

PRESS RELEASE:

N.J. SUPERIOR COURT **ORDERS** **TOWN CLERK TO CERTIFY RENT** **CONTROL PETITION**

MONTCLAIR, N.J., FEBRUARY 22, 2021 – New Jersey's Superior Court ordered Montclair's Town Clerk to certify a Referendum brought by a Committee of Petitioners to repeal the municipality's rent control ordinance, which has been stayed pending the result of this litigation. A special election will likely now be held to decide if the Town Council's Rent Control Ordinance remains law.

"Today the Honorable Judge Jeffrey Beacham reconsidered his January 15, 2021 ruling and ordered that the Clerk of the Township of Montclair certify the referendum petition that the clerk had previously rejected," said Petitioners Attorney Charles X. Gormally, who also was supported by the Montclair Property Owners Association. **"This is a proud day for all citizens who want to exercise their legal rights to protest overreaching government action."**

Judge Beacham came to the decision after finding that Montclair's Town Clerk acted arbitrarily and capriciously in rejecting nearly 200 signatures of Registered Montclair voters. By ruling the Town Clerk to accept those previously rejected signatures, the MPOA's Petition holds a total of 1197 signatures on a requirement of 1020.

"We would hope that the governing body would finally hold a sincere debate as to the devastating conditions this rent control ordinance would create and repeal the ordinance when they have an opportunity to do so at their next council meeting," explained Mr. Gormally.

If the Town Council does not vote to repeal their Rent Control Ordinance, the issue of whether or not to repeal Montclair's Rent Control Law will go to the ballot as a referendum vote in a special election.

"Here is a government entity, an elected body, that under the cover of a declared public health emergency attempted to pass a rent control ordinance in defiance of executive orders," says Montclair Property Owners Association Executive Director Ron Simoncini. **"Despite urgent testimony from property owners who were never included in the dialogue about rent control the Council then has endeavored with all its might to deprive the voters of having their day at the ballot - to the point where its Clerk flaunted standard review procedures."**

"Far more people have expressed their opposition to rent control. Nowhere near that many have expressed support. So we will press on, and the voters will decide this issue the way they always have in Montclair: no rent control."