NEWS

LANDLORD RELENTS ON FLAG BAN

By Leela De Krester August 9, 2005 | 4:00am

An East Side couple threatened with eviction for flying an American flag outside their home said they were further insulted yesterday when their landlord backtracked and said they could keep it – but only if they asked his permission to be patriotic.

Michael and Deborah Privitello said they were shocked by the statement released on behalf of landlord Francis Greenburger, accusing them of violating condo rules and asking that they write a letter seeking permission to hang the Stars and Stripes outside their apartment on East 50th Street.

The Privitellos say the flag was there almost a decade before Greenburger bought the formerly rent-stabilized building three years ago.

Both the Privitellos and the landlord admit they have been involved in a long battle over the family's occupancy.

The public-relations firm appointed to represent Greenburger and his company, Time Equities, said the landlord would insist on the Privitellos applying to the condominium board for permission to hang the flag after repairs were finished.

If they don't comply, the landlord's statement said, they would be still considered in breach of their lease.

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