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***Over 200 Bronx Tenants from 2910 Wallace Avenue Demand City Action to
Return Home After Devastating Fire in January***

***Additional Tenants from Buildings Owned by Notorious Landlord Ved Parkash
Remain Displaced from Fires***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society, on behalf of the displaced tenants of 2910 Wallace Avenue in the Bronx, is demanding justice to ensure these families can finally return home—exactly six months after a massive [fire ravaged](#) their building in January 2025 and displaced over 250 families. The building’s landlord, notorious Bronx slumlord Ved Parkash, has failed to provide any information about the status of the building or otherwise communicate with tenants as to the state of their homes, leaving hundreds of families in limbo, living in shelters or precarious housing.

The 2910 Wallace Avenue tenants convened in front of the boarded-up building and were joined by tenants from 1420 Noble Avenue, another Parkash building that [burned](#) in June 2023, where a vacate order is still in place. The tenants from 1420 Noble remain displaced after more than two years while they and The Legal Aid Society have been fighting in court to force the landlord to make repairs and allow them to return home.

“The lack of communication from the landlord, their foot dragging about completing the repairs, and general unwillingness to work with the tenants displaced by the fire is disheartening, upsetting, and all too commonplace.” said **Sam Kohn, Staff Attorney at The Legal Aid Society**.

“The fire was a tragedy for literally hundreds of Bronx residents who called 2910 Wallace their home. At the very least, after six months, the tenants deserve to know what’s happening with the building; the landlord has not reported any progress or given the tenants any plan. The residents of 2910 Wallace and 1420 Noble Avenue deserve dignity, stability, and safe housing—not more months of displacement and silence,” added **Jason Hadley, Staff Attorney at The Legal Aid Society**.

Ved Parkash has a long history of neglecting his buildings and endangering tenants. In this case, his refusal to repair and reoccupy the building violates not only his legal obligations, but basic human decency.

Should the landlord continue to evade the tenants of 2910 Wallace Avenue, they and The Legal Aid Society call on the City to take emergency action, including stepping in to complete necessary repairs, and support the tenants' right to return to their homes.

2910 Wallace tenant, Yolanda Richardson, shared that "In addition to the timely repairs that we want done so that we can move back into our homes, we must continue to fight for legislation to help fire victims rebuild their lives after they are displaced through no fault of their own." Richardson continued, "With the current economy, what is considered low-income housing is still unattainable to many residents who are retired, on fixed incomes or not making the annual salaries required for these so called "low-income developments," making them virtually impossible to get into after being displaced due to a fire. We hope others will join us as we continue to fight for repairs to our building and legislative change, that affect displaced tenants due to landlord negligence."

"Six months after the fire at 2910 Wallace Avenue, hundreds of Bronx families are still displaced, in limbo, and waiting on a landlord who refuses to do the bare minimum," said **Congressman Ritchie Torres**. "Ved Parkash has a well-documented history of tenant neglect, and this is yet another example of his outrageous disregard for human life and housing law. If he will not make the repairs, the City must. I am calling for immediate federal support to expand emergency housing vouchers and I urge HPD to step in, fix the building, and bill the landlord. The families of 2910 Wallace and 1420 Noble deserve to come home with dignity and stability."

"Six months have passed since the devastating fire at 2910 Wallace Avenue, and still, too many of our Bronx families remain without answers, without stability, and without a place to call home," said **Council Member Kevin C. Riley**. "This level of neglect is unacceptable, and sadly, not uncommon in communities like ours that face systemic disinvestment and landlord abuse. I continue to stand with the residents demanding repairs, accountability, and legislative action to ensure no one is left behind after tragedy. In partnership with my Council colleagues, I'm proud to lead efforts like Resolution 802 to hold negligent landlords accountable. Through policies like this, we're fighting to make sure landlords, not displaced families or the City, bear the burden when their negligence leads to disaster."

"To say that I am outraged would be an understatement," said **Assemblymember John Zaccaro, Jr.** "In January, a devastating five-alarm fire ripped through the apartments of 2910 Wallace Avenue. Six months later, many residents are still scattered across the five boroughs in supportive housing separated from family, friends, school, and work. They awaken each day to the hardships that long-term displacement cause while the management company drags its feet and city agencies fail to deliver for hard-working, tax-paying New Yorkers. These victims and others from three additional buildings managed by the same company where fires have occurred have been ignored for far too long. Today, we say enough is enough!"

"Negligent landlords must be held accountable--and Ved Parkash is no exception," said **NYC Council Member Pierina Sanchez, Chair of the Committee on Housing and Buildings**. "It has been 6 long months since the tragic five-alarm fire at 2910 Wallace Avenue, yet tenants remain displaced with no communication about the status of their homes. This is unacceptable. Parkash must provide clear updates on the plan to provide safe, dignified housing for displaced tenants. Unfortunately, 2910 Wallace's story is not unique, which is why the Council is moving legislation to better protect tenants after a fire. Additionally, my bill, the Housing Rescue and

Resident Protection Act (Int. 1063), offers another bold solution—reforming the City’s power of municipal foreclosure to transfer ownership of buildings under the worst management after a fair process, to set more NYC buildings on a path to responsible ownership. I stand with all displaced tenants to demand accountability.”

“In our borough, quality, safe, stable, and dignified housing is not just a right, but a fundamental expectation for every resident and family. I am proud to stand in solidarity with the Legal Aid Society, housing justice advocates, and every impacted tenant in demanding that the City of New York take immediate emergency action. We need real accountability, urgent repairs, and a firm commitment to ensuring that our landlords can no longer neglect their responsibilities while families are forced to suffer the consequences,” said **Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson.**

Background:

Since 2023, tenants in three buildings owned by Ved Parkash have been displaced because the buildings have caught fire—2910 Wallace Avenue, 1420 Noble Avenue, and [735-745 East 242nd Street](#) (where two tenants died). In 2015, Parkash was named the city’s worst landlord by then-Public Advocate Letitia James. This history of neglect and wonton disregard of housing laws and regulations has caused hundreds of families to remain displaced without a clear timeline for return.

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The Legal Aid Society is a nonprofit organization that 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.

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