

Cooper Square Committee

I lived at 225 Rector Place in Battery Park City for 20 years as a good tenant and paid on time. In the middle of the pandemic, before vaccines were even available, my neighbors and I, mostly seniors living with serious health issues, were told we had to leave. Most of us had nowhere to go and were worried about being forced out of our homes during a global pandemic.

421a is unfair for born and bred New Yorkers to find housing in their old age that's not a single room occupancy. Our quality of life is endangered and it's cruel. As a senior citizen, it was stressful to look for a new home because landlords aren't as quick to give places to seniors with limited income.

421a gives huge tax breaks to developers, but doesn't provide long term affordable housing to people who need it. as in the case of me and my neighbors.

Not only does the program leave senior citizens without homes after a number of years, but it has been shown to be enormously wasteful as well. It costs taxpayers over a billion dollars a year with very little affordable housing to show for it. ANHD, the Community Service Society, and others have done research that shows the scale of the problem. For example, in 2013, only 8.6 percent of apartments built under 421a were affordable.

Not only did I lose my home of twenty years, but because this program works so poorly, I struggled to find affordable housing after I left. 421a has failed me and this city and state. It is time to end this program.