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## Hundreds of illegal hotels reported

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There are more than 200 apartment buildings in the city that have been illegally converted to hotels, according to a report released yesterday, significantly reducing the number of rent-stabilized units available.

"It's hard enough to find housing in this city as it is," said John Raskin, director of organizing at Housing Conservation Coordinators, an affordable housing group that released the report. "The last thing we need is to lose more apartments to the illegal hotel industry."

Illegal hotel operators frequently take advantage of tax loopholes designed to encourage the construction of residential units, according to Raskin.

Tenants then face harassment and in some cases illegal eviction notices in order to chase them out of their homes, the report said.