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### **FAIR HOUSING LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST ANDERSON HOUSING AUTHORITY**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) and two Anderson residents announce the filing of a federal lawsuit against the Anderson Housing Authority of Anderson, Indiana. The complaint alleges that the defendant discriminated in its ownership and management of its multifamily public housing dwellings on the basis of race, gender, and disability in violation of the federal Fair Housing Act and for its failure to maintain its dwellings in a decent, safe, and sanitary condition in violation of state housing laws.

“Today, we celebrate the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the federal Fair Housing Act,” stated Amy Nelson, Executive Director of the FHCCI. “Yet, female tenants at Westvale Manor have had to put up with leering and degrading comments by the maintenance staff for years while persons with disabilities had needed accommodations ignored greatly impacting their health and well being.”

The FHCCI conducted a year-long investigation into allegations received at its office about treatment of tenants by the Anderson Housing Authority. The lawsuit alleges that the Anderson Housing Authority violated the federal Fair Housing Act by: (1) maintaining its multifamily dwellings differently based upon race, (2) refusing to provide reasonable accommodations to residents with disabilities, and (3) had maintenance men who used their positions to sexually exploit Westvale’s female residents.

The complaint also alleges that the Anderson Housing Authority failed to maintain Westvale Manor in a decent, safe, and sanitary condition. Residents of Westvale Manor complained repeatedly and over years about the most basic of maintenance including



water leaks, mold, heating and air conditioning problems, lack of trash removal, pests, and other needed repairs and maintenance. Their requests were ignored and tenants were told not to complain during yearly inspections.

“Over a several year period, the Anderson Housing Authority has violated the public trust and used its resources to ignore, threaten, and disempower the very residents who were entrusted in their care,” continued Nelson. “The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana demands just remedy for what these tenants have endured.”

The case has been filed in the US District Court, Southern District of Indiana. The Plaintiffs are represented by Christopher E. Clark and Emma Mahern of Goodin Abernathy, LLP and Christopher Brancart and Thomas Kayes of Brancart & Brancart.

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

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The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) is a private, non-profit fair housing organization founded in 2011 and based in Indianapolis, Indiana. Its mission is to ensure equal housing opportunities by eliminating housing discrimination through advocacy, enforcement, education and outreach. To learn about the [FHCCI's April 14<sup>th</sup> conference](#), its [2015 Annual Report](#), or for more information, visit: [www.fhcci.org](http://www.fhcci.org)

**“You want me  
to fix  
your stove?  
...how bad do  
you want it,  
honey?”**

If a landlord has other “ideas” about making needed repairs, we have a few “ideas” of our own. You can hit him where it hurts by reporting him for sexual harassment under the Federal Fair Housing Act.

If you suspect unfair housing practices, contact HUD or your local Fair Housing Center. Everyone deserves a fair chance.



**FAIR  
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**FAIR HOUSING IS THE LAW!**

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