

Rent (out of) control

Mandarin penthouse owner wants \$52G a month, no pets

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Call it "penthouse sweet."

An unidentified landlord has put a penthouse at Back Bay's exclusive Mandarin Oriental Residences up for rent at \$52,000 a month - apparently the highest price ever for a Hub apartment.

"It's a project that we did the design and build-out for," said listing agent Anthony Rich, who declined further comment, saying the condo's owner "wants to keep the unit somewhat private."

Put on the market last Friday, the apartment features four bedrooms, 4 1/2 bathrooms and terraces off of every room, according to the unit's MLS listing. The penthouse also has two fireplaces and two valet parking spaces, the listing shows.

The condo is available immediately, but requires a two-year lease and a \$104,000 deposit - one month's security plus the last month's rent in advance. You'll also have to ditch Fido, as pets aren't allowed.

Realtors who specialize in luxury condos believe the unit's asking rent is the highest in Boston history.

The previous champ appears to be a Ritz-Carlton Residences penthouse put on the market in 2007 for \$30,000 a month and eventually rented for \$28,500 monthly.

The Mandarin, an ultra-exclusive condo-and-hotel complex, opened last fall on Boylston Street. The site has about a dozen penthouses, which originally sold for between \$2.8 million and \$13 million.

Current penthouse owners range from Boston car baron Herb Chambers to ex-Bank of America Chairman Chad Gifford. Red Sox owner John Henry is also renting a penthouse while workers construct his planned Brookline mansion.

It wasn't immediately possible to determine who owns the \$52,000-a-month condo, as its MLS listing doesn't include an apartment number.

But Chambers told the Herald that regardless of which penthouse is up for rent, whoever moves in will love it.

"It's a fabulous building with great service and the best location in the city," the car dealer said.

Thomas Grillo contributed to this report.

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