

For Immediate Release



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Contact: John Petruszak (708) 957-4674, x105 john@southsuburban.net

South Suburban Housing Center Files Race Discrimination Complaint Against Owners of Orland Park Apartment Building

CHICAGO — On Wednesday, November 27, 2019, the South Suburban Housing Center (SSHC), filed a Federal Court complaint against the owners and managing broker of an apartment building in Orland Park alleging race based Fair Housing Act and Civil Rights Act violations. Specifically, the complaint alleges that the Defendants engaged in practices of refusing to make appointments to show available apartments to African American prospective tenants and lying about the availability of housing to an African American prospective tenant.

SSHC is the regional fair housing enforcement and housing counseling agency serving the south metropolitan Chicago area since 1975 with its mission to promote equal housing opportunity and diversity by eliminating unlawful discriminatory housing practices. In this case, the SSHC's Fair Housing Enforcement Program conducted a series of test investigations showing that White prospects responding to the Defendants' on-line apartment availability ads were able to call and schedule appointments, see the available apartment and were encouraged to submit applications. When equally qualified African American prospects responded to the on-line ads and spoke with Defendant Dennis Kolios, they were not able to obtain the address of the unit, confirm or set up times to view, and in one instance were falsely told the unit was no longer available. A copy of the federal court complaint filed last week is [attached](#).

According to SSHC Executive Director John Petruszak, "Defendants' actions in not allowing qualified African American renters to literally get inside the door to apply for their advertised apartment, is the dramatic evidence that compelled SSHC to file this complaint." SSHC's ability to assist clients with rental housing options in opportunity areas such as Orland Park that promote integrated housing has been frustrated by these practices. SSHC is represented by attorney Jeffrey Taren of the Seattle and Chicago based civil right law firm of MacDonald Hoague & Bayless.

South Suburban Housing Center

SSHC is the private, non-profit, regional fair housing and housing counseling agency primarily serving over 100 communities in southern Cook, Will and Kankakee counties of Illinois since 1975. SSHC's Fair Housing Enforcement Services extend to Grundy and Iroquois Counties in Illinois, Lake County, Indiana, and several central Illinois cities. SSHC's current Fair Housing Enforcement and Housing Counseling programs assist individuals in all protected classes and ensure that housing providers recognize and comply with the fair housing laws.