



**BROOKLYN TENANTS FILE TO JOIN AS  
PLAINTIFFS IN CITY SUIT AGAINST LANDLORDS  
GENARRO BROOKS-CHURCH & LORETTA GENDVILLE**

**CONTACT**

Michael Higgins Jr.  
(917) 704-6994  
mhiggins@brooklynmovementcenter.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 22, 2020

**WHO:** Former tenants of 1214 Dean Street, TakeRoot Justice, Equality for Flatbush, Brooklyn Movement Center and housing advocates

**WHAT:** Press conference for filing of motion to add tenants as plaintiffs against existing case pursued by the City of New York against landlords Gennaro Brooks-Church and Loretta Gendville

**WHEN:** Morning of Tuesday, January 5th, 2021

**WHERE:** New York County Supreme Court, 60 Centre Street

**WHY:** On July 2nd and July 6th, a group of tenants at 1214 Dean Street in Crown Heights were harassed by their landlords, who entered the home without notice and attempted to forcibly remove them from their rooms first by removing locks and later their personal property from the premises. Led by Equality for Flatbush, hundreds of New Yorkers and people from around the country participated in 24-hour eviction defense over the course of 5 days both remotely and in person to prevent the group's expulsion before they left the home by their own volition. Not only were the actions of the landlord, which included verbal harassment of tenants as they slept, a clear violation of the statewide eviction moratorium but a common form of behavior by landlords against tenants across the city. The tenants, represented by TakeRoot Justice, are requesting to join the existing case, *City of New York v. Genarro Brooks-Church and Loretta Gendville*, to seek both accountability for the unscrupulous and dangerous behavior of the couple as well as damages and compensation for the financial cost of being displaced in the midst of a global health pandemic during which New York tenants have borne the burden of.

*TakeRoot Justice provides legal, participatory research and policy support to strengthen the work of grassroots and community-based groups in New York City to dismantle racial, economic and social oppression.*

*The Equality for Flatbush Project (E4F) is a people of color-led, multi-national grassroots organization which does anti-police repression, affordable housing, and anti-gentrification organizing in the Flatbush and East Flatbush communities of Brooklyn, NY.*

*Brooklyn Movement Center (BMC) is a Black-led, membership-based organization of primarily low-to-moderate income Central Brooklyn residents.*

###