Educate

The Weather Outside Is Truly Frightful

by Susan K. Porter, Assistant Chair, REACH Advocacy Team

The longest night of the year, Dec. 21, recently passed. As the temperature continues to drop, the life-threatening plight of the growing number of people without homes is alarming. Equally disturbing is the rising rate of rent. Local numbers and some of the reasons are described below with a link to an article describing the lawsuit taken by the US Department of Justice to stop price fixing by landlords. **Read more**.

Organize

In November, Advocacy Team members discussed what its priorities should be for the upcoming year from a set including:

- **Local issues**, such as encouraging the city of Rochester to make public restrooms available 24 hours a day, seven days a week; promoting the city council passage of a strong Good Cause Eviction law; assisting the newly formed group Solving Homelessness as a Community (SHAC); and initiating a program aimed at empowering people with lived experiences of homelessness to self-advocate.

- **State issues**, including promoting the passage of the Housing Access Voucher Program, expanding rent stabilization measures, and promoting the passage of the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act.
- And **national issues**, such as promoting the National Tenants Bill of Rights.

The team considered which issues it would be most able to effectively support moving forward. Although the team did not arrive at a final determination, it was able to narrow down the possibilities and will take up the matter again at the next meeting.

Agitate

By the time this newsletter is published, Rochester City Council will have voted on **Good Cause Eviction**. We have worked with our allies in the City-Wide Tenant Union to support a strong version of this bill, and hopefully council members have heard our voices and voted to support thousands of tenants in our community.

Sources:

Photo, planning graphic, and writing graphic:
https://www.vecteezy.com

Links in Sue Porter's paper:

https://nlihc.org/gap

https://theconversation.com/robo-price-fixing-why-the-justice-department-is-suing-a-software-company-to-stop-landlords-colluding-on-rents-239811

https://natlawreview.com/article/doj-targets-ai-pricing-algorithms-realpage-case-signals-potential-shift-antitrust