

# Sleazy landlord must pay \$8M to tenants he harassed, cheated

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Corrupt landlord Steven Croman is taken into custody after his sentencing in State Supreme Court on Oct. 3, 2017 in New York. (ALEC TABAK/FOR NEW YORK DAILY NEWS)

One of the most notorious landlords in recent New York City history agreed Wednesday to an unprecedented deal that includes \$8 million in restitution to tenants he harassed and ripped off.

Steven Croman, [who is serving one year in jail](#) for tax and mortgage fraud, arranged the deal with State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman following an investigation into his systematic harassment of rent-regulated tenants.

The agreement represents the largest-ever settlement with an individual landlord. As part of the deal, more than 100 Croman properties will be run by new independent management and a monitor will oversee the sleazy landlord's compliance for seven years. Croman will pay for the monitor.

He also paid \$5 million in connection with his criminal case.

"Over and over again, Steven Croman acted as though he was above the law, putting profits before his tenants' safety and well-being," Schneiderman said.

The new deal also requires that an ex-NYPD cop who acted as Croman's muscle, Anthony Falconite, stay away from tenants in Croman-owned buildings.

"We are pleased to have reached a mutually acceptable settlement with the Attorney General to end the ongoing inquiry into our business," a Croman rep said.



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“We look forward to working with his office to implement the terms of our agreement and continuing to provide quality rental housing throughout New York City.”

Those who lived in a rent-stabilized or rent-controlled apartment owned by Croman between July 1, 2011, and December 2017 are potentially eligible.

Cynthia Chaffee, a Manhattan tenant who says she’s long endured Croman’s harassment and neglect, was “very pleased with the outcome.”

The rent stabilized 18th Street resident helped create a tenant coalition against Croman in 2007.

“We feel justice has finally been served,” Chaffee, 65, said, adding, “we’ll be able to live in peace.”

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