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Tenants Forced Out of Collapsing Building *Boro President: Warning was issued, City Did Nothing*



Displaced Persons: 350 W. 110th Street residents were forced out on the street last week when a corner of their building collapsed.

Pete Rühde

BY ROBERT KOLKER

In February, Richard Herschlag, chief engineer for Borough President Ruth Messinger, warned that the apartment house at 350 W. 110th St. should be vacated and demolished before it collapsed. Last Thursday, the building's northeast corner at 110th Street and Manhattan Avenue started sinking into the ground, forcing its tenants out onto the street and into the arms of the Red Cross.

Why the Department of Buildings never acted on Herschlag's report and what the long-term cause was of the building's partial cave-in are still matters of debate among Messinger's office, the DOB and Community Board 7.

The 100-year-old, six-story building was fully evacuated Thursday morning with no injuries reported. The immediate cause of the cave-in, a broken water main, has repaired by the Department of Environmental Protection, according to DOB spokesperson Vahe Tiryakian. However, Marty Castro, who co-owns the building with his brother, Ray, says tenants won't be able to move in until the DOB okays his architect's renovation plans. Tiryakian says the approval process will be expedited to allow for swift repair. Until then, the Red Cross and the Department of

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