



**CITY OF BEACON  
CITY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION NO. 51 OF 2023**

**URGING THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO PASS LEGISLATION PROVIDING  
FOR THE RIGHT TO COUNSEL IN EVICTION PROCEEDINGS (S2721/A1493)**

**WHEREAS**, abrupt, unwarranted, or unlawful evictions disrupt lives and livelihoods, force people to find housing in a market with a severe shortage of affordable housing, and often significantly increases the risk of homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, representation of people who are at risk of losing their homes in legal proceedings preserves access to housing and ensures compliance with laws protecting people's rights in such proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, eviction proceedings and displacement as a result of evictions have a disparate impact on low-income individuals and particularly on low-income people of color, who are disproportionately the respondents in eviction proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Beacon has taken action to provide legal aid to qualifying households facing eviction through a dedicated paralegal with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, Pending Legislation which establishes the New York State Office of Civil Representation and provides for a right to counsel in eviction proceedings (S2721/A1493) would provide every tenant across New York State with legal representation when facing eviction; and

**WHEREAS**, as of April 2023, there are over 270,000 eviction cases pending across the state of New York; and

**WHEREAS**, current State Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson, representing the city of Beacon, has already signed onto the bill as a co-sponsor; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, Washington State, Maryland, and Connecticut passed similar legislation statewide; and

**WHEREAS**, providing a right to counsel to individuals who are most at risk of housing instability not only protects individuals and families from these devastating effects, but also saves public funds that would otherwise be spent on shelters and services to people experiencing homelessness, as well as the wide range of detrimental short and long-term collateral consequences of housing instability.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Beacon City Council urges the New York State Legislature to pass "The Right to Counsel for All" (S2721/A1493); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Clerk of the City of Beacon is directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, State Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson, State Senator Rob Rolison, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, and the New York State Senate President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader.

<b>Resolution No. 52 of 2023</b>			<b>Date: May 8, 2023</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Amendments</b>						<input type="checkbox"/> <b>2/3 Required</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Not on roll call.</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> <b>On roll call</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> <b>3/4 Required</b>	
Motion	Second	Council Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Reason	Absent
		<b>Paloma Wake</b>					<b>x</b>
<b>x</b>		<b>Justice McCray</b>	<b>x</b>				
		<b>George Mansfield</b>	<b>x</b>				
		<b>Wren Longno</b>	<b>x</b>				
	<b>x</b>	<b>Molly Rhodes</b>	<b>x</b>				
		<b>Dan Aymar-Blair</b>	<b>x</b>				
		<b>Mayor Lee Kyriacou</b>	<b>x</b>				
		<b>Motion Carried</b>	<b>x</b>				