



For Immediate Release – November 30, 2020

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FAIR HOUSING CENTER AND INDIANAPOLIS RESIDENT REACH SETTLEMENT WITH LANDLORD ACCUSED OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Today, the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) and an Indianapolis resident announce a settlement in a federal Fair Housing Act lawsuit against Henry Long, owner and landlord of several Indianapolis rental dwellings. As part of the consent decree, Mr. Long will pay \$45,900 in monetary relief to resolve the lawsuit which alleged he sexually harassed a female tenant.

The lawsuit was filed in August 2020 in the Southern District of Indiana alleging that Mr. Long engaged in discrimination and harassment against one of his female tenants by requesting that she engage in sex with him because she could not pay the monthly rent after being furloughed from her job due to the COVID pandemic. Such requests are considered a form of sexual harassment and are unlawful under the Fair Housing Act. Mr. Long has denied the allegations and admitted no wrongdoing.

“With a worldwide pandemic underway, renters, now more than ever, should not have to experience such harmful discrimination in the comfort of their own homes,” stated Brady Ripperger, Director of Fair Housing Programs at the FHCCI. “Sexual harassment in any housing-related transaction is unlawful under fair housing laws and should be addressed immediately.”

Under the consent decree, which was the result of a settlement and also signed by the court, Mr. Long will be barred from having any interaction with tenants. He will be required to retain and pay for services of a property manager to handle all day-to-day operations of the residential rental properties that he owns, including contact with tenants and potential tenants. Mr. Long and any agents shall also attend yearly fair housing trainings for the duration of the decree, along with other relief.

“We are pleased that justice has been gained for our client for the pain and harm she endured during such a vulnerable time,” says Amy Nelson, Executive Director of the FHCCI. “The Fair Housing Center applauds her bravery for speaking up to stop these harmful practices from happening to anyone else.”

The plaintiffs were represented by Liza Cristol-Deman of Brancart and Brancart. To download the consent decree or to learn more about this or other FHCCI cases, visit the [FHCCI's Advocacy Page](#) or its [News Page](#). If you feel you may have experienced harassment in a housing situation, contact the FHCCI at 317-644-0673 or info@fhcci.org.

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. For more information, visit: www.fhcci.org

The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported in part by funding under a grant with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the federal Government.