

The Moratorium on Survival

August 9, 2021

If only Lincoln Eccles were a property owner in Franklin County, Ohio, instead of Kings County, New York. He'd have more of a chance.

Franklin County is defying the latest national moratorium on evictions.

Early in August, caving to pressure from socialist Democrats, President Biden directed the CDC to outlaw the evicting of tenants for another 60 days.

A Franklin County court has announced that the county will not obey the ukase. The county cites a recent court of appeals ruling that disputes the authority of the CDC to impose the nationwide moratorium.

Were one to consult the Constitution, one might find a prohibition about public taking of private property "without just compensation"

In June, the Supreme Court had narrowly refused to lift a previous moratorium in evictions, even though at least one justice in the majority acknowledged that the CDC had exceeded its authority. Justice Brett Kavanaugh's exact words: "Yes, this is unconstitutional, but . . . well, okay."



(Fine, not his exact words.)

Property owners have bills too. (Not to mention rights.) The less money they get from a property, the less money they have to maintain it, let alone earn profit.

Lincoln Eccles owns a 14-unit building in Crown Heights. Several tenants owe him rent. One owes \$40,000. Which has put Eccles behind on utility bills and property taxes. The boiler must be fixed before winter.

But Kings County is *not* defying the CDC.

"At this point they're just abusing us," Eccles says. "And it's some version of slavery to me, forcing people to work and produce a product for free, and there's no compensation."

Were one to consult the Constitution, one might find a prohibition about public taking of private property "without just compensation," but governments throughout the union haven't been consulting that relevant document much lately.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.