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## FEDERAL JUDGE ORDERS FORMER INDIANAPOLIS HOMEOWNER TO PAY OVER \$225,000 IN FAIR HOUSING LAWSUIT

INDIANAPOLIS – Today, the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) announces <u>a ruling</u> in a fair housing case addressing race and national origin housing discrimination by a former Indianapolis homeowner. In April 2020, the FHCCI and an Indianapolis resident filed a lawsuit against Vicki New, a former resident of the Indianapolis Twin Creeks subdivision, alleging that Ms. New engaged in a campaign of harassment based on race and national origin against her neighbors for more than two years.

In her order, Judge Tanya Walton Pratt in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana entered judgment requiring the Defendant (Vicki New) to pay a total of \$226,222.52 as a result of the discrimination. In addition to compensatory damages and attorney fees awarded to the Plaintiffs, Judge Pratt also found that over \$137,000 in punitive damages were appropriate.

"We are extremely pleased with this judgment against Vicki New, which reflects the great harm that occurred," stated Amy Nelson, Executive Director of the FHCCI. "Our client and others residing in the Twin Creeks subdivision endured relentless harassment based on race or national origin for far too long. This ruling sends a message to all that harassment and housing discrimination of any kind is unacceptable and the law will be enforced."

This default judgment against Vicki New follows a settlement in the same case against the property management company and the homeowner's association in March 2022. As part of that separate settlement, the Twin Creeks Homeowners Association and Kirkpatrick Management agreed to pay \$262,500 as compensation for the Plaintiffs' damages, attorneys fees, and costs. No admission of liability or wrongdoing in connection with the allegations and claims were made.

The Plaintiffs were represented by attorneys Liza Cristol-Demon of Brancart & Brancart and Jeff Macey of Macey Swanson LLP. A copy of the ruling can be found on the <u>FHCCI's News Page</u>. Additional information on the case, including the previously filed complaint, can be found on the <u>FHCCI's Advocacy 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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