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As the effects of the COVID-19 virus continue to be felt on every level of life across Long Island we are seeing an increasing number of individuals struggling to make rental payments in our community. Pursuant to Executive Order 202.8 there is currently a 90 day moratorium on evictions in New York State.

While we are optimistic that this will make a meaningful difference for New Yorkers, we are also alarmed by first-hand accounts reporting that in some cases, landlords and/or middlemen have ignored this moratorium, taken the law into their own hands and locked out tenants from their home.

As you are no doubt aware locking out tenants for any reason without a Court Order is illegal and classified as a criminal misdemeanor. To prevent further confusion and critically further lockouts, we ask:

- That the Town/Village communicate to the public that lock-outs are illegal even in situations where a tenant has not paid their rent and reassure the public that the Town/Village will not tolerate unlawful evictions,
- That the Chief of Police be made aware of this situation,
- In order not to overwhelm the emergency line with these issues, that a method of communication be developed so that police can respond urgently to situations where individuals have been locked out of their homes.