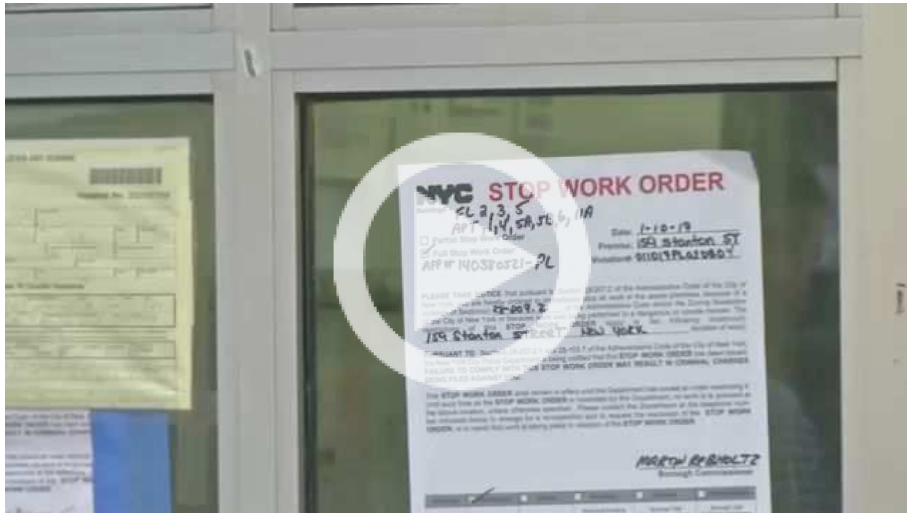


Sunday, February 26, 2017

Rent-Stabilized Tenants on Lower East Side Left Homeless As Shady Landlord Refuses to Make Repairs

By Lisa Voyticky

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NY1 VIDEO: Some residents of the Lower East Side were left without a place to sleep Saturday night, after city inspectors ordered them out of their homes. Francis DiDonato has been living in his apartment for 25 years. Now he and his 12-year-old son are being forced out of their home because of deplorable conditions. The landlord, Steve Croman, is considered one of the worst in the city by Public Advocate Letitia James. He's currently facing 20 felony charges including grand larceny and tax fraud — and Saturday's vacate order comes after tenants brought him to court Thursday. A spokesperson for 9300 Realty, a company run by Croman, claims tenants requested a buyout of \$300,000 per apartment. They say the company rejected it and the tenants are calling the city and media out of retaliation.