



We Fight Housing Discrimination. We Strengthen Communities.

For Immediate Release

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Fair Housing Rights Center Settles Accessibility Suit for \$26,000.00

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – August 21, 2009 - The Fair Housing Rights Center in Southeastern Pennsylvania, a private non-profit organization dedicated to ending housing discrimination, has settled a suit against Lindy Property Management Co. for \$26,000.00 for violations of the Fair Housing Act's Design and Construction Requirements.

The federal Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination based on disability in housing-related transactions, mandates that newly constructed multi-family housing is built in accordance with seven guidelines which ensure accessibility for people with disabilities.

In 2007, the Fair Housing Rights Center was alerted to possible inaccessible construction at the Enclaves, a newly developed multi-family complex located in the South Philadelphia. After multiple site visits, the FHRC found over 90 violations of the Design and Construction Requirements. It was determined that over 27 ground floor units were inaccessible due to entrances that had either steps or ramps that were too steep. Inside the units, bathrooms were found to be inaccessible and in 54 of the ground floor units, environmental controls were placed out of reach for people who use wheelchairs.

In addition, there were an insufficient number of handicap parking spaces and mailboxes were placed in inaccessible locations throughout the complex.

"The issue at stake here", says Angela McIver, Executive Director of the Fair Housing Rights Center, "is a developer who had the potential to inflict harm onto perspective residents and their guests because the property was built with inaccessible features. Those flawed design features could preclude a person with a disability from fully enjoying their dwellings in the same manner as other residents."

Lindy Properties, agreed to make the proper retrofits to bring the complex into compliance with the Fair Housing Act and to pay the Fair Housing Rights Center \$26,000.00 in monetary damages for the cost of investigation and litigation.

For more information on fair housing laws please visit us at www.fairhousingrights.org.