***DRAFT -- Writing your “Public Letter” to the Bank! -- DRAFT***

***Why should you write a “public letter”?***

Working with the Home Defenders League (HDL) you are defending yourself against post-foreclosure eviction and/or seeking to get back your home at real market value! The purpose of this letter is to have an offense, not just a defense. We call it a “public letter” because it is CC’d to many different political and community leaders as well as the banks. The public letter puts the bank on notice that they can’t evict without community resistance and ensures that their actions will be known publicly and be transparent.

***To write your public letter, think about:***

What do you really want? Do you want to buy your home back from the bank at real value (if you’re a former owner)? Do you want the bank to reset your mortgage to the current market value of the home? Or do you simply want to bank to accept your rent and not evict you?

In your public letter to the bank, you explain what you want the bank to do and you tell your story. What does your home and your community mean to you? Are you involved in your crime watch or PTA? Did you have a predatory loan, or are you a tenant in a condo conversion scam? We at the HDL **urge** everyone to send a public letter to the bank at some point. Organizations have long used public letters to real estate companies and banks and have been very successful!

Here is a model for how to write a public letter. The best part is that **WE’LL HELP!** Try writing one and share it with us - we’ll help you get to a final draft. If you really feel uncomfortable writing your public letter, talk to us and we’ll help write it with you.

*SAMPLE*

Date

To:

Address:

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , (usually the lawyer representing the bank trying to evict you or the bank)

My name is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . I live in at \_\_your home address (Greedy Bank XYZ) owns after foreclosure. I have lived there for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_years.

I used to own it but… ***(Describe what happened—predatory loan, inflated real estate value, etc…).*** OR ***If before foreclosure:*** I would like a loan modification that reduces principal to current real value. OR

I am offering to pay rent to the bank. In addition, I (or a family member) would like to buy this property at the current real value. I (or the family member) have been pre-approved for a mortgage by (bank name).

OR (**if you are a tenant**) I have been a tenant in the building and have paid rent for many years. There is no reason to evict me. I am willing to continue to pay rent.

 I am part of this community (Describe what the community means to you, what you feel about the community, and how you are involved in the community.)

I am part of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Home Defenders League. We are collectively opposed to the mass evictions being carried out by the banks after foreclosure. They are causing untold suffering to thousands of people and dragging down our communities. We are committed to doing what we have to do to fight against these evictions and the destruction of our communities, but we would rather work out a settlement with you. Please consider our offer.

Sincerely,

You’re Name

***CC: Mayor Office, Your State Representative, Your State Senator, Local Media. (We can help with contact information.)***