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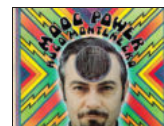


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CB4 Puts Shady Architects on Notice

Added by **Scott Stiffler** on June 10, 2015.

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His eyes may be closed in this shot from CB4's June full board meeting, but Joe Restuccia is open to Agenda Item 21 — a letter to local elected regarding tenant protection during the construction of occupied buildings. Photo by Winnie McCroy.

BY WINNIE McCROY | The June 3 Community Board 4 (CB4) monthly full board meeting at Roosevelt Hospital ended on a hopeful note, when board member Joe Restuccia put into motion the first steps of a plan to battle against architects and owners who illegally harass tenants out of their homes, with the unwitting help of the Department of Buildings (DOB).

The issue in question was Agenda Item 21, a letter to elected officials regarding the enforcement of tenant protection plans during the construction of occupied buildings. On its face it seems innocuous — but the real meat of the matter has to do with architects who are reporting that buildings are vacant, then harassing remaining tenants into leaving.

"This is a letter about how architects are falsifying information on DOB forms," said Restuccia.

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“Because if a building is listed as vacant, then no tenant protection plan is needed. But these architects are trying to game the system in order to get tenants harassed or bought out of the building.”

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Restuccia continued by noting, “Four or five owners have honed this method to a science to empty out rent-regulated buildings,” in what he described as an intentional, s

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to declare that a building is vacant to begin with.

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