

The July issue is live!

Inside: The tenant harassment crackdown, climate change's impact on RE & more



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Last month, landlord Steve Croman stood before a New York State Supreme Court judge and pleaded guilty to fraud and larceny charges. With that plea, he agreed to spend a year in a cell at Rikers Island.

It was a spectacular fall from grace for Croman, a landlord who built the largest multifamily portfolio in the East Village, but whose alleged strong-arm tactics on rent-stabilized tenants earned him the title of the “Bernie Madoff of landlords.”

For our cover story this month, “[Life after Croman](#),” we look at efforts to stop tenant harassment in New York City. While lawmakers push for stricter laws to stop landlords’ criminal behavior — a move that may have a major impact on the city’s approximately 1 million rent-stabilized apartments — the industry is divided over the heightened crackdown. Lawyers, investors, landlords and lobbyists told *The Real Deal* there’s a growing sense the deck is becoming stacked against property owners, and that tough new laws could criminalize honest



Meanwhile, in our story “[New York Underwater](#),” we ask the question: What could the real estate industry lose by failing to take a formal position on climate change?

We also [profile](#) RFR co-founder Aby Rosen, examine what [slipping agent commissions](#) means for residential brokerages and take a closer look at the [Brooklyn office pipeline](#).

There are stories on the niche rental sector of [co-living](#), the issue of [lender liability](#) when borrowers force out rent-stabilized tenants and a look at how the city is [emerging as the Holy Grail](#) among self-storage developers.

Elsewhere in the issue, we look at the rise of the [grown-up roommate](#) and rank residential firms that are closing the most sales in [Queens](#) and [the Bronx](#).

Finally in our [Closing](#), the managing principal of Metro Loft Management Nathan Berman talks about moving from Western Ukraine — the former USSR — to New York City in the 1970s, buying a 40-foot VanDutch yacht and his decision to vote for Donald Trump.

To read the July issue of *TRD*, click [here](#) or on the “Magazine” tab on the top left of the homepage. Enjoy! — *Miriam Hall*

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