

For Planning Purposes: Thursday, June 18, 2015

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East Village Tenants to ICON Realty: We've Gone Months Without Heat, Gas in Building—Enough is Enough!

Residents of 128 Second Avenue, Directly Across from March Explosion Site, Rally for Adequate Living Conditions After Hearing

Days After Explosion, Con Ed Shut Off Gas to the Building, Due to Unauthorized Work on Gas Lines

WHAT: Courthouse press conference to demand immediate restoration of heat & gas at 128 Second Avenue. The landlord, Icon Realty, is in contempt of court.

WHO: Tenants of 128 Second Avenue who are suing landlord; attorneys from the Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center, Organizers from the Cooper Square Committee

WHEN: Thursday, June 18 @ 1 PM

WHERE: New York City Housing Court, 111 Centre Street

BACKGROUND: The tenants of 128 Second Avenue in the East Village will hold a press conference outside of New York City Housing Court after a court appearance in a lawsuit against their landlord, Icon Realty. Tenants filed a HP Action for Repairs and Services in March, citing inconsistent heat; lack of fire alarms; a broken fire escape, front door, and stairs; exposed wires; and other dangerous living conditions. Harassment from the landlord in order to push out rent-regulated tenants has also been reported.

A few days after the March 26th explosion that claimed two lives, Con Ed shut down all gas for 128 Second Ave, which is directly across from the site, when it was discovered that the landlord was doing illegal work to the building. Icon Realty has yet to take the necessary procedures with Con Ed to restore the gas, leaving tenants without it for the past three months.

At the time of a previous court appearance in April, the building had 89 open violations with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, including 58 considered “immediately hazardous.” The current violation count is now higher 114 in total with 67 class “C” immediately hazardous violations. The landlord is currently in contempt of a court order to restore the gas within 45 days and to restore hot water within 24 hours both of which have long passed.

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (CDP)

The Community Development Project (CDP) at the Urban Justice Center strengthens the impact of grassroots organizations in New York City’s low-income and other excluded communities. CDP partners with community organizations to win legal cases, publish community-driven research reports, assist with the formation of new organizations and cooperatives, and provide technical assistance in support of their work towards social justice.

ABOUT THE COOPER SQUARE COMMITTEE

The Cooper Square Committee (CSC) works with area residents to contribute to the preservation and development of affordable, environmentally healthy housing and community/cultural spaces so that the Cooper Square area remains racially, economically, and culturally diverse. We have spearheaded significant neighborhood victories in our history, comprising over 50 years of tenant organizing, community-based planning, advocacy and development. We rely on the active involvement of our members in the organization’s work to advance our affordable housing agenda.

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