

Civil Rights Department

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February 14, 2023 For Immediate Release Renée Rondinone (916) 206-3882 publicaffairs@calcivilrights.ca.gov

Bay Area Housing Providers To Pay \$3 Million To Settle CRD Lawsuit Alleging Discrimination Against Families with Children

Fair Housing violations alleged at 48 apartment complexes affecting more than 2000 families

Sacramento – The California Civil Rights Department (CRD) has reached a consent decree resolving a systemic fair housing lawsuit against property management company Vasona Management, Inc. (Vasona) and more than 30 apartment complex owners for discrimination against families with children at 48 apartment complexes throughout the Bay Area. The settlement has been reached in Department of Fair Employment and Housing v. Vasona Property Management, Inc., et al., Case No. RG20078727, which is pending in Alameda County Superior Court.

Following investigation of a complaint filed by <u>Project Sentinel</u> and a subsequent CRD Director's complaint, CRD brought this lawsuit in October 2020 on behalf of a group of aggrieved families, alleging that Vasona and the owners of apartment complexes that Vasona manages violated the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) and the Unruh Civil Rights Act (Unruh Act) by prohibiting any outdoor play activities and requiring parents to supervise children under the age of 14 in all common areas. Tenants who violated these rules faced threat of eviction.

"Overly restrictive rules that discourage or prohibit children from enjoying their home unlawfully limit where people can live and harm families," said CRD Director Kevin Kish. "This settlement of a systemic fair housing lawsuit provides substantial relief for affected tenants and raises awareness that California law affords people with children the same access to, benefits, and enjoyment of their housing as all others."

Housing discrimination based on familial status violates the FEHA and Unruh Act. Under these laws, a housing provider or property manager cannot discriminate because a person has children under the age of 18, is in the process of securing legal custody of a child, or is pregnant.

Pursuant to a consent decree resolving this case, Vasona will pay \$3 million to aggrieved families and will implement corrective measures over five years. These measures include submitting any rules about the supervision of children in common areas or resident's outdoor activities for CRD's review and approval; distributing brochures to tenants about their rights; creating and maintaining policies to prevent discrimination, including ways for tenants to report discrimination; train for four hours annually anyone involved in the managing or renting of property; and provide an annual report to CRD regarding its compliance with the decree. Owner defendants are prohibited from engaging in future

discrimination, including from publishing, applying, or enforcing discriminatory rules at properties they own or manage.

The proposed consent decree can be viewed on the Department's website.

Nelson Chan, Assistant Chief Counsel, Rumduol Vuong, Assistant Chief Counsel, Mackenzie Anderson, Staff Counsel, and Azadeh Hosseinian, Senior Staff Counsel, represented CRD.

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The CRD is the state agency charged with enforcing California's civil rights laws. The mission of the CRD is to protect the people of California from unlawful discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations and from hate violence and human trafficking. For more information, visit the CRD's web site at calcivilrights@ca.gov.







Tenants who lived with children under the age of 18 at one of the properties listed below from April 16, 2016 to July 1, 2019 may be eligible for relief and should contact the Civil Rights Department at vasona@calcivilRights.ca.gov:

Adelaide Pines Apartments 1730 Adelaide Street Concord, CA 94520

Amador Apartments 24660 Amador Street Hayward, CA 94544

Ashland Garden Apartments 16183 Ashland Avenue San Lorenzo, CA 94580

Broadway Tower Apartments 1601 Broadway Street Concord, CA 94520

Carmel House Apartments 1744 – 1756 Carmel Drive Walnut Creek, CA 94596

City Walk Apartments

Adobe Lake Apartment Homes 1500 Ellis Street Concord, CA 94520

Amador Heights Apartments 1880 Laguna Street Concord, CA 94520

Bancroft Towers Apartments 13475 Bancroft Avenue San Leandro, CA 94578

Brookvale Chateau Apartments 36163 Fremont Boulevard Fremont, CA 94536

Catalina Crest Apartments 928, 1038 & 1046 Catalina Drive Livermore, CA 94550

Courtyard Apartments

1688 Clayton Road Concord, CA 94520

Curtner Apartments 283-301-327 Curtner Avenue Palo Alto, CA 94306

Fremont Manor Apartments 4291 Stevenson Boulevard Fremont, CA 94538

Glen Oaks Apartments 27475 Hesperian Boulevard Hayward, CA 94545

Hidden Lake Apartments 3375 Homestead Road Santa Clara, CA 95051

Laguna Ellis Apartments 1776 Laguna Street Concord, CA 94520

Lakeshore Apartment Homes/Lakeshore Apartments 1530 Ellis Street Concord, CA 94520

Lincoln Glen Apartment Homes 4261 Stevenson Boulevard Fremont, CA 94538

Logan Park Apartments 3832020 Logan Drive Fremont, CA 84536

Lorenzo Commons Apartments 16201 & 17155 Hesperian Boulevard San Lorenzo, CA 94580

Los Gatos Creek Apartments 1029 Meridian Avenue San Jose, CA 95125 24050 Silva Avenue Hayward, CA 94545

El Gato Penthouse Apartments 20 East Main Street Los Gatos, CA 95030

Glen Eyrie Apartments 51 Glen Eyrie Avenue San Jose, CA 95125

Hawthorne Apartments 325-327 Hawthorne Avenue Palo Alto, CA 95306

Marina Breeze Apartments
13897 - 13931 Doolittle Drive
San Leandro, CA 94577
Mission Park Apartments
766 1st Street & 1931 Miller Avenue
Gilroy, CA 95020
North Main Apartments
2971 North Main Street
Walnut Creek, 94597

Northgate Savoy Apartments 34077 Paseo Padre Parkway Fremont, CA 94555

Palace Apartment Homes 1731 Pine Street Concord, CA 94920

Paseo Gardens Apartments 16929 Meekland Avenue Hayward, CA 94541 57 Paseo Grande San Lorenzo, CA 94580

Redwood Plaza Apartments 38730 Lexington Street Fremont, CA 94936

Redwood Valley Apartments

22281 Center Street Castro Valley, CA 94546

Sequoyah I Apartments 1741 Detroit Avenue Concord, CA 94520

Sequoyah II Apartments 1711 Detroit Ave Concord, CA 94520

Serra Commons Apartments 1580 Southgate Ave Daly City, CA 94015

Spring Valley Apartments 133 North Temple Drive Milpitas, CA 95035

St. Moritz Apartments I 1501 & 1531 Detroit Avenue Concord, CA 94520

St. Moritz Apartments II 1501 Detroit Avenue Concord, CA 94520

St. Moritz Garden Apartments 14744 Washington Avenue San Leandro, CA 94578

Sycamore Commons Apartments 38655 Paseo Padre Parkway Fremont, CA 94536

Sycamore Square Apartments 36777 Sycamore Street Newark, CA 94560

The Village of Taxco Apartments 1324 South Winchester Boulevard San Jose, CA 95128

Tyrella Arms Apartments

284 Tyrella Avenue Mountain View, CA 94043

Washington Townhomes 15700 Washington Avenue San Lorenzo, CA 94580

Wellsbury Apartments 3085 Middlefield Road Palo Alto, CA 94306

Whitman Villa Townhomes 25455 Whitman Street Hayward, CA 94544