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## **Bushwick Tenants Fight for a City-Appointed Administrator to Manage Their Building After Months of Harassment and Neglect**

**NEW YORK, NY**, March 3, 2016—After months of enduring severe harassment and neglect, including illegal evictions and hundreds of uncorrected housing violations, six tenants of 159 Suydam Street in Bushwick, Brooklyn are suing their landlord and asking the Housing Court to appoint a 7-A administrator to manage their building and make their rent-stabilized apartments habitable. The tenants of 159 Suydam sought help from Assemblywoman Maritza Davila, who referred the case to MFY Legal Services, Inc. for legal representation.

“This case is one example of the abuse many of my constituents face on a daily basis, and we are working hard to alleviate the effects of this by making sure tenants in my district know their rights and have the assistance of legal counsel when necessary. I fully support MFY’s efforts to obtain justice for these tenants after all they have endured at 159 Suydam,” said Assemblywoman Maritza Davila.

MFY filed suit on behalf of the tenants in August, 2015 after landlord Frank Campasano was charged with bribing city inspectors in an attempt to illegally evict the tenants. Mr. Campasano pled guilty to attempted bribery of a public official several months later. Building ownership has since been transferred to Frank Campasano’s son, Damian Campasano, but the tenants say Frank’s involvement in the building’s mismanagement has not ceased.

Scores of tenants rallied at the building today with Assemblywoman Davila and their attorneys. “We are sick of the harassment, sick of living like this,” said Pablo Aponte, a 15-year tenant of 159 Suydam. “We deserve respect.”

“The situation at 159 Suydam is a prime example of what happens when landlords in Bushwick and throughout the city act as if they can operate above the law without consequences,” said Ariana

Marmora, an attorney at MFY who filed suit on behalf of the tenants. “It also speaks to the power and effectiveness of tenant organizing—it’s important to reach out to your elected officials and organizations like MFY, even if your landlord tells you it will be futile.”

MFY Legal Services, Inc. provides free legal assistance to tenants in Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx and also assists New Yorkers in the areas of public benefits, foreclosure, consumer, civil and disability rights, workers’ rights, and family law. MFY is committed to working to protect the safety and affordability of housing for low-income New Yorkers so they can continue to be an integral part of New York City communities.

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**Pablo Aponte and his attorneys are available to speak with the press. [Link to photo of Mr. Aponte](#) speaking at rally with Assemblywoman Maritza Davila, on left, and MFY Attorney Ariana Marmora, in center behind Mr. Aponte.**