

[TENANT2TENANT SCRIPT]

1. Introduce yourself. Mention that you're a neighbor or a renter under the same property management group/landlord, if that applies to you.

2. Remember that people might feel anxious about a stranger coming to their door during a viral pandemic... Acknowledge that you're standing about 6 feet away, per CDC recommendations for social distancing

3. Explain why you're there. "I'm going around our complex/ to different tenants who rent under [landowner's name] to see how people are doing during this pandemic, particularly with regards to the upcoming rent payments."

4. Ask about any changes in their life due to the pandemic, and tell them about some of the changes in yours. Assure them that many of us are enduring similar hardships and should not have to do so alone. If you lost your job, maybe talk about that with them. I'm going to be saying something along the lines of, "I lost both my jobs and honestly have no way to afford rent, for this month and especially next. Who knows how long all of this will even last. I've been talking with a lot of folks and we all seem to be in the same boat here..."

5. Explain your goal in tenant organizing. Explain rent strike or rent freeze. If you've written a letter to your landlord and want them to sign on, explain that. If you have yet to write a letter, ask them if they're interested in collaborating on its terms. "We are being forced to choose between rent and groceries, between groceries and medicine...which is why people in this complex (and citywide and nationwide) are calling on our (their) landlords to halt rent payments until the crisis has subsided." or "... which is why on April 1, people across Atlanta and nationally won't be paying rent because if we can't work, we can't pay..." Whatever your situation is.

6. Explain letter, if this applies. "A letter has been written up that we will be giving to the property owners and manager on [date you plan to send letter]. What we need now is for as many of us to sign onto the letter as are able."

7. Mention power in numbers, how organizing collectively will be our best chance of preventing mass evictions in this neighborhood and across the city.

8. At this point, hand them the letter and ask for them to read it over and sign if they are willing.

9. Once they've signed, ask if they are interested in getting updates about this situation. If so, ask for their email and/or phone number.

10. Talk with them about your plans, maybe that includes working with one another to write that letter to your landlord and discussing what demands should be made.

11. If a letter is not yet drafted, brainstorm what the conditions of the letter might be collectively.

Rent suspension until after crisis subsides? Through April and May?

No late fees applied?

Rent forgiveness, including no accrued rent/back rent?

No penalty against renewing a lease should rent not be paid during the crisis?

Pay only property tax until crisis subsides?

Be sure to share contact info to continue organizing with each other in the future, or just to support one another through this crisis.