



December 27, 2016

Eric Schneiderman
New York Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Attorney General Schneiderman,

As representatives of Astoria, Queens, we write regarding the disturbing situation affecting the residents at the New York School of Urban Ministry. NYSUM is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit Christian ministry and school which, in addition to offering training in "hands on multicultural urban ministry," rents rooms to low-income residents and missionaries in a 39-unit dormitory located at 31-65 46th Street in Astoria.

Specifically, NYSUM blindsided tenants with a letter close to Thanksgiving demanding residents vacate by December 31, 2016. The majority of NYSUM residents pay rent between \$400 and \$500 a month, and would not be able to afford market-rate apartments in New York City. NYSUM confirmed that they intend to remove these tenants in order to operate a homeless shelter on the site, which these tenants may very well need due to NYSUM's actions.

Upon emphasizing our concerns to NYSUM Pastor Peter DeArruda, he suggested that NYSUM was losing money on the location at issue and is generally facing financial hardships. NYSUM claims a net rental income of \$446,881, according to their 990 filing from 2014. This income appears to be sufficient to cover operational costs that may exist, given the tax status of the organization. The attached document indicates the property is fully paid off and owned by NYSUM, clear of any mortgage.

While we will continue to encourage residents to remain in their homes and avail themselves of their legal rights, we are extremely concerned that these residents are paying the price for the mismanagement of this 501(c)(3) non-profit. Accordingly, we respectfully request your investigation of this situation.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael Gianaris in black ink.

Michael Gianaris
New York State Senate

Handwritten signature of Joseph Crowley in black ink.

Joseph Crowley
United State House of Representatives

Handwritten signature of Aravella Simotas in black ink.

Aravella Simotas
New York State Assembly