

The city goes easy on bad landlords: report

City misses out on \$4.7M in civil penalties

December 26, 2018 02:00PM



520 West 136th Street (Credit: Google Maps and iStock)

Residential landlords often get off easy for failing to provide basic services for their tenants or fix violations at their buildings.

The New York Times reviewed 126 housing court cases from last year involving serious building-wide issues and found that in a majority of the cases, the city settled for less than 15 percent of penalties available under the law. The median settlement was \$4,000, meaning the city left some \$4.7 million in civil penalties on the table.

Even landlords who are caught lying about making repairs don't face steep fines. One landlord who filed 40 certifications with the city falsely claiming violations had been corrected in rent-regulated buildings was hit with \$2,750 in fines. Some officials, however, are concerned that increasing penalties could prolong these court cases and ultimately hurt tenants.

"Our primary mission has been and will continue to be ensuring New Yorkers live in safe and secure homes, which is why we concentrate our efforts on correcting conditions of...
Creegan, a spokesperson for the city Department of Housing Preservation and Development, says the agency continues to "develop new tools to aggressively combat tenant harassment."

The city repeatedly sued landlord Hamid Khan for violations at his building at
📍 [520 West 136th Street](#) in Harlem, he only had to pay \$5,000 to settle violations.

The United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA) replaces NAFTA and focuses mainly on the agricultural and auto industries. Tariffs were left out of the new deal.

Here's How A New Trade Deal Between The...

\$200,000. One tenant in the building, Felix Salazar, who also sued Khan, said conditions were so bad that rats had eaten his pet parrots.

According to the Times, the city has lost more than 152,000 rent-regulated apartments since the early 1990s. This year the city [launched](#) the Certification of No Harassment Pilot Program, which requires [landlords](#) to certify that tenants haven't been harassed before getting construction permits for big alterations. [\[NYT\]](#) — *Kathryn Brenzel*

Tags: [NYC Landlords](#), [Residential Real Estate](#), [worst landlords](#)

