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Remaining East Village Tenants Among Dozens of Vacant Apartments Demand Answers and Full Accountability for Poor Living Conditions

Tenants speak out about their current living conditions with non-stop construction in Jared Kushner's buildings

New York – East Village tenants of 170-174 East 2nd Street will be calling attention to the poor living conditions and perceived harassment that they have been receiving from their landlord and management company. In December of 2013, Jared Kushner purchased 170-174 East 2nd Street buildings for \$17 million, which then followed by a distribution of eviction notices to tenants of these two buildings. During the past nine months under the ownership of Kushner, tenants of both buildings were subjected to lengthy and severe construction work which has resulted in ceilings collapses, eroded floors, broken tiles, and routine unannounced hot and cold water distributions. In addition, tenants have not had mail delivery for several weeks as a result of the newly installed mailboxes.

According to the remaining tenants in the buildings Westminster City Living, the management company has refused to fix problems in the apartments. **Cypress Dubin, tenant at 174 East 2nd Street said**, “The persistent mismanagement of construction and lack of reliable notification and communications on behalf of Kushner and Westminster has resulted in 9 months of blatant disregard for the safety and well-being of the tenants of 170 & 174 East 2nd Street.”

Since Kushner purchased the buildings there has been a turnover rate of over 70%, mostly of which occurred within the first three months of ownership, marking this to be incredibly high given the natural turnover rate for a majority rent stabilized buildings is 7% per year in New York City. There are approximately four occupied units at 174 East 2nd Street, out of the nine units. 170 East 2nd Street has only nine occupied units out of the thirty-six apartments.

The Cooper Square Committee (CSC), a community based organization who works with residents on a variety of housing and social services has been working with the tenants of the Kushner-owned buildings to demand justice for the conditions they have been living under. “We are alarmed by the mass turnover and severe mismanagement of construction in these buildings,” **said Brandon Kielbasa, Lead Organizer of the Cooper Square Committee.** “Since Kushner bought 20+ buildings in this neighborhood last year, we’ve been working with tenants to maintain a watchful eye over his portfolio. We are concerned that the next 20+ buildings he buys here in the Lower East Side might end up looking like these two. We will be organizing tenants and fighting back whenever we see signs of this aggressive brand of ownership.”

“The lack of notice coupled with the lengthy construction that has resulted in five ceiling collapses as well as damages to personal property is unbearable for the remaining tenants of 170-174 East 2nd Street,” **said Council Member Rosie Mendez - District 2.** “We cannot sit back and let tenants suffer through untenable living conditions that interrupt their right to ‘peaceful and quiet enjoyment’ of their apartment.”

Joining the remaining tenants, Cooper Square Committee, and Council Member Rosie Mendez at a September 4th press conference regarding the issues of the Kushner-owned buildings will be Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer. “I am dedicated to making sure that tenants’ rights are protected by law and that millionaire landlords are not intimidating families to the point that they move out of their homes. I will continue to work with Council Member Mendez, The Cooper Square Committee, and all the appropriate state and city agencies to make sure that the rights of tenants of 170 and 174 East 2nd Street are protected,” **said Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer.**

Visuals: 8’x3’ banner consisting of photos of conditions and damages in apartments of 170-174 East 2nd Street

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