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**Fair Housing Centers Settle Housing Accessibility Lawsuit against
Buckingham Realty and Development Corp. and Several Co-Defendants**

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana, and HOPE Fair Housing Center (HOPE) have settled an accessibility lawsuit against Midwest developer Buckingham Realty and Development Corp. and several co-defendants, regarding alleged violations at the Champion Farms Apartments (Louisville, Kentucky), Grand Prairie Apartments (Peoria, Illinois), Providence at Old Meridian Apartments (Carmel, Indiana) and The Reserve at Williams Glen Apartments (Zionsville, Indiana).

The agreement settles claims that the Defendants designed or constructed multifamily dwellings, and common- and public-use areas, without the required accessibility features for people with disabilities in the identified apartment complexes. The Defendants agreed to make improvements and modifications at the four apartment complexes covered under the accessibility requirements of the federal Fair Housing Act which will enhance the accessibility of apartments and common areas for people with disabilities as well as a monetary payment to the fair housing centers in settlement of the claims.

“On behalf of the fair housing organizations, we have appreciated the cooperation of Buckingham and Grand Prairie since the inception of this matter. In resolving this matter, these companies demonstrated their genuine commitment to making their apartments accessible to people with disabilities,” said Shanna L. Smith, President and CEO of the National Fair Housing Alliance.

Since 1991, builders, developers, and architects of multifamily properties and others have been required to comply with accessible design and construction in compliance with the federal Fair Housing Act.

“The lawsuit and settlement underscore the importance and need for affordable, accessible housing for persons with disabilities. In order for persons with disabilities to have an equal opportunity to use and enjoy their homes, they need to have paths free of steps; kitchens and bathrooms with sufficient maneuvering space for wheelchair users at sinks and toilets; wide doorways; lowered thermostats; and accessible parking with access aisles, to name a few of the required accessible features,” said Amy Nelson, Executive Director of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana.

“We are pleased that changes will be made at the apartment complexes involved in the lawsuit to create more accessible units,” said Anne Houghtaling, Executive Director of HOPE Fair Housing Center.

The National Fair Housing Alliance, Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana, and HOPE Fair Housing Center were represented by Glenn Schlactus and Tom Keary of Relman, Dane & Colfax, PLLC.

About the National Fair Housing Alliance (www.nationalfairhousing.org)

Founded in 1988, the National Fair Housing Alliance is a consortium of more than 220 private non-profit fair housing organizations, state and local civil rights groups, and individuals from 37 states and the District of Columbia. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., NFHA, through comprehensive education, advocacy and enforcement programs, provides equal access to apartments, houses, mortgage loans and insurance policies for millions of people.

About the Fair Housing Center for Central Indiana (www.fhcci.org)

The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) is a private, non-profit fair housing organization founded in 2011. Its mission is to ensure equal housing opportunities by eliminating housing discrimination through advocacy, enforcement, education and outreach.

About the HOPE Fair Housing Center (www.hopefair.org)

Established in 1968, HOPE is the oldest fair housing center in Illinois. The HOPE Fair Housing Center works to create greater housing opportunities for all. We want to ensure everyone has the chance to live in the community, home, or apartment of their choice free from discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, familial status, or any other characteristics protected under state or local laws. HOPE accomplishes this work through education, outreach, complaint intake, investigation, enforcement, training, and advocacy.

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