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Syosset trailer park residents vow eviction fight

BY DEBORAH S. MORRIS

deborah.morris@newsday.com

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We're not going anywhere.

That's the response Syosset Mobile Home Park residents have to a judge's decision that their landlord has the right to evict them.

"We're not budging," said Barbara Pedote, president of the homeowners association. "We're going to continue our fight in the courts."

Last month, a [Nassau County](#) Supreme Court judge ruled that STP Associates has fully complied with the law and may continue with the eviction proceedings it began last fall against tenants who had not paid their rent.



"In the face of this decision and acknowledging that the tenants have not paid rent for six months, we are still willing to work with the residents," said Larry Rush, an official with STP. "We will reach out to their attorney and hope that we can bring some cooperation and understanding to the process."

Elliott Schlissel, attorney for the tenants, said his office is in the process of filing an appeal but hopes "some other amicable resolution can be reached."

Residents said the ruling has not caused them to panic.

"As far as I'm concerned the only place I'm moving is into a double-wide [trailer] in this park," Marcie Rappaport said. "We never said this was going to be easy. You don't just give up because there is an obstacle in your way."

STP bought the park last spring. Shortly after, residents were offered one-year leases that would have increased their rent to \$1,000 within a year. In October, tenants began a rent strike, which continues.

In November, STP began sending out eviction notices. Tenants sued STP and Hormi Holding Co., the seller of the property, alleging neither had been forthright in plans for the 5-acre property.

Judy White, spokeswoman for STP, said plans for the park have not been finalized.

A stay was eventually issued by the courts to stop the eviction proceedings, after which STP officials

offered the 60 families a total of \$500,000 to leave within a year. They would pay \$750 a month for rent. The tenants, who own their homes, declined.

The case against Hormi is still pending.

Resident Nelson Hess said this case is far from finished.

"They would have to offer us a substantial payout to stop this fight," Hess said. "But we know we have a great case, and they know it, too. So we will continue. We're here to win."

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