

Larry Lachmann from 63 Tiffany Place (Apt. 801) here. Hi!

Finding this place was a miracle for me. Let me tell you why.

Around 2008-2009 a recession hit the country. I lost jobs at two different recording/mastering studios within a couple of years due to both studios closing due to the recession. Several studios in NYC both large and small closed their doors during that time, and they never opened up again. At that time, I developed heart problems and was diagnosed and began treatments for chronic atrial fibrillation. I had very little luck finding employment in my field, just temp jobs here and there. As I said, a number of studios had closed and/or were letting people go, not hiring. I never recovered financially and wound up going into many months' arrears in my rent as well as built up debt being unpaid and was forced to file for bankruptcy, something I never imagined I would do.

I did find employment in 2012 at the studio I still work at today. It wasn't much money, but my employer gave me the flexibility to go to my many doctor appointments to deal with my heart issues. My age (now 68) and my health kept me from full time work and/or starting a new career. Back then, because I had very little money coming in, I was forced to swallow my pride and start renting spare rooms from strangers on Craigslist just to have *somewhere* to live. I lived in a bedbug infested house in Brighton Beach for a year and a half and then I rented a room from a drug addict and his 96 year old mother for another few years. Get the picture? Bad news all around.

With a bankruptcy on my credit report, any "normal" housing simply wasn't available to me. All agencies and/or private landlords do credit checks, and my credit rating was destroyed from the bankruptcy, so no rental agency would touch me with a ten foot pole.

Incredibly, in 2017, I was eventually approved for 63 Tiffany Place which was under the LIHTC low income housing program.

As said in my intro, this was a miracle for me. I finally had my own place again, and I could afford it!! The big bonus was the building and

the people who live in it. I've been here almost 8 years now, and I love living here. The people in the building have been fantastic and very welcoming. I was able to reset my life and breathe again. I had open heart surgery in 2017 right after I moved in, and I didn't have to stress out about where I could recover and regain my strength, I was in a safe space and I could breathe. Late last year (December 2023) I had cancer surgery. It was a **major** surgery, removing 40% of my liver. My friends in the building were all there for me, offering help in any way I needed. There is a real sense of community here that I cherish. It has value beyond words and beyond any amount of money. I have been able to regroup my life and settle down in such a great community of people and in a great neighborhood. I feel part of this place now, and I am hoping we all get to stay here and continue as neighbors and allies.