



What does home mean to you? How have your housing experiences shaped your life?

If we lived in a world where nobody had to ever worry about the rent, how would your life be different? What would you be doing with your time?

Imagine a world where housing is not a commodity, but a guaranteed public good. What does that world look like, sound like, taste like smell like feel like?

These are our visions for the future, and together, we are building that world.







### ~~ THINKING OF HOME ~~ YAH ZINE ISSUE #1 | 2022

**Thinking of Home** is a community zine self-published by the Youth Alliance for Housing (YAH). All contents were created and compiled by young people across amerikkka.

Scattered throughout the zine are doodles people on the street drew when asked about the meaning of home.

Art and culture are essential to building community and overcoming barriers. This zine is an outlet for young people to share experiences, resources, and knowledge related to housing through any and all possible mediums- a space for young people to express themselves freely and connect with others.

We define a young person as anyone 25 years and younger.

We a define a tenant as anyone who does not have full control over their housing, including unhoused people, folx in temporary housing, renters, and mortgage holders.

Cover by José Davila



# **Contributors**

Artists are credited on the page with their submission. However, many others contributed to the making of this zine. These are the Youth Alliance for Housing members who worked on compilation, research, graphic design, YAH manifesto, and general content that was not a submission.

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# Introduction to YAH

Housing is the infrastructure for all systems of oppression, rooted in racial capitalism and whyte supremacy.
One of the most prominent gaps within the tenant movement is a lack of dedicated focus on organizing young people- we are directly

impacted
youth
working to
fill that gap.
In March of
2020, just
days before
all NYC
publi schools
shut down
due to the

COVID-19 pandemic, a small group of highschoolers organized a listening session to elevate the voices of young people in housing justice spaces. This single listening session evolved into a series of three training sessions. It quickly became evident this was a powerful and much needed community space, especially as the pandemic exacerbated

many
existing
inequities.
Following the
training
series,
founding
members
continued to
organize
weekly virtual

meetings and officially launched the Youth Alliance for Housing in December of 2020.



The Youth Alliance for Housing (YAH) is a collective of young people fighting to radically transform the housing system in amerikkka. Young people have historically, and intentionally been denied voice, autonomy, and power. While youth typically are not the 'head of household' or handling the legal aspects of housing, we are tenants too.

YAH highlights
the intersectionality
of housing issues and
builds the power of
young people. At YAH,
we envision a world
where housing is
decommodified, where
houselessness does not
exist, and where everyone
is guaranteed a safe,
quality, and permanently
affordable home. We

fight to transform the housing system into one in which landlords and the real estate industry do not profit off historically marginalized communities, where tenants have power and decision making over their housing, and where young people have an influential voice in shaping the housing system.

We believe those closest to the issues are closest to the solutions. As young people, we will not allow our voices to continue to be dismssed. We know we are experts in our own experiences and are motivated to take leadership in YAH because we know the empowerment of young people is vital to advancing the broader tenants movement.



# YAH MANIFESTO

\* ALL LINES ARE HANDWRITTEN BY YAH MEMBERS \*

for the future are mount

We believe that we will WIN!

Center ~ healing ~.

Turn the Music Up!

Ask "How are you REALLY doing?" and always respond truthfully

BLM = FTP = I VU (RIP FRED)

BRING SOMETHING INCOMPREHENSIBLE

Rest, Healing, and Unapologetic Self-love is a radical act of resistance!

# YAH MANIFESTO

\* ALL LINES ARE HANDWRITTEN BY YAH MEMBERS \*

Listen to nature and follow its wead.

Always return to the say community provides and the love that nobady can take away from us.

Listen with the intent to understand, not the intent to respond

WE AKE
STRONGER
TOGETHER
THAN WE AKE
AS
INDIVIDUALS

BECOME AWARE OF YOUR OWN BIAS AND CHANGE THEM

THAN WE ARE AS INDIVIDUALS. BOYN IT DOWN

We are NOT allies. We are comrades and accomplices in our collective struggle towards liberation.

May all our oppressors be overcome by the power of our love and soldently

















# COMMUNITY **HOUSING SUPPORT** NETWORK



Community members will commit to a monthly recurring donation of any amount. 100% of proceeds will provide monthly recurring housing support to Black and Indigenous femmes 25 years or younger in NYC.



**MAKE A RECURRING DONATION** SCAN OR VISIT tinyurl.com/YAHhousing

#### OTHER WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

Venmo @Youth4Housing CashApp \$Youth4Housing GoFundMe: tinyurl.com/yahGoFundMe



#### Government Support

can be slow and cumbersome, but impactful if the available tools are wielded correctly. If you know what you need, and have the resources to navigate the system, this can help you.

YAH can help you with the process! tinyurl.com/NycGovResources

#### **Tenants Unions**

are groups created by and for local renters to build power and fight for their collective interests. There are many tenants unions throughout New York City, other resources may help point you to your local union!



has a variety of programs including a telephone hotline and walk in clinic that can help you navigate government support as well as connect you with your local tenants union.

metcouncilonhousing.org/programs

Find your local community fridge: nycfridge.com

Find your local mutual aid group: mutualaid.nyc











JustFix.nyc
allows you to easily look
up information about your
building and file
complaints with your
landlord. Also links to
many other resources to
learn more about your
building and your
landlord



Through ClearPathNYC's free Young Adult Support (YAS) Portal, NYC youth can find programs by filtering their specific needs and location. ClearPath breaks down nyc resources into four categories:

housing support, academic support, mental wellness support, and career development. a young person no longer has to search. all of their options are in one place.



clearpathnyc.org

The YAS Portal is a streamlined, and secure way for youth to both search and apply for what they need. with one (or two) clicks, a young person can submit an application to a vetted support program. portal users can upload as much or as little personal information as they choose.

# HOUSING SUPPORT POP-UPS 2021

At YAH, we are building community that is rooted in interdependent systems of care.

compensating performers and direct continue to host pop-ups bi-annually n the summer and winter. These are any % they are comfortable with. All rent support for BIPOC femmes 25 <u>assistance. All prices at our pop-up</u> events are sliding scale/ donationoroceeds and are asked to donate nutual-aid events which <u>create a</u> In 2021, YAH hosted two housing <u>vendors and fundraise for renta</u> based. Vendors collect their own oop-ups also include free food, olatform for local artists and <u>years and younger in NYC. Al</u> clothes, zines, and teach-ins. <u>support pop-ups. We plan to</u> noney raised goes toward













# ABOUT THE HOME I DREAM OF, THAT WILL SOMEDAY BE MINE

I look foward to coming home Where the air is warm the music's loud

At hore I exhale I walk award naked with my feet bare and my hair down

and the food is spicy

Inside my house

my hody is at home

I have space to move and moves

and stretch and strag

and sleep and scream

and obside- with joy

and sockess and anger

and hope

Home is defined by community south an interdependent systems at care a place where I know my neighbors have my back

At home I am safe I feel secure and I know I am supported

I am always graving but my home is a foundation that helps me flarish somewhere that wants me to thrive

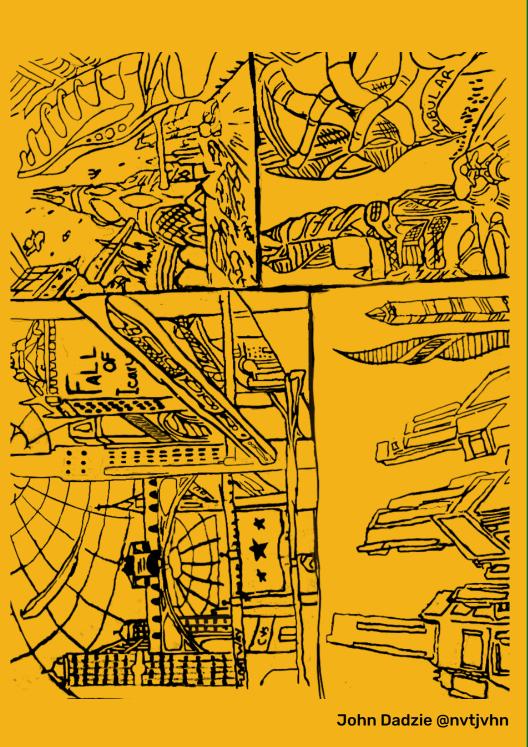
I don't know where I was born
my ancestory is unknown
and have is where I can nurture
the roots I have planted for myself
a place I know I am from

(NYC forever) Emma REHAC 06/01/22



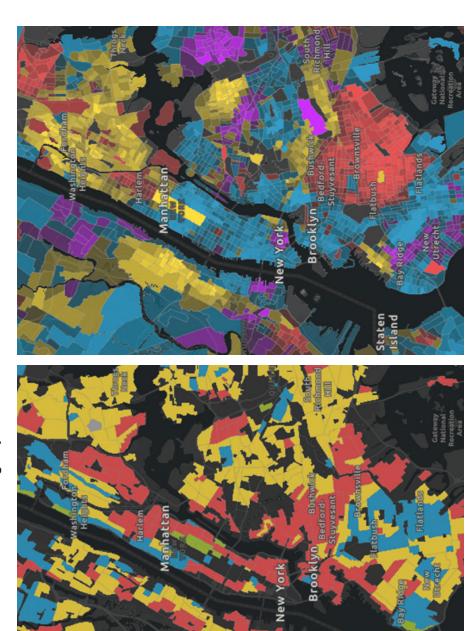


Joi Cole @joicoleart





Marissa Campiz @marzble



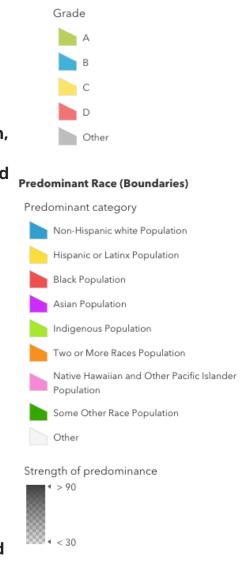
#### Redlining

Racial and socioeconomic inequities have been deeply ingrained in American urban planning practices. One of the most relevant practices is known as "redlining."

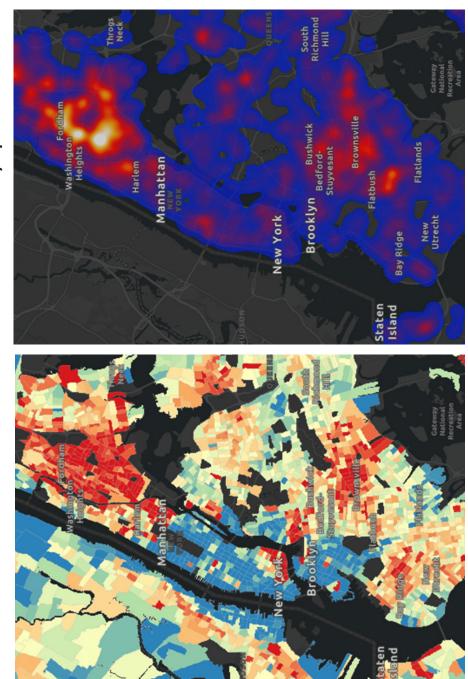
Redlining was a discriminatory practice in which people living in certain neighborhoods deemed "hazardous" were denied access to capital investment.

After The Great Depression, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) created color-coded 'Residential Security' maps of major American cities. These maps used a four-point rating scale to designate grades to neighborhoods that reflected their supposed mortgage lending risk.

Areas populated by historically marginalized communities were labeled as higher risk and more likely to default on their loans. This meant that American banks continuously denied mortgages to people based on their demographics.



**HOLC Redlining Polygons** 



Redlining officially occurred in the 1930s-1960s, but we can clearly see its legacy in how our cities are segregated now, in 2022. Across America, 70% of neighborhoods previously classified as the most "hazardous" grade D by the HOLC are predominantly populated by people of color.

In New York City, public schools are more segregated today than they were in the 1960s. Zip codes and location data are often used by companies and organizations to discriminate against potential customers. Bias against historically marginalized neighborhoods, introduced through redlining, has been written into code and automated in our computers. The history of redlining is also reflected in countless social disparities including eviction rates, internet access, linguistic isolation, householdsize and COVID-19 risk.

Down to the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink, diverse communities still experience the violence caused by racist planning on a daily basis.

Using data from the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Living Atlas and NYC Open Data Hub, we can use these maps to see how the legacy of redlining has left lower income communities of color to face compounding inequities.

Learn more at tinyurl.com/NYCredlining

Emma Rehac



Median Household Income (Boundaries)



Median Household Income in past 12 months (inflation-adjusted dollars to last year of 5-year range)



#### Elegy to the Hood

The cloudy reign of redlining, festering in striking black, has been blistering in the obscure building blocks of the hood.

Constructed by the system, with its left hand on the Bible, solemnly swearing for suffrage in our community. And with their right hands, they slit our throats and are exonerated.

They say that housing discrimination ended in 1968. I object. Why are our homes still being bedeviled, terrorized, tormented by the poltergeist of residential segregation?

They embedded the words too "hazardous", too "declining", "too risky of an investment" into the eroding gates of our battered communities. Cremated our flesh, gushing out of our bloodsoaked bawls for equality—our homes now a burial ground.

Have you seen how the liquor stores clutch their leashes to the cracked pavements of broken dreams? Or how the check cashing services cheat our communities—their malevolence, blazing and smoldering within our people's wealth. How they deceive us with fractured promises of financial freedom at the finish line, while instituting economic barriers halfway through the race.

Have you seen how the eerie dusk of industrial plants and factories plagues our breath? How it smothers our Black children with elusive pillows built of lethal toxins? Inhale—as their graves are dug at birth, Exhale—as they are lynched, now stifled with a higher risk for asthma.

Have you seen how different it is on the other side?

I have. I have seen it on the train, migrating into the vast realm of gentrified neighborhoods, wary as my surroundings shapeshift from Black to white.

I lament at the disparity between my home and that of the intruders.

How they flourish and frolic along the border, dividing our two different worlds.

And occasionally, how they travel from their side to ours. How they break and enter into our homes, looting a residential lineage of people's bones, ashes, hearts, who were buried there for several generations. Actually, that's not entirely the truth. They are not just "people." They are my grandmother, my father, my sister, my aunt.

Do you know how much I mourn as I watch this menacing scene: indie espresso cafes, vegan bagel shops, and hipster millennial bars being built upon the voices of the dead? Beloved treasures of culture, history, and ancestry deteriorating into graveyards?

The foolish ignorance of the gentrifiers, blaring as harshly as a siren. Their acknowledgement of their sins, as hushed as a cemetery. Sometimes, I ponder if they intentionally inflicted this willful blindness upon themselves. And sometimes, I wish for them to wake up.

-Kayla Morgan @kaylaswordspoetry @kaylandmorgan









## **My Morning Commute**

My morning commute is only 35 minutes long (if the subways are in my favor) but my home and my high school exist in separate worlds.

From home I walk a half-mile to the train. I pass shelters for the unhoused, methadone clinics, hair braiding parlors, and fast-food restaurants. The flower beds at the base of each street tree are filled with trash, needles, and cigarette butts. At the train station, the stairs wreak like urine, and police officers patrol every entrance. I take the downtown local train. Six stops later, I get off at a clean station with benches and digital advertisement screens. I walk another half-mile to my school. I pass doormxn opening taxi doors, street cleaners, blow-dry only hair salons, and salad bars. The flower beds at the base of each street tree are filled with flowers.

These images capture the social stratification displayed on my commute to school. Through this body of work, I question how our social systems have preserved circumstances of segregation, I study the complexities of gentrification, and I criticize why my commute is accepted as normal.

Emma Rehac Fall 2019

View full photo essay at emmarehac.com/my-morning-commute

# STATISTICS TRIVIA

1) How many NYC public school students are unhoused or in temporary housing? (2022)

A. 55,000

C. 104,000

**B. 87,503** 

D. 19,000

2) How many students are in the NYC public school system? (2022)

A. 990,000

C. 778,000

B. 1,060,000

D. 1,600,000

3) How many vacant units are there for every unhoused person in NYC? (2021)

A. None, all units in NYC are filled

B. 1 unit

C. 2 units

D. 3 units

4) What % of renters in the state of New York spend over 30% of their income on rent? (2021)

A. 13%

C. 52%

**B.** 44%

D. 28%

5) Statewide, how many New Yorkers are unhoused? (2021- this number is likely undercounted)

A. 92,000+

C. 60,500+

B. 87,000+

D. 74,000+

6) In the 50 largest cities in the country, rents have increased by what % in the past two years? (2022)

A. 9.7%

C. 20.9%

B. 22.8%

D. 15.4%

#### **WORD SEARCH**

R Д J М В S D G Ν Υ А R Н В Ν Т М Ε Ν К Ν U Q О G Ε S D Q К Ι Ι А × Т Ν D G Ι Н W Ν А Н W В Т Ε  $\subset$ F Z C Т J Ε U Ι М Ι × Υ R R 0 D G Ι G К F Ι Ι Т Ν X L Н X X 0 V F Ι К × G J Υ В 0 Υ X D Ш F 0 Ε Д Ν Ι T А R Ε Ν Ε G Ε L 0 В R C V J Q C W Υ G F R М F Ι Д Υ  $\subset$ Ι Ι А Υ Ι Ν U М М т О Н М Т Д Т  $\subset$ Р  $\subset$ А А  $\subset$ ν U R X W S В 0 Ι D Т Р Z Т Ν Р L W Ι 0 R S U Z U Ι 0 Р Ν О Ι 0 Ε О К N S Q J D Р R Z Q Ν К 0 K X 0 М Ε Z O N Ι N G Z Р

**Generational** Gentrification Community

Q

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**Equity Abolition** Redlining **Zoning Eviction Justice** 

0















# Y O U T H

P O W E R

### F E S T

# 202















OPEN CALL TO ALL PEOPLE BYRS + YOUNGER







YOUTH 4 HOUSING tingurt.com/yahzine

## CALL TO ACTION



At YAH we believe that culture and policy are direct reflections of one another. Systems of oppression are internal, interpersonal, and institutionalized. Many groups and organizations do the important work of campaigning for laws and legislation, but this work means very little if we are not doing the individual work to transform culture. We must wake up everyday and make conscious and intentional choices to

dismantle dominant narratives that maintain harmful cultures- in the ways we think, talk, use our money, address harm, teach our students, and raise our kids. The only way to combat generational trauma is with generational healing.

Join us in building deep relationships, powerful community, and a more radically loving world.

"We are building something that none of us have experienced, but all of us deserve."
- Unknown



## JOIN THE YOUTH ALLIANCE FOR HOUSING! tinyurl.com/YAH-signup

Contribute to the YAH Housing Support Network! tinyurl.com/YAHhousing | See page 14 for more info

Join the YAH artist and vendor network and be part of future community events! tinyurl.com/artist-vendor



Contribute to the next YAH zine issue! tinyurl.com/YAHzine | See page 40 for more info

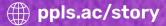
Help YAH research the intersections between housing and education inequities tinyurl.com/surveyYAH

#### THE RENT IS TOO DAMN HIGH!

We are all paying more than we can afford. Rent inflation is a national emergency, and tenants across the country are taking action.

Share your rent hike story:

**(** 202-670-4290



What's your boldest vision for a National Tenants' Bill of Rights? ppls.ac/YAH

#### **MUSIC FOR HOUSING JUSTICE**

"Songs create a common language. A place for collective identity. A place for collective effervescence. A place for prophetic imagination. A safe place to land when it gets rough. A rough place to land when the oppressor thinks it's safe. Music confuses the enemy. It has the potential to reach the heart. A song can creep through cracks and crevices, and follow you home at night, and wake you out of your sleep."

- Yara Allen



When you think of home, what do you hear?
Share by adding to our Spotify playlist!
tinyurl.com/YAH-home-playlist

\*You can scan the QR codes to listen to each song however, the lyrics may not exactly match. Many of the songs where the original artist is unknown are freedom songs of the Civil Rights Movement\*

#### RISE UP (CALL AND RESPONSE) By: Charon Hribar & José Vasquez

Rise up we're gonna rise up 2x We ain't gonna let nobody turn us around

Because the people united will stand our ground

Rise up we're gonna rise up 2x

The powers that be can't keep us down

We're gonna rise up and turn the world around

Rise up come on and rise up 2x The people are ready so follow our lead

We'll put an end to the violence, the hatred and greed

Rise up we're gonna rise up 2x Rise up 4x



Scan to listen to Rise Up

#### NEIGHBOR NEIGHBOR CAN'T YOU SEE

By: Military Cadence (Call and resopnse housing remix)

Neighbor neighbor can't you see rent cancellation's what we need Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh Housing evictions got to go

Neighbor neighbor can't you see why community housing's what we need Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh All the slumlords got to go

Neighbor neighbor can't you see permanent housing's what we need Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh the profiteers have got to go

Housing is a human right that's why today we stand and fight Ain't no way we're backing down we're rising up, the time is now

#### RICH MAN'S HOUSE By: Mika Wiltz & The Economic Human Rights Choir of The New Freedom Bus

Went down to the rich man's house
And I took back what he stole from me (Took it back)
Took back my dignity (Took it back)
Took back my humanity and now it's under my feet (where?)
Under my feet (where?) 2x
Under my feet
Ain't gonna let no system walk all over me

Went down to the landlord's house
And I took back what he stole from me
(Took it back)
Took back my dignity
(Took it back)
Took back my humanity and now it's under my feet (where?)
Under my feet (where?) 2x
Under my feet
Ain't gonna let no system walk all over me

Went down to the governor's house... Went down to the HUD Office... Went down to the jailhouse...



Scan to listen to Rich Man's House

#### AINT GONNA LET NOBODY TURN ME AROUND By: Unknown

Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around Turn me around, turn me around Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around

I'm gonna keep on walkin', keepin on a talkin', marching up to freedom land.

Ain't gonna let no jailhouse... Ain't gonna let segregation... Ain't gonna let race hatred...



Scan to listen to
Ain't Gonna Let
Nobody Turn Me Around

#### MR. AUCTIONEER By: Leroy Van Dyke

Mr. Auctioneer, all the people here We're asking you to hold all your sales right now We're going to survive but we don't know how 4x



Scan to listen to Mr. Auctioneer

#### NO NOS MOVERAN/ WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED By: Unknown

No, no, no nos moveran! 2x Como un arbol firme junto al rio No nos moveran

We shall not, we shall not be moved 2x

Just like a tree that's planted by the water,

We shall not be moved

Unidos en la lucha, no nos moveran 2x Como un arbol firme junto al rio No nos moveran

We're fighting for our rights (and) We shall not be moved 2x

Just like a tree that's planted by the water, We shall not be moved.

No, no, no nos moveran! 2x Como un arbol firme junto al rio No nos moveran Unidos en la vida, no nos moveran 2x Como un arbol firme junto al rio No nos moveran

Housing is a human right... Power to the tenants... Abolish the police... Black lives matter...

Scan to listen to No Nos Moveran/ We Shall Not Be Moved



← English Español →



#### WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON? By: Florence Reece

Come all, you good people Good news to you, I'll tell Of how a fusion movement Has come in here to dwell

Which side are you on boys? Which side are you on? 2x

They're reaping all the profits They fill our heads with lies These housing profiteers don't care if we live or die

Don't stand for their evictions The rent is too damn high The tenants haven't got a chance unless we organize

Which side are you on boys? Which side are you on? 2x

We know the free market Is anything but free It costs dearly to the planet And the likes of you and me

I don't need those money lenders Suckin' on my tit A little communism Don't scare me one bit!

Tell me, which side are you on? Which side are you on? 3x



Scan to listen to Which Side Are You On?

### WOKE UP THIS MORNING WITH MY MIND SET ON FREEDOM By: Unknown

Well I woke up this morning with my mind set on freedom Woke up this morning with my mind set on freedom Woke up this morning with my mind set on freedom Hallelu (Hallelu) Hallelu (Hallelu) Hallelujah

Come on walk now, walk, walk You better walk, walk Come on and walk, walk With your mind on freedom Come on now, walk, walk You better walk, walk With your mind on freedom oh, oh-oh-oh You better walk, walk Come on and walk, walk

Well I'm singing and shouting with my mind set on freedom I'm singing and shouting with my mind set on freedom I said I'm singing and shouting with my mind set on freedom Hallelu (Hallelu) Hallelu (Hallelu) Hallelujah



Scan to listen to Woke Up This Morning...

#### AIN'T SCARED OF NOBDOY By: Unknown

I ain't scared of nobody 'Cause I want my freedom I want my freedom I want my freedom I ain't scared of nobody 'Cause I want my freedom I want my freedom now!

I ain't scared of you dog... I ain't scared of your jail...



Scan to listen to Ain't Scared of Nobody

ALL THE RENT IS TOO DAMN HIGH! By: Unknown

All the rent (All the rent)
All the rent (All the rent)
All the rent is too damn high!
2x

Because of greediness Because of greediness All the rent is too damn high! 2x

All the rent (All the rent)
All the rent (All the rent)
All the rent is too damn high!
2x



Scan to listen to All The Rent...

