will be moderated by Assistant Attorney General In Charge of the Plattsburgh Regional Office, Susan Griskonis, and bring many local organizations to the table to provide information to event attendees.

Years in the Making

For over a decade, housing leaders in the community have delivered targeted outreach and training events to reach landlords and tenants from their individual organizations. However, the need for collaboration between housing service providers to deliver a global community event addressing systemic housing issues in the North Country became strikingly apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. The idea to hold a forum was proposed to the City of Plattsburgh in 2021 from the City of Plattsburgh's Housing Subcommittee.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, housing disparity and tensions between landlords and tenants were ongoing, however, the pandemic exacerbated those issues to a crisis level. In response, housing service providers scrambled to meet the emergent needs, mediate between landlords and tenants facing extraordinary pressures, and navigate a complex, and ever-changing legal landscape. As our community emerges from the last two years into this new landscape, housing, education, and resources have never been more important. The goal of the forum is to take the first steps in repairing relationships, forging new alliances, and initiating an annual, community discussion to support local housing needs.

"People deserve safe and affordable housing, and it's the duty of the local community to take steps to achieve that for all people. This includes not only supporting tenants, but providing resources and education for landlords, homeowners, supportive service providers, and local governments." says Tara Glynn, Chair of the Clinton County Housing Task Force.

Details on how to Register for the Forum

Registration and attendance is free for the forum. Lunch and snacks have been graciously provided by the North Country Food Coop and Chick-Fil-A. To register please call or email Tara Glynn at 518-536-4058 ex. 131 or email TGlynn@lasnny.org. The deadline to register is September 16, 2022.

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