



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

SCOTT M. STRINGER
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

April 12, 2006

Paul Roldan
Division of Housing and Community Renewal
Rent Administration
Gertz Plaza
92-31 Union Hall Street, 4th Floor
Jamaica, New York 11433

Dear Deputy Commissioner Roldan:

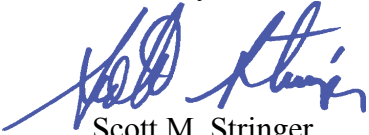
I am writing on behalf of the Shalom Tenants Alliance and 35 of its members who jointly filed harassment complaints with the Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) on March 2, 2006. Submitted by tenants of 13 different buildings, these complaints document long-standing patterns of harassment by the Ohebshalom family. I urge you to seriously consider the complaints and to take the strongest possible action against the Ohebshaloms.

According to the Shalom Tenants Alliance, the Ohebshalom family currently owns 114 buildings in New York City, 100 of which are in Manhattan. Operating under a variety of corporate names, including Sky Management, Empire Management, Gatsby, and Keystone, the Ohebshaloms are notorious slumlords. They tirelessly pursue ridding their buildings of rent-controlled and rent-stabilized tenants and subsequently use scare tactics in the hopes of evicting tenants. Widespread tenant complaints include harassment through construction, discontinued or decreased services, coercion and intimidation, and frequent litigation.

While occasional spats and disagreements are a foreseeable part of the interaction between tenant and landlord, it is the right of all individuals and families to live without fear of eviction or harassment. My communications with the Shalom Tenants Alliance have made me increasingly aware that the callousness with which the Ohebshalom family bullies and coerces low- and middle-income tenants is the same for all of its tenants citywide. It must be communicated to them that their conduct is illegal and unacceptable.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and I hope you will take the necessary steps to address these very serious complaints. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott M. Stringer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Scott M. Stringer
Manhattan Borough President