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AAFE's Statement on the Arrest of Landlord Steve Croman

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Barry Swartz and Steven Croman appear in court. Photo: New York Daily News.

The New York State Attorney General May 9 announced the arrest and prosecution on 20 felony charges of property owner Steve Croman.

AG Eric Schneiderman said Croman's companies were involved in an alleged scheme to fraudulently obtain several multi-million dollar refinancing loans between 2012 and 2014. The notorious property owner also faces a civil lawsuit from the attorney general, who accuses him of illegal, fraudulent, and deceptive conduct in buildings throughout the city.

Asian Americans for Equality released the following statement regarding Croman's arrest. Executive Director Chris Kui said:

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The charges were filed against Croman and Barry Swartz, his mortgage broker. Schneiderman said during a news conference, "My message to unscrupulous landlords is simple: If you put your own profits over your

tenants' legal protections, we will investigate you and prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law."

Many of Croman's buildings are located on the Lower East Side and in Chinatown.