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FAIR HOUSING LAWSUIT ALLEGING DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION FILED AGAINST SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY IN INDIANAPOLIS

INDIANAPOLIS – The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI), Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services (IPAS), and four people with disabilities announce the filing of a federal lawsuit against United Church Residences of Indianapolis, Indiana, Inc., and United Church Homes, Inc., owners of Capitol Station apartments in Indianapolis, Indiana. The complaint alleges that the defendants did not take timely action to repair the only elevator in an apartment building which housed residents age 62 years or older. Many residents of Capitol Station had mobility issues which were readily apparent, for whom taking the stairs was dangerous or impossible. This suit alleges that Capitol Station was without a working elevator for five and a half weeks in August and September 2015 resulting in harm to residents with disabilities.

"It is inconceivable to imagine that for 5½ weeks the independence of these residents was taken away from them," stated Amy Nelson, Executive Director of the FHCCI. "These retired residents had to beg for help from family members and strangers for the most basic of necessities, unable to enjoy fresh air, or visit friends and family. It is unconscionable that accommodations were not made and assistance timely provided."

After being contacted by residents about the elevator outage, the FHCCI conducted an investigation. The investigation shows that Capitol Station is a building with 48 apartments on three floors serviced by one elevator and a staircase with 62 steps. The lawsuit alleges that owners and management failed to make repairs in a timely fashion, refused to provide reasonable accommodations to residents with disabilities, resulting in the apartments becoming inaccessible, and caused the residents "physical harm, humiliation and emotional stress."

"It is disappointing that it took media coverage and public pressure to remedy this situation. We understand that elevators can break but what we are unable to understand is why there were no other alternative options put in place so residents could safely leave their homes. Some residents with disabilities were left stranded in their apartments for over five weeks," said Dawn Adams, Executive Director of IPAS. "The residents of Capitol Station repeatedly requested

assistance from management and corporate but were provided none. This is absolutely unacceptable.”

The case has been filed in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana. The Plaintiffs are represented by Attorneys Thomas E. Crishon and Melissa L. Keyes of Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services and Diane E. Citrino and Kathleen A. Nitschke of Giffen & Kaminski, LLC.

A copy of the filed complaint can be found on the [FHCCI's News Page](#).

The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) is a private, non-profit fair housing organization founded in 2011 and based in Indianapolis, IN. Its mission is to ensure equal housing opportunities by eliminating housing discrimination through advocacy, enforcement, education and outreach. For more information, visit: www.fhcci.org

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Michael L.
Iraq War Veteran

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A public service message from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in partnership with the National Fair Housing Alliance. The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status or disability. For more information, visit www.hud.gov/fairhousing.



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**EL CENTRO DE VIVIENDA JUSTA PRESENTA UNA DEMANDA ALEGANDO
DISCRIMINACION POR DISCAPACIDAD CONTRA UNA COMUNIDAD DE VIVIENDA PARA
LAS PERSONAS DE LA TERCERA EDAD EN INDIANÁPOLIS**

INDIANÁPOLIS - El Centro de Vivienda Justa de Indiana Central (FHCCI), Los Servicios de Protección y Apoyo de Indiana (IPAS) y cuatro personas con discapacidades, anuncian la presentación de una demanda federal contra United Church Residences of Indianápolis, Indiana, Inc., y United Church Homes, Inc., dueños de los apartamentos Capitol Station en Indianápolis, Indiana. La denuncia alega que los demandados no tomaron las medidas oportunas para reparar el único ascensor en un edificio de apartamentos que albergaba a residentes de 62 años y mayores. Muchos residentes de Capitol Station tenían problemas evidentes de movilidad y para ellos el subir las escaleras era peligroso o imposible. Esta demanda alega que el ascensor de Capitol Station no estuvo funcionando por cinco semanas y media, entre agosto y septiembre del 2015 causándole daño a los residentes con discapacidad.

"Es inconcebible imaginar que a estos residentes se les arrebató su independencia por casi cinco semanas y media" afirmó Amy Nelson, Directora Ejecutiva del FHCCI. "Estos residentes jubilados tuvieron que pedir ayuda a sus familiares y desconocidos para poder realizar sus necesidades más básicas, no pudieron disfrutar de aire fresco, o visitar a sus amigos y familiares. Es inconcebible que a los residentes no se les prestó ninguna acomodación ni asistencia oportuna".

Después de haber sido contactado por los residentes sobre el daño del ascensor, el FHCCI llevó a cabo una investigación. La investigación muestra que Capitol Station es un edificio con 48 apartamentos, de tres pisos, con acceso a un elevador y a una escalera con 62 escalones. La demanda alega que los propietarios y la administración no pudieron hacer reparaciones en el momento oportuno, se negaron a proporcionar medidas razonables a los residentes con discapacidades, dando como resultado la inaccesibilidad de los apartamentos, y les causaron a los residentes "daños físicos, humillación y estrés emocional."

"Es decepcionante que los medios de comunicación y la presión pública fueron los que ayudaron a solucionar esta situación. Entendemos que los ascensores se pueden dañar, pero


lo que no podemos entender es qué no se colocaron en marcha otras opciones o alternativas para que los residentes pudieran abandonar sus hogares de forma segura. Algunos residentes con discapacidades quedaron estancados en sus apartamentos por más de cinco semanas, "dijo Dawn Adams, directora ejecutiva del IPAS. "Los residentes de Capitol Station solicitaron en repetidas ocasiones la asistencia de la administración y de la corporación, pero ellos no les proporcionaron ninguna. Esto es absolutamente inaceptable. "

El caso ha sido presentado ante el Tribunal de Distrito de los Estados Unidos, Distrito Sur de Indiana. Los demandantes están representados por los abogados Thomas E. Crishon y Melissa L. Keyes, de Los Servicios de Protección y Apoyo de Indiana y Diane E. Citrino y Kathleen A. Nitschke de Giffen & Kaminski, LLC.


Una copia de la queja presentada se puede encontrar en la página de [noticias de FHCCI](#).

El Centro de Vivienda Justa de Indiana Central (FHCCI) es una organización no lucrativa privada, fundada en el 2011 y con sede en Indianápolis, IN. Su misión es garantizar la igualdad de oportunidades de vivienda mediante la eliminación de la discriminación a través de la promoción, la ejecución, la educación y la divulgación. Para obtener más información, visite: www.fhcci.org

Parte del trabajo que proporciono la base para esta publicación fue apoyada por fondos bajo un acuerdo de concesión/cooperación con el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de EE.UU. La sustancia y los resultados de este trabajo están dedicados al público. El autor y el editor son los únicos responsables de la exactitud de las declaraciones e interpretaciones contenidas en esta publicación. Tales interpretaciones no necesariamente reflejan los puntos de vista del Gobierno Federal.



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