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## FHCCI ANNOUNCES FAIR HOUSING SETTLEMENT WITH INDIANAPOLIS HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION AND MANAGEMENT GROUP

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Today, the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) announces a fair housing settlement with the Twin Creeks Homeowners Association and Kirkpatrick Management (collectively "Defendants") to resolve a federal lawsuit filed in April 2020 alleging race and national origin discrimination. As part of the settlement, Defendants will update policies on how to handle discrimination and harassment allegations, will participate in fair housing training, and pay \$262,500 as compensation for the Plaintiffs' damages, attorney fees, and costs. The Defendants made no admission of liability or wrongdoing in connection with the allegations and claims made.

"We applaud today's settlement and our client's bravery for stepping up and demanding that this type of housing discrimination be stopped," explained Amy Nelson, Executive Director of the FHCCI. "It is often terrifying and time consuming for victims of housing discrimination to move forward in what can often be a too burdensome process placed upon them."

In the case, Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana/Banks v. New/Kirkpatrick Management/Twin Creeks Homeowners Association, the FHCCI and a Black Indianapolis resident alleged that Vicki New, a former resident of the Twin Creeks subdivision, engaged in a campaign of harassment based on race and national origin against her neighbors for more than two years, and that Kirkpatrick Management and Twin Creeks Homeowners Association had the power to take strong action to correct or stop her conduct, but failed to do so. The Court entered default judgment against Vicki New in April 2021. In January and December 2021, a federal court ruled in separate orders that the fair housing complaint could proceed against the other named defendants.

"Harassment of any kind has no place in our neighborhoods, including for renters and homeowners in homeowners' and condo associations," said Brady Ripperger, Deputy Director of Administration & Advocacy of the FHCCI. "We celebrate this resolution to exemplify that all parties in the housing industry should take their fair housing obligations seriously because housing discrimination should have no home in Indiana."

The plaintiffs were represented by Liza Cristol-Deman of Brancart & Brancart and Jeff Macey of Macey Swanson LLP. To learn more about this or other FHCCI actions, visit the <u>FHCCI's Advocacy Page</u> or its <u>News Page</u>.

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The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) is a private, nonprofit fair housing organization 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: <a href="https://www.fhcci.org">www.fhcci.org</a>

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