

Steve Croman Tenants at 159 Stanton Street File Harassment Lawsuit

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Steve Croman arraignment, Photo: Daily News

Yesterday, tenants of 159 Stanton Street held a press conference calling out slumlord **Steve Croman** (<http://www.boweryboogie.com/tag/steve-croman/>) on his predatory equity practices, and subsequently publicized their lawsuit against him for alleged tenant harassment and unsafe building conditions. As we've previously reported (<http://www.boweryboogie.com/2016/10/slumlord-steve-croman-boots-rent-stabilized-tenants-properties/>), this isn't the first time he's been accused of unethical eviction tactics, not to mention that such methods were recently aired in significant detail over at Bloomberg Businessweek (<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-10-12/get-out>).

Under Croman's ownership, the laundry list of horrors is seemingly never-ending; tenants have dealt with ceiling collapses, rat and mold infestation, and cascading water flooding halls through a dilapidated roof and skylight. The building has reportedly been left unsecured while under construction. Residents also maintain that a burglar broke in through an open window in an apartment under construction which they had informed management about; the burglar fell through the floor into the apartment below and robbed it.

Now the tenants of 159 Stanton Street, Stop Croman Coalition, Stand for Tenant Safety (STS), Stabilizing NYC, NY Senator Daniel Squadron, Paul Leonard, Chief of Staff for Councilmember Margaret Chin are attempting to mobilize on this matter. If you recall, this past spring Attorney General Eric Schneiderman kicked off things with a separate civil suit charging him with routinely employing threats and frivolous lawsuits to boot rent regulated tenants.

Thus far, Croman has been charged with twenty felonies including grand larceny (<http://www.boweryboogie.com/2016/05/slumlord-steve-croman-arrested-faces-20-felony-charges-fraudulent-activity/>), falsifying business records, tax fraud, conspiring to defraud, and offering a false instrument; his mortgage broker Barry Swartz faces fifteen felonies including grand larceny, falsifying records, and conspiring to defraud. The two could get up to twenty-five years in prison apiece.

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