
City landlord who drove out tenants allowed to delay jail stay

BY SHAYNA JACOBS REUVEN BLAU

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 12:48 PM



Croman will be allowed stay out of jail until after the High Holidays, starting with Rosh Hashanah Wednesday night. (ALEC TABAK/FOR NEW YORK DAILY NEWS)

His atonement is on hold.

Notorious landlord Steve Croman will stay out of jail until after the High Holidays, starting with Rosh Hashanah Wednesday night, Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Jill Konviser ruled Tuesday.

In June, Croman, 50, [pleaded guilty to multiple felonies](#) for unlawfully driving out rent-stabilized tenants so he could collect higher rents.

Croman, who owns 140 apartment buildings, will spend a year in Rikers Island as part of the plea deal. But he asked to delay his sentencing during a court hearing Tuesday.

His next court date is Oct. 3. That means he will be free for Yom Kippur, the "Day of Atonement," starting Sept. 29.

On Tuesday, representatives for state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman objected to the delay during a brief conference in front of the judge.

Croman has forked over \$3 million restitution as part of a \$5 million tax settlement for failing to pay payroll taxes.

Some tenants were upset with the delay.

"It's outrageous because we spend so many holidays with no heat, no water. No gas service. You name it," said Cynthia Chaffee, 65, who lives in a building on 18th St. he owns.

"He gets to spend his whole summer in Southampton," she added. "It's a slap in the face to tenants."

But not all Croman's prayers were answered.

He still faces a civil suit filed by Schneiderman arguing that he hired a retired NYPD cop to [scare tenants into taking buyouts](#), primarily in the pricey real estate spots on the Lower East Side and East Harlem.

Croman called the cop, Anthony Falconite, his "secret weapon."

Falconite stalked tenants, broke into their apartments to read their mail, and followed them to their jobs to interview colleagues about where they actually live, the suit alleges.