

Cops barge in on bad landlord

By BRAD HAMILTON

Cops raided the Midtown offices of an upscale landlord family Thursday, hauling out boxes of records after residents complained the clan has waged a campaign of abuse and harassment to drive them out of their apartments.

They say Fred Ohebshalom, 52, head of an Iranian Jewish rug-merchant family called the Shaloms, and two nephews own about 90 buildings in some of Manhattan's most desirable neighborhoods — and will stop at nothing to churn the 2,000 or so units they control.

They break into apartments, spy on tenants and torment residents with illegal construction, once putting an MRI clinic in a courtyard, say fed-up tenants, who include author Malachy McCourt.

Ohebshalom, who lives in a sprawling mansion in Great Neck, L.I., and nephews Ben and Jon Shalom,



FRED OHEBSHALOM
"Harassed" his tenants.

maliciously shut off heat and hot water and forge residents' signatures on documents stating violations and unsafe conditions have been removed, they say.

The goal is to drive them crazy — and out of their homes, allowing the family to jack up rents each time apartments change hands, the tenants say.

The raid at Sky Management on East 54th Street came after tenants begged

Manhattan DA Robert Morgenthau to take action.

"Apparently, the police and DA's Office went in and removed files," said state Sen. Liz Krueger, who's helping the tenants.

"Based on my knowledge of the TV show 'Law & Order,' they apparently got a search warrant signed by a judge."

Said state Sen. Thomas Duane: "It's no surprise to me that they would be the subject of an investigation because the way they treat their tenants is criminal."

A spokesman for Morgenthau declined to comment.

A letter tenant William Fowler sent the DA on Sept. 20 claims prosecutors have been investigating the Shaloms for nearly a year.

"I have no comment," said Fred Ohebshalom.

Ben and Jon Shalom did not return messages left for them at Sky Management.