

Mayor Bill de Blasio, in partnership with New York State, created the Tenant Harassment Prevention Task Force to investigate and bring enforcement actions – including criminal charges – against landlords who harass tenants.



## What You Need to Know to Protect Yourself

### The Tenant Harassment Prevention Task Force was created to protect YOU.

Harassment by an owner to force tenants out of their apartments, or to surrender their rights, is illegal. Tenant harassment most often occurs over a period of time where your landlord attempts to make living conditions in your apartment building dangerous and diminish your quality of life.

This process frequently begins when your landlord requests that you vacate your apartment in order to allow for repairs. Situations under which this may occur include your landlord offering you money to leave the apartment, or claiming they will temporarily offer a different unit until construction is complete.

If you refuse to do so, forms of tenant harassment can include:

- Construction that occurs without conspicuously posted work permits
- Storage of construction materials in a public space that creates an egress or tripping hazard
- Not properly controlling dust during construction allowing it in a public hallway or to enter under the door of an apartment
- Removing of hand railings from public stairways
- Frequent or extended periods of utility outages including gas, heat and electricity
- Removal of dry-wall from occupied residences and public hallways for long periods creating a fire hazard
- Work that occurs before 7am or after 6pm on weekdays or weekends without an after-hour variance
- Consistent withholding of services like heat or hot water
- Persistent physical or psychological intimidation
- Changing locks without providing keys
- Unwarranted or repeated eviction notices or proceedings
- Creating new rules about residing at a location which are not in a lease
- Adding charges to the rent bill beyond those agreed to in the lease

## Contact

If you feel you are a victim of landlord harassment please call **(917) 661-4505** between 10 am and 4pm.