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GOVERNMENT & REGULATIONS

Steven Croman sentencing postponed



Pictured: Steven Croman

COURTESY OF ABC NEWS



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Today was supposed to be the day where real estate investor Steven Croman – once described by New York attorney general Eric Schneiderman as the "Bernie Madoff of landlords" – was sentenced to jail at Rikers Island.

More than 40 tenants who had been wronged by Croman showed up to a Downtown Manhattan court with signs and banners to see it for themselves. This was the man who had been charged and convicted of multiple felony charges, including depriving low-income families of services and harassing them out of their homes.

Those tenants, however, will have to wait a bit longer.

Croman, who owns close to 200 properties in Manhattan, was scheduled to appear before Judge Jill Konviser at the New York City Criminal Court at 100 Centre St., but

This year, Rosh Hashanah begins the evening of Sept. 20 and ends on the evening of Friday, Sept. 22.

Corman is due back in court on Tuesday, Oct. 3., where he'll be surrendering to the authorities, pay a \$5 million settlement, and go to jail for a one-year sentence.

"We'll be coming back," said Wasim Lone, director of housing services at GOLES and one of the members of the Stop Croman Coalition. "He's a free man for now."

Lone was at court with other housing advocates and rent-regulated tenants who occupied many of the buildings Croman owned. According to court depositions, Croman had harassed tenants to vacate their rent-stabilized apartments so he could hike up the prices.

 Croman would refer to tenants as “targets” and call the act of pushing them out as a “team sport.” The lawsuit claims Croman would deploy his associates into tenant's apartments and intimidate them into vacating by starting lengthy construction, and taking away utilities like hot water and electricity.

Croman was arrested in May 2016 for 20 felony charges after a lengthy investigation conducted by Schneiderman. Croman pled guilty to three of the felonies, including fraudulently refinancing loans and committing tax fraud.

Meanwhile, Schneiderman is seeking to force Croman to give up his real estate business and pay millions of dollars in restitution and penalties in this lawsuit.

