New York City-funded group teaching homeless how to invade apartments

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It's breaking and entering for dummies.

Picture the Homeless, a Bronx nonprofit that has received at least $240,000 in taxpayer money in the last five years, is giving a crash course on squatting — and city-owned buildings are a prime target.

Two weeks ago, board member Andres Perez held a teach-in on how to wrest "control" of vacant apartments. He called it "homesteading."

"The best time to enter a building is in the late hours," he advised a group of about 20, who gathered in front of the half-empty East New York, Brooklyn, housing complex Arlington Village.

"You make sure you have your proper tools. You remove the chains and padlock, and then you go in."

He then led them through the next steps — including filling out a change-of-address form at the post office and setting up utilities. After that, "nine out of 10 times the courts will allow you to be able to have control of the property," he said.

But squatting school outraged legal residents of Arlington Village.

"I can't let nobody squat where I live," said Pete Rolon, 64, a 35-year resident who claimed pimps had grabbed two apartments in the complex. "There were hookers. They were smoking crack. There were condoms all over the floor. There were hundreds of them."

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