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Local Lawsuit alleges nosy Upper East Side building super Ilona Biro Login Register

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Lawsuit alleges nosy Upper East Side building super Ilona Biro pawed tenant's panties

BY KERRY BURKE AND JOSE MARTINEZ
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A creeped-out Manhattan newcomer is accusing a building super of putting her paws on her panties - and she's filing a \$10 million lawsuit against her former landlord.

Navah Meller, 22, moved out of her rent-stabilized apartment after she says the super at the E. 80th St. building repeatedly rifled through her drawers.

"My unmentionables were moved," Meller said. "I felt dirty knowing they had been handled by strangers."

The outraged recent college graduate from Massachusetts moved out in January after fewer than six months in the building, giving up a sweet \$1,595-a-month deal on a studio.

"New York is the greatest city in the world - who doesn't want to live here?" she said. "But this experience has ruined that a bit for me."

Meller contends that 79-year-old super Ilona Biro rearranged her belongings, rolled up a tube of toothpaste, opened care packages from her mom and folded her panties without permission.

"I can't say I know for sure what these folks were doing with Miss Meller's undergarments," said her lawyer, Joshua Price. "There's no good explanation for it."

The suit against 242-4 E. 80th St. Associates, filed in Manhattan Supreme Court, says Meller has been left "traumatized" and "unable to sleep" by the unwelcome visits while she was at work.

"It's all very creepy," said Meller, who works for a magazine publisher. "My unmentionables are such a private product."

George Biro, 84, who is the building's super along with his wife, Ilona, called the allegations "impossible" and said Meller provided him and his wife with a key to the apartment so he could fix leaks in the ceiling and bathroom.

"I don't know anything about her underwear," he said. "She gave me the key and said I could go in."

In January, the suit charges, Meller was sleeping under a blanket on a sick day from work when she was awoken by Ilona Biro entering her apartment.

"She let herself in without knocking," Meller said. "I was really upset."

Meller is now paying top dollar for another apartment on the upper East Side.

"She kind of got a raw deal," Price said.

Meller also says her former building landlord still owes her the security deposit she put down on the pad.

"I was so taken advantage of," she said.

"I don't want this to happen to anyone else."



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Navah Meller, who's suing her building super for allegedly rifling through her personal belongings, including her panties.

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