

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

HOUSING RIGHTS CENTER, et al. vs. DONALD STERLING, et al.
VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF SUMNER DAVENPORT

TAKEN ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2004

0045

23 Q. You said that you worked with the managers, the
24 on-site property managers?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. To make sure they understood what Mr. Sterling
2 wanted. What did you mean by that?

3 A. In their training when they came in for
4 training, to make sure that they filled out the
5 paperwork the way he wanted it filled out and when he
6 laid out stipulations as the type of tenants he wanted
7 in his building, to relay that information to them when
8 he told me to do so.

9 Q. What did he tell you about the types of tenants
10 he wanted in his building?

11 A. He wanted tenants that fit his image, that if
12 he had put work into the building would not tear it
13 down.

14 He didn't want kids, which he also referred to
15 as brats, in his building because he didn't want them to
16 mess up the work he had paid to have done in these
17 buildings.

18 He didn't want blacks, sometimes he called them

19 dark skin, because they smell.

20 He didn't want Mexicans because they just sit
21 around and smoke and drink all day.

22 He didn't want Section 8. I went to a Section
23 8 training. He sent me with a specific list of
24 questions that he wanted answered which all pertained to
25 how to evict Section 8 tenants.

0060

12 Q. If you were delayed or hasn't gotten
13 Mr. Sterling the information on the tenant as he had
14 asked, would he get angry with you?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What would he say?

17 A. His retaliation at me if I didn't provide
18 information was that I was stupid, I needed to learn the
19 Asian way. Sometimes he would tell me I was getting
20 more stupid as I got older, I needed to learn from the
21 younger girls in the office.

22 He would also tell me that I needed to learn
23 the Asian way from his younger girls because they knew
24 how to please him, give him what he asked for. This was
25 the type of retaliation remarks I would get from him.

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7 Q. Did Mr. Sterling tell you that he was planning
8 to purchase the Ardmore building?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Did he ever tell you he was planning to
11 purchase buildings in Koreatown?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What did he say about his plan to purchase
14 buildings in Koreatown?

15 A. He said that he was going to purchase -- this
16 was after he purchased Ardmore and he purchased Hobart
17 and he was going to purchase, I also recall, Alexandria
18 Court or Street -- he was going to purchase more
19 buildings because he decided that he wanted just Korean
20 tenants because he had found that these tenants would
21 take what he gave them and not talk back.

22 And he was jovially saying, "Isn't that great,
23 I don't have to spend any more money on them, they will
24 take whatever conditions I give them and still pay the
25 rent, so I only want Korean tenants, so I'm going to

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1 keep buying in Koreatown."

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8 Q. Do
9 you recall any tenants being evicted from the Ardmore
10 building?

11 A. No, I just recall one person he wanted out.

12 Q. Do you recall that person's name?

13 A. I recall meeting her. She had a lovely
14 personality. She was an elderly black woman. I recall
15 she -- what is coming to mind is she showed me a number
16 of photos of her children and family and making a
17 comment about her name being common and having so many
18 relatives with the same name. I can see her clearly. I
19 am hazy on her name at the moment.

20 Q. Do you know why Mr. Sterling wanted her out,
21 did he tell you why?

22 A. This woman was in an apartment and the
23 adjoining apartment had had a water leak from some
24 construction being done in that apartment that had
25 caused this leak which flooded her bedroom and her

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1 apartment.

2 When I arrived with Brenda, the bedroom -- the
3 apartment was still under a couple of inches of water
4 and a lot of her personal things on the floor in the
5 closet and on the floor of the bedroom were damaged,
6 they were floating in water.

7 When I reported back to the office to
8 Mr. Sterling what had taken place in this incident at
9 the building, he asked for the details and I gave him
10 the details of everything that I saw and heard at the
11 time.

12 He asked who she was and I, at that time, gave
13 him the information that I had on her from her lease and
14 that she was a Section 8 tenant and he said, "Is she one
15 of those black people that stink," and I know I defended
16 her against the stink remark, and I did acknowledge that
17 she was a black woman and she appeared elderly to me. I
18 didn't know her exact age.

19 When I reported she was requiring that she be
20 reimbursed for the damage and perhaps given compensation
21 for what had been ruined of her belongings he said, "I
22 am not going to do that, just evict the bitch," and I
23 remember trying to defend her to him and the next day
24 the building was given to Brenda and I wasn't allowed on
25 the property anymore after that.

