Hotels face charges of post-storm gouging

By Richard Warnock Staff Writer

Seven hotels are among 13 businesses that together fraudulently increased prices for hurricane-related goods and services, the state’s Attorney General’s Office said yesterday.

The state officials announced a second round of lawsuits against companies that raised prices in excess of what was allowed during a state of emergency.

In one instance, authorities accused the America’s Best Value Inn on Route 22 in Plainfield of raising prices more than 200 percent, for more than $1,000 in charges.

Three of the hotels listed in the suit — the Howard Johnson Inn on Route 3 in Clifton, a Holiday Inn on Totemic Avenue in North Bergen and a Ramada Inn on Leonia — are owned by the same owner, Sultan Hospitality Group of North Bergen.

“This one company and its four hotels allegedly committed a staggering number of violations of this price gouging statute and, much more importantly, we have increased the number of hotels that we have brought under the state’s price-gouging law,” said Attorney General Carmen A. Prieto.

The recent lawsuits were announced by state Attorney General Carmen A. Prieto’s office.

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“The former owners were

Financially, the mortgage is adjustable after the first 15 years, after which the rate can increase up to 2 percentage points above the index. There are limits on how much the rate can increase in the initial stages of the loan, called the rate adjustment period. After the first 15 years, there is no restriction on rate increases.

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NYSE CRUDE OIL 93.64 -0.9%

NASDAQ CRUDE OIL 93.48 -1.0%

The apartment of Courtney Alison, who is one of RockPlaza’s first tenants. The building contains 22 residential units.
The average price of a gallon of regular gasoline fell below $4 for the first time Thursday since late summer, thus missing the 52-week low of $3.957 (Oct. 22, 2012) and dropping below $4.10 for the first time since Aug. 7, 2012, the NBC News reports.

The average price for a gallon of regular gasoline fell to $4.099 per gallon as of Thursday, according to the NBC News. The average price is calculated by the average price per gallon for a gallon of regular gasoline at 30,000 stations across the United States. The NBC News reports that the average price has fallen below $4 for the first time since Aug. 7, 2012, and is the lowest price since Oct. 22, 2012.

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