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WRO Settles Fair Housing Allegations Against Spring Valley's Linda Court Apartments

White Plains, NY – Today, Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. (WRO) announced that it has reached a settlement with the owner of Linda Court Apartments in Spring Valley, New York (Rockland County) of allegations WRO brought regarding housing discrimination at Linda Court against families with children, in violation of the federal, New York and Rockland County fair housing laws.

As part of its systemic investigation of housing discrimination in the region, WRO sent trained “testers” posing as potential renters to investigate Linda Court Apartments on several occasions in 2018. WRO’s testers who presented to the rental manager as families with children were told that the building does not permit children on the third floor. In some cases that meant the testers were turned away from the building despite a suitable apartment being available for rent on the third floor.

Executive Director Marlene Zarfes of WRO stated: “WRO works to ensure that all people, including families with children, are welcome wherever they choose to live. It is illegal for a housing provider to refuse to rent an apartment to a tenant because that tenant has children. WRO’s staff will continue to work to expand housing opportunity and fight housing discrimination in all its forms.”

Linda Court Apartments disputes the allegations made by WRO and has settled all claims between the parties with no admission of liability. Linda Court Apartments has agreed as part of the settlement to train its staff in fair housing laws and pay a monetary sum to WRO.

Founded in 1968, WRO is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to promote equal, affordable, and accessible housing opportunities in the lower Hudson Valley region of New York. Among other services, WRO provides fair housing education and conducts investigations of alleged housing discrimination, and provides rental assistance and eviction prevention services to renters in Westchester County.

WRO’s attorneys in this matter are Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP of New York City.

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