

# SPRC Sparks

By Eric J. Ellman • Mar 01, 2023

Smart Brevity® count: 2 mins...534 words

**Welcome** to SPRC Sparks, let's get right to what's in this edition:

1. NCLC Opinion in The Hill: Why rent reporting can harm rather than help vulnerable tenants
2. NJ warns 59 landlords over violating law on housing rights for formerly incarcerated
3. NAA bulks up it's congressional lobbying
4. Turns Out a Top George Santos Donor Is in the Background-Check Business

## 1. NCLC Opinion in The Hill: Why rent reporting can harm rather than help vulnerable tenants

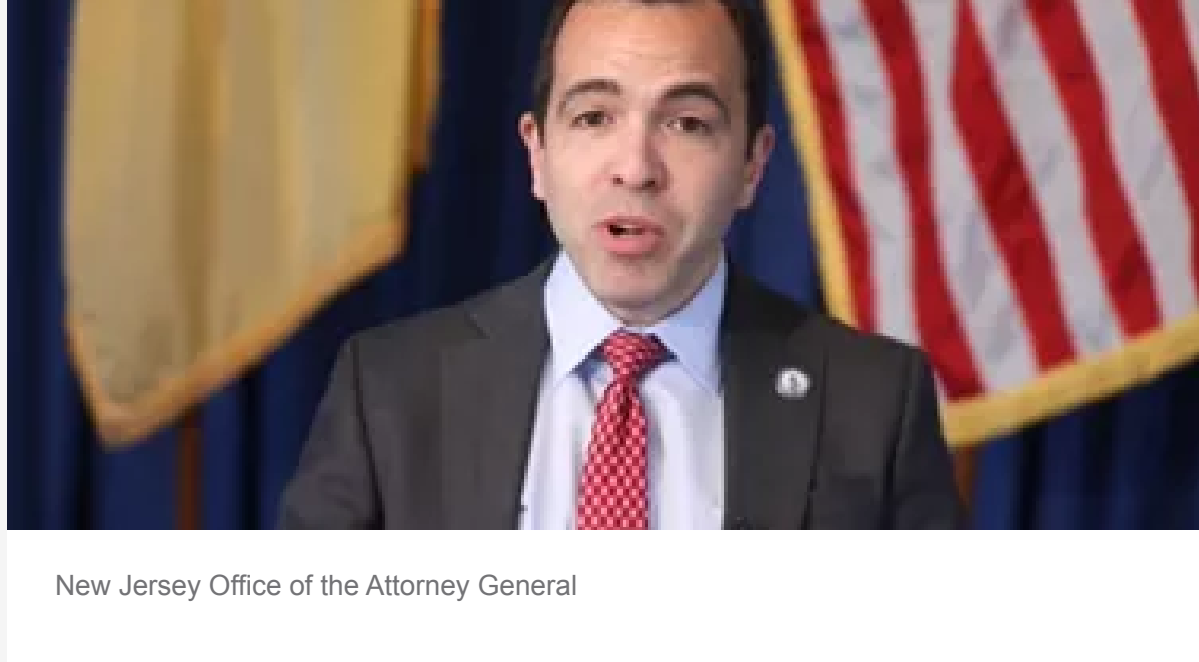


In an [opinion piece](#) recently in The Hill, Chi Chi Wu (NCLC) and Stacey Tutt (NHLC) wrote that

reporting rent payments to credit bureaus like Equifax, Experian and TransUnion could have serious unintended consequences. Done wrong, it could thrust people already struggling to pay rent and make ends meet into [homelessness](#).

The piece takes on the credit bureaus, who are “data hoarders,” and praises the National Apartment Association for supporting only positive payment reporting. The column also discusses the harsh impact of rent reporting on communities of color.

## 2. NJ warns 59 landlords over violating law on housing rights for formerly incarcerated



New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

“**The New Jersey attorney general** warned nearly 60 housing providers on Friday that they were violating the year-old Fair Chance in Housing Law, which aims to make it easier for people with criminal records to secure housing.” This warning was [reported](#) by the media.

**The OAG** issued 59 “notices of violation” to housing providers in 40 municipalities in 16 counties across the state. These new notices follow the 30 notices last August.

## 3. NAA bulks up it's congressional lobbying



**Politico** reported in February 2023 that the National Apartment Association, a \$29m organization

added Invariant to its roster of D.C. lobbyists last month, just before the Biden administration prepared to roll out new regulations aimed at helping tenants in the wake of post-pandemic rent surges, according to newly filed disclosures.

[The firm will represent NAA] on housing affordability and supply, consumer reporting and fair housing policy, according to the filing. The trade group dropped \$460,000 on lobbying last quarter — its most ever — and spent more than \$1.7 million on lobbying throughout 2022, also a record for the association. The NAA has just one other outside firm, Porterfield, Fettig & Sears, on retainer.

## 4. Turns Out a Top George Santos Donor Is in the Background-Check Business



Image: Santos for Congress

**Bloomberg News** [reported](#) that one of U.S. Rep. George Santos’ (R-NY)

top donors owns multiple employment screening companies.

Josh Eisen, a former congressional candidate and long-time Republican donor, owns and operates two background investigation companies: Morningside Evaluations, a foreign work and education credential verification firm, and SpanTran, a company that offers more granular evaluations of foreign academic credentials for international students who want to apply to American universities.

**Eisen**, who “donated over \$35,000 to various Santos-related fundraising committees...” said, “I own background check companies, and I’m thinking, wow, for \$50 I could have known.”

**The article continues:**

Since being exposed, Santos has become something of a walking billboard for background check companies, with some jumping on the opportunity to promote their services.

SRA Screening, a Manhattan-based company, is planning a social media ad campaign with the slogan: ‘Don’t get Santos’d.’

That’s it for today, see you next time for SPRC Sparks...

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