

Daniel Goldstein and his family are the last residents fighting Atlantic Yards eviction battle

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Rosier/News Daniel Goldstein holds daughter Sita as he and wife Shabnam Merchant discuss Atlantic Yards plan from Pacific St. home.

And then there was one.

Daniel Goldstein and his family are now the only residents fighting eviction from the Atlantic Yards site after seven other families agreed to leave by next month.

Goldstein said he'll challenge a motion to kick him, his wife and 1-year-old daughter out of their Pacific St. condo by May 17.

Meanwhile, the last of the seven other families signed an agreement Tuesday with developer Bruce Ratner to leave by May 7.

Families who had been renting in the footprint of the Atlantic Yards development will get an apartment there at the same rent they're paying now, or a cash payment averaging \$85,000, said Forest City Ratner Vice President MaryAnne Gilmartin.

Elizabeth Nazario, 36, who was packing up the Pacific St. apartment she shares with two teenage sons Tuesday in preparation for a move to Sunset Park, said she's happy with the deal. "I don't have any problems with it," she said. "I'm very comfortable with moving."

But neighbor Wanda Candelario, 51, said she didn't want to leave - noting her special needs daughter's school and doctors are nearby. "I'm not very happy," she said. "[But] they told me I had to go."

State officials will go to court today to get Goldstein, a storage company and an office building still on the site booted by next month. Gilmartin was quoted in court papers as saying that putting off the evictions too long would "cripple the project" and cost Ratner \$6.7 million a month.

But Goldstein insisted he and his family "deserve ... a fair and reasonable amount of time to find a new, suitable home."

He said a consultant hired by Ratner sent him listings for five condos - but they're all smaller than his current home or cost more than the \$510,000 the state offered after taking it by eminent domain.

Lawyer Mike Rikon, who represents Goldstein and the storage company, said it was rare to seek evictions so soon after property is condemned - and charged that officials are trying to punish Goldstein for his vocal opposition to the project.

"I've been practicing eminent domain law exclusively for 41 years and I've never seen this," Rikon said. "There is no question it's vindictive and mean."