



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Michael Gianaris

## Senator Gianaris and Assemblywoman Simotas Fight to Help Residents Facing Eviction

MICHAEL GIANARIS December 12, 2016

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(Astoria, NY) – Senator Michael Gianaris and Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas released the following statements concerning an eviction letter sent to current low-income residents at the NY School of Urban Ministry.

**Senator Michael Gianaris said,** “Only a modern day Ebenezer Scrooge would blindside residents with sudden eviction notices during the holidays. I am continuing to advise tenants, some of whom have lived there for half a decade, of their legal rights and will support them as they fight for their homes.”

**Assemblymember Aravella Simotas said,** "Threatening to evict low-income tenants, during the holidays, no less, is nothing short of heartless. I will continue to work with tenants and my colleagues in government to ensure that no one loses their home due to this unconscionable money grab."

The office of Senator Gianaris attempted to contact Pastor Peter DeArruda who refused to address this matter and referred questions to his attorney, who did not return calls.

Senator Gianaris has been told by the Office of the Mayor that the city has abandoned plans to convert this building into a homeless shelter.

Over the last week, Senator Gianaris repeatedly visited with residents to check on them, reminding them that there is not currently an eviction order in place requiring them to leave by December 31st. Below is a photo of Senator Gianaris and resident Linda Smith.

Attached is a copy of the eviction letter residents received.

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