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Manhattan's 'illegal' inn-dustry

Manhattan is overrun by more than 200 illegal hotels in residential buildings, taking affordable housing away from tenants and cheating the city out of millions of dollars in tax revenue, a coalition of activists and politicians charged yesterday.

Chanting "Peace and quiet, not a Hyatt!" the residents of 279 E. 44th St. joined housing activist John Raskin and Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer in releasing a list of 225 buildings, including the East 44th Street site, where the land-

lords are illegally renting rooms by the night to tourists, they claim.

"Every apartment in the city is precious," said Stringer. "We want people to visit New York City, but we want them to stay in hotels."

Samuel Goldsmith