

April X, 2020

Big bad landlord

Re: COVID-19 Rent Cancellation

Dear Landlord:

We are the 999 South 1st Street Tenant Association, a group of tenants living at 999 South 1st Street. A list of our current members is attached. **We write this letter to give you formal notice that due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, we must commence a rent strike, effective May 1, 2020.**

As you know, we are in the midst of an unprecedented public health crisis that has put all of New York on a lock down. All non-essential workers were ordered home and countless have lost their incomes. This crisis isn't particular to our building. According to this [survey](#), 39% of New Yorkers don't have enough saved for one month's rent if they lose their jobs. Our members are among those millions of New Yorkers who find themselves in this position — we are simply unable to pay rent at this time in addition to the other expensive necessities that face us. **We are not willing to go hungry to pay rent during the duration of this lockdown, and so are commencing a rent strike, effective May 1, 2020.**

Renters and our advocates are calling on Governor Cuomo to take immediate [action](#) so that we don't see mass displacement across the state. Our demands include relief for small landlords facing financial hardship. We would love to work with you to fight for statewide relief for renters and owners in this moment of unprecedented crisis.

We know that the eviction moratorium means that landlords can't sue and that no one can be evicted during this time. We also know that the Governor has approved a mortgage suspension for landlords, allowing them to restructure the terms and conditions of their mortgage. Therefore while you will be able to pay your mortgage under favorable conditions, we will be faced with massive debt when the moratorium lifts. We are calling on you to take advantage of the changes in your mortgage to protect tenants.

Given that we can't pay rent and that this crisis is affecting ALL NY state tenants, it's unlikely you'll be able to find tenants who can pay rent. The best way to move forward is to forgive our rent during this crisis, promoting stability and protect the community during this unprecedented health crisis. Landlords across the country are forgiving rent. We need you to follow their lead. We would be happy to meet with you and discuss further how we can work together to make sure that we can all stay healthy and financially stable during this turbulent period.

If you wish to discuss these issues further, please feel free to contact John Doe, whom we have authorized to speak with you as our representative.

Sincerely,
999 South 1st Street Tenant Association