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## \*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\*

### **Bronx Tenants Demand Immediate Repairs to Deplorable Conditions – Including Elevator Outage in 16 Floor Building – Amid a Citywide Heatwave**

*480 East 188th Street has over 500 open violations; residents call on the courts to hold landlord accountable and save their deteriorating rent-stabilized building*

**(Bronx, NY) – Tenants at 480 East 188th Street, along with the support of the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition and The Legal Aid Society,** are holding a press conference to condemn the landlords of their building, Karan Singh and Sean Campbell, and draw immediate attention to the years-long essential service outages, including elevator outages amid an unprecedented heat wave, harassment of tenants, and the long term neglect of the 170 unit building.

The elevator outage in the 16 floor building has left residents at severe risk of heat-related injuries and other medical issues. Over the weekend, EMT workers were not able to respond to a medical emergency as quickly as needed, leaving the tenant in peril. Tenants with children are struggling to get into their homes safely, many tenants can't accomplish everyday tasks such as food shopping and laundry, and elderly/disabled tenants are homebound.

Residents live with hazardous conditions that are dangerous to their life, health and safety. The New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) has issued 538 open violations, 147 of which are class C violations that are classified as “immediately hazardous,” which property owners must correct in 24 hours of receiving the Notice of Violation. These unscrupulous landlords oversee about 960 units and have been sued by the City numerous times for their failure to provide safe living conditions. These landlords refuse to appear in court and they refuse to enact lasting repairs in their portfolio.

Tenants are facing deplorable conditions, including insufficient heat and hot water, leaks, mold, inadequate appliances, elevator out of service for a year, collapsing ceilings, lack of intercom, poor lighting, rodent and roach infestations, lack of essential repairs, including broken plumbing, lack of security, holes in the floors and walls, and repeated harassment by the landlords.

On November 27, 2023, residents filed a lawsuit against the landlord with the support of The Legal Aid Society to force the owner to correct all of the outstanding issues and violations. The owners have not complied with the Court's Order to Correct. Residents are fighting back - they are demanding that the courts hold the landlord accountable.

**WHAT:** Press conference regarding 480 East 188th Street and its decades-long history of neglectful ownership and numerous health and safety violations.

**WHO:** Senator Gustavo Rivera, Council Member Oswald Feliz, The Legal Aid Society, The Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC), and tenants of 480 East 188th Street in the Bronx.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 10 A.M.

**WHERE:** 480 East 188th St., Bronx, NY

**Tenants will be available to be interviewed in both English and Spanish. They will also be available to provide tours of their apartments and the building to the media.**

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*The Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC) unites diverse peoples and institutions to fight for racial and economic justice through community organizing to transform the Bronx and beyond. We take direct action to confront injustice and win concrete victories that change material conditions, giving people a sense of the power of our community. We invest in our members' capacity to realize a shared vision for the Bronx where our people collectively own and govern the assets and political processes in our community.*

*The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 140 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. <https://www.legalaidnyc.org>*