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## **On May Day, New York Rent Strikers Target Governor Cuomo with Caravan, Protest, Banner Drops, and More**

**New York** – Today, New York rent strikers targeted Governor Cuomo with multiple actions, including a [caravan](#) surrounding the [executive mansion in Albany](#), a [protest](#) at his New York City office, [banner drops](#) at apartment buildings, a raucous rally online, and a cacerolazo.

Across the state, tenants and their allies turned May Day into a historic day of action for New Yorkers who can't pay rent and are demanding financial relief.

In recent weeks, many tenants in New York have joined and built a rapidly growing rent strike movement to pressure Cuomo to [#CancelRent](#).

At the same time, tenants and communities in New York and nationally are demanding federal action that will address the financial crisis facing millions of people who have lost income and jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The #CancelRent actions today targeting Cuomo were organized by **Housing Justice for All, Right to Counsel NYC Coalition, CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities, the Met Council on Housing**, and other organizations representing low-income tenants across New York.

The New York actions today are part of a [national rent strike movement](#) calling for the cancellation of rent, mortgage, and utility payments for the duration of the pandemic. Rent strike campaigns across the country are coming together under the rallying cry of We Strike Together.

A national map of rent strikes is available here: [www.westriketogether.org](http://www.westriketogether.org).

“This is a historic and unique political moment. We won't survive with the government doing business and usual, bailing our landlords---that's what got us into this crisis! COVID-19 didn't create the housing crisis, inequity caused by years of racist government policy and divestment from public and affordable housing did that. We are not going to accept any solutions that bail

out landlords. We need the Governor to take action today, to cancel rent and house all homeless people," **said Susanna Blankley, Coalition Coordinator, Right to Counsel NYC Coalition.**

"I took action as one of the tenant leaders in my building. We put up flyers, had virtual meetings, and decided to strike because we are tired of paying for horrible conditions. Our landlord, Jason Korn, is ranked the worst private landlord in the city. Now with the crisis, many of us have lost our jobs and we can't afford the rent. We are striking to get Governor Cuomo to cancel the rent and our landlord Jason Korn to follow the law to make our building safe and habitable," **said Vincia Barber, a leader of Housing Organizers for People Empowerment, and a striking tenant at 1616 President Street in Brooklyn, NY.**

"No one should have to choose between rent and food. To do anything but support the rent strikers is unconscionable. Without a full and automatic cancelation of rent, mortgages, and utilities, we will see homelessness on an unimaginable scale. Each person and building joining the rent strikes is making a brave statement that they deserve a stable affordable place to live and that Governor Cuomo needs to step up and help the tenants of this state," **said Ava Farkas, Executive Director of the Met Council on Housing.**

"Yesterday the super knocked on everyone's door to ask for the rent and I told him I'm a single mom and can't afford to pay the rent because I have no income since March. Even before COVID we were organizing because of conditions in the building. So why should the landlord get his money when he is not responsible while we are struggling with our families during this crisis. We need to Cancel Rent," **said Mariatou Diallo, a Bronx tenant and member of Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA).**

"The COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating for Chinatown and for working-class minority and immigrant communities in NYC. We already lived in a city stratified by race and class, by poverty and by immigration status. Now, the health impacts of housing insecurity, substandard living conditions, and overcrowded apartments are being multiplied by the current pandemic. Governor Cuomo and Mayor De Blasio cannot continue to lie to the public and say that the 90-day eviction moratorium is enough to protect tenants, nor can they continue to insist that tenants bear the brunt of this crisis alone, individually - scared, shut in their homes, choosing between rent and food. New York must come together to cancel rent for all tenants and find a solution to bear this crisis together," **said Melanie Wang, Chinatown Tenants Union Organizer at CAAAV.**

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