

Justice in Every Borough.

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Legal Aid Statement on Fire in Six-Story Bronx Building Which Displaced Over 250 Tenants

2910 Wallace Avenue is the Third Building Owned by Landlord Ved Parkash to Catch Fire

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society issued the following statement in response to a large <u>fire</u> at 2910 Wallace Avenue in the Bronx early Friday, which injured at least seven people and displaced <u>over 250 tenants</u>:

"This devastating fire profoundly saddens us, and our hearts go out to the residents of 2910 Wallace Avenue who call the building home.

"While we wait for more information, it is critical to highlight that this is the third fire to break out in a building owned by landlord Ved Parkash, whom we have long condemned for the conditions and disrepair present in his buildings.

"The Legal Aid Society represents thirty-eight tenants from 1420 Noble Avenue, one of the Parkash buildings that burned in June 2023, where a vacate order is still in place. The tenants from 1420 Noble remain displaced, and we have been fighting in court to enforce an order to correct the situation, which requires the landlord to make the repairs and allow them to return home.

"We stand ready to support the impacted tenants by ensuring their access to safe, stable housing and adequate resources throughout their displacement."

Background:

In addition to the buildings mentioned above, the third fire in the past 20 months in a building owned by Parkash occurred in June 2023 at <u>735-745 East 242nd Street</u>, resulting in the deaths of two residents. In 2015, Ved Parkash was named the city's worst landlord by then-Public Advocate Letitia James.

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 nearly 150 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. www.legalaidnyc.org