

For Planning Purposes: Thursday, June 11 @ 1 p.m.

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ELECTED OFFICIALS, COMMUNITY GROUPS FIGHT TO END TENANT HARASSMENT, SUPPORT NYC AFFORDABLE HOUSING

*Councilmembers Kallos, Torres, Williams and Garodnick Stand With the
Stabilizing NYC Coalition Against Predatory Equity Landlords*

*Thousands of NYC Tenants Are Subjected to Illegal Fees, Unsanitary Living Spaces,
Lack of Basic Services, Loss of Rent Stabilization, Other Atrocious Conditions*

WHAT: NYC tenants, local elected officials, and the Stabilizing NYC Coalition of community groups spanning four boroughs will hold a press conference at city hall to demand predatory equity landlords end tenant harassment, and to support citywide affordable housing initiatives.

WHO: NYC tenants
Stabilizing NYC Coalition members
Elected officials including Council Members Ben Kallos, Jumaane Williams, Ritchie Torres and Daniel Garodnick

WHEN: Thursday, June 11, 2015 @ 1 PM

WHERE: City Hall Steps

VISUALS: Tenants holding signs, city councilmembers giving speeches. Signs featuring the Coalition's definition of predatory equity and the list of predatory equity targets will also be mounted.

BACKGROUND:

Over the past seven years, New York City's affordable housing market has been severely destabilized by private (predatory) equity companies like Benedict Realty Group (BRG) and SMRC Management. Before the 2008 market crash, these companies purchased a large number of rent-stabilized buildings at inflated prices without regard to New York City housing market or the laws that protect tenants. After the crash, they began aggressively pushing rent-stabilized tenants out using a wide range of (often illegal) harassing techniques, including:

- Filing frivolous lawsuits against tenants
- Failure to make repairs
- Failure to provide basic services such as heat and air conditioning to residents
- Pressuring tenants to relocate
- Making affordable housing unaffordable

Recently, the New York City Council has passed legislation useful to lawyers and organizers in this struggle against predatory equity, including the “underlying conditions bill” and Tenant Harassment bill. With additional resources, Stabilizing NYC is working with the city council to enforce these new laws against predatory equity landlords.

ABOUT THE STABILIZING NYC COALITION

[Stabilizing NYC](#) is a coalition comprised of fourteen grassroots neighborhood-based organizations, a citywide legal service provider and a citywide housing advocacy organization who have come together to combat tenant harassment and preserve affordable housing for the New Yorkers who need it most. This project combines legal, advocacy and organizing resources into a citywide network to help tenants take their predatory equity landlords to task for patchwork repairs, bogus eviction cases, and affirmative harassment.

Stabilizing NYC members include:

Manhattan:

CAAAY: Organizing Asian Communities • Cooper Square Committee •
 Good Old Lower East Side (GOLES) • Mirabal Sisters Cultural and Community Center •
 Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB) •
 Community Development Project at the Urban Justice Center

Bronx:

Community Action for Safe Apartments (CASA) – New Settlement Apartments •
 Mothers on the Move • Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition

Brooklyn:

5th Avenue Committee/Neighbors Helping Neighbors •
 Flatbush Tenant Coalition • Pratt Area Community Council • St. Nicks Alliance

Queens:

Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE) • Chhaya CDC • Woodside on the Move