**Housing Opportunities Made Equal**

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**FAIR HOUSING LAWSUIT FILED ALLEGING DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION AGAINST 38 PROPERTIES NATIONWIDE**

CINCINNATI, OH – Today, Housing Opportunities Made Equal Inc. (HOME), along with six fellow fair housing organizations across the United States (“Plaintiffs”), announces a federal lawsuit against Clover Group and its related entities (“Defendants”), alleging violations of fair housing laws against persons with disabilities. Relman Colfax filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York Syracuse Division.

During the investigations, Plaintiffs uncovered widespread violations of the federal Fair Housing Act’s accessibility requirements at 38 of the Defendants’ properties in Indiana, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Inaccessible items of concern include but are not limited to inaccessible parking spaces, mailboxes, bathrooms, and routes to units and public everyday use areas. In addition, all properties are advertised for individuals 55 years and older.

Properties in Southern Ohio include Eden Park Senior Apartments (Hamilton, OH); Fairfield Village Senior Apartments (Fairfield, OH); and Ivy Pointe Senior Apartments (Cincinnati, OH).

With Congress’s passing of the federal Fair Housing Amendment Act’s design and construction accessibility requirements in 1988, all multi-family housing with four or more units built for first occupancy on or after March 13, 1991, must be accessible. These include seven technical requirements to ensure compliance.

“HOME’s mission is to eliminate unlawful discrimination in housing in the Greater Cincinnati area. Unfortunately, while over 30 years since the fair housing accessibility amendments were passed, we still see numerous blatant violations every year locally,” stated Laura Castillo, HOME’s Research and Advocacy Coordinator. “In order to be in compliance with the Fair Housing Act, there are seven basic design and construction requirements that must be met.” Developers can find accessibility requirements on our website. In addition, HOME offers classes on Design and Construction; please call (513) 977-2629 to schedule training.

“According the 2020 U.S. Census data, approximately 10% of Ohioans have some form of disability. These numbers are likely underreported and rising as people age and are able to live longer,” explained LaTonya Springs, HOME Assistant Director. “We need to make sure that each housing unit required to meet accessibility requirements does so to ensure people can age in place in the housing of their choice.”

Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Greater Cincinnati, Inc. (Cincinnati, OH) conducted the joint investigation with the Fair Housing Center for Rights & Research, Inc. (Cleveland, OH); The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (Indianapolis, IN); Toledo Fair Housing Center (Toledo, OH); CNY Fair Housing Council, Inc. (Syracuse, NY); Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Buffalo, Inc. (Buffalo, NY); and the Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh, Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA).

The Plaintiffs are represented by Conor Kirchner and Casey Weissman-Vermeulen of CNY Fair Housing, Inc. and Reed Colfax, Sara Pratt, and Soohyun Choi of Relman Colfax PLLC. A copy of the filed complaint can be found here [https://homecincy.org/2022/03/30/**clover2**/](https://homecincy.org/2022/03/30/clover2/).

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Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) is a private, nonprofit fair housing organization based in Cincinnati, Ohio. Its mission is to eliminate unlawful discrimination in housing. HOME advocates and enforces housing regulations for all protected classes and promotes stable, integrated communities. For more information, visit [www.homecincy.org](http://www.homecincy.org).

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