2020 MEDIA ROUNDUP

New Economy Project

DAILY NEWS

Call Off the Debt Collectors: The Coronavirus Pandemic Is No Time to Demand Payment and Freeze Bank Accounts

April 14, 2020

Op-Ed by New Economy Project's Sarah Ludwig and Andy Morrison

...In the best of times, predatory debt collection is a scourge that siphons wealth from New Yorkers, destabilizes neighborhoods and perpetuates racial and economic inequality. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing debt collectors to continue to hound New Yorkers and take their money is jeopardizing people's lives.

PROPUBLICA

Coronavirus Put Her Out of Work, Then Debt Collectors Froze Her Savings Account

April 22, 2020

...**New Economy Project Legal Director Susan Shin** said her group is "hearing from so many low-income New Yorkers who are having to deal with wage garnishments and frozen bank accounts that are severely undermining their ability to cope with the crisis...it's terrible that we're lagging behind other states on this when we're the epicenter of the crisis."

GOTHAMGAZETTE

With Mass Evictions and Real Estate Speculation Looming, City and State Leaders Must Give Communities Opportunity to Own Their Own Land

June 26, 2020

Op-Ed by New Economy Project's Deyanira Del Rio and NYC Council Member Carlina Rivera

...The need — and opportunity — for CLTs and community ownership initiatives has never been greater. As land and housing prices tumble in the wake of COVID-19, CLTs will be critical to guard against ramped-up real estate speculation, which wreaked havoc in Black and brown communities after the 2008 financial crash.

CITYLIMITS.ORG

Council Bills Could Pave the Way for a Public Bank in NYC

September 29, 2020

"We are fighting for a public bank as part of a broader effort to fundamentally transform our unfair, extractive economy," said **Deyanira Del Rio, co-director of New Economy Project**, which coordinates the Public Bank NYC coalition. "Through a public bank, New York City can support permanently-affordable housing, small and worker-owned businesses, green infrastructure, and other equitable development in Black and Brown neighborhoods—and divest from Wall Street banks that are actively harming New Yorkers, our economy, and the planet."

THE CITY

How Old Subway Fines Blocked New Yorkers' State Tax Refunds

May 11, 2020

[New Economy Project's Susan] Shin said that summonses often are given as "punitive actions against people who are homeless" — for such offenses as turnstile jumping, smoking on a platform or taking up more than one seat. "Instead of getting the help they need, they are issued these civil summonses," she said.

To make matters more complicated, many of the people who have come to New Economy Project for help with TAB tickets say they never received a notice about the alleged debt owed, or the ticket had the wrong name, address or other basic information. That's a due process issue, Shin noted, which is why the group filed a federal class-action lawsuit against the MTA last year.

NEXT CITY

New York's Best Kept Secret to Support Community Financial Institutions

January 14, 2020

Inside New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's 2020 agenda is a new proposal to provide $25 million...to the New York State Community Development Institutions (CDFI) Fund. [The Fund] got folded into a broader platform, the NY State Community Equity Agenda, with a coalition of 35 signatory organizations across the state.... coordinated by the **New Economy Project**, a nonprofit advocacy group based in New York City.

the CAPITOL pressroom

A WCNY Radio Production

Trump Admin Tries to Open Backdoor to NY for Payday Lenders

September 8, 2020

"The Trump administration has proposed yet another very dangerous, harmful rulemaking that would allow...online lenders to trample on New York's strong protections…that exist to protect people and communities. There's a lot at stake." - **Sarah Ludwig, Founder and Co-Director of New Economy Project**

gothamist

Tenants Would Get Priority To Buy Their Landlord's Building Under New Bill

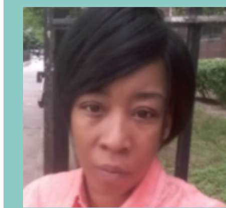
February 3, 2020

Julia Duranti-Martínez, a campaign coordinator at the New Economy Project, said this type of legislation could...help stem the tide of displacement caused by gentrification. "It's a strategy for preserving affordable housing and stabilizing….communities of color and low-income communities," Duranti-Martínez added.

NEW YORKERS SPEAK OUT

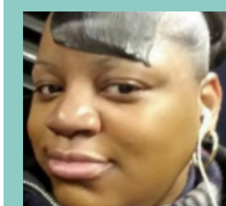
Debt Collection During COVID-19

From Our Story Bank:



"My paycheck was garnished. I don't know what for. This money could have gone toward...food, disinfecting supplies, and other things I need to keep my family safe." - Veronica, Brooklyn

"I just found out that 10% of my paycheck was garnished. Now I don't know if I'll be able to stock up on the insulin my son needs." - Grace, Queens



"I've worked very hard to stabilize my finances....I'm worried these debt collectors will try to garnish my wages during the crisis." - Ronnisha, Manhattan

For more, see our story bank at neweconomynyc.org/storybank.

CBS NEWS

Debt Collectors are Going After Americans' Stimulus Checks—And the CARES Act Allows It

April 16, 2020

[Creditors] are trying to rush to get people's money before they run out," said **Susan Shin, legal director at the New Economy Project**, a New York-based nonprofit that also runs a financial help hotline.

"It's a travesty," Shin added. "The idea that people could get this money only to lose it to debt collectors — it's literally putting people's lives at risk."

SHELTERFORCE

Giving Tenants the First Opportunity to Purchase Their Homes

July 24, 2020

"We are looking to [The Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act] as one necessary tool to stabilize neighborhoods, preserve affordable housing permanently and create shared equity through tenants taking collective control of their buildings," says **Akilah Browne of New Economy Project**, one of the groups helping to shape the bill.

FORTUNE

What the Unbanked Need from the 2020 Election

September 30, 2020

New Economy Project Co-Director Deyanira Del Río notes that some fintech companies are also known to develop "disruptive" alternative products that are high-cost, unregulated, and exploitative to the un- and underbanked. "Some policymakers and regulators are so enamored with the rhetoric and promises of fintech that they don't see the harms they're perpetuating against low-income people, immigrants, and others," she says.

NEXT CITY

Who's Afraid of Public Banking in New York?

January 2, 2020

[New Economy Project's Andy] Morrison says the coalition will be taking lessons learned from the 2019 rent regulation battle, which resulted in a massive victory for tenants. Many of the tenant groups and organizers from those circles are also part of the public banking coalition [and] "see public banking as one of the things we need...to further the goals of the homes guarantee and community land trusts and other non-speculative housing models," Morrison says.