



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
HERBERT HADAD, ELLEN DAVIS,
CARLY SULLIVAN, JERIKA
RICHARDSON, EDELI RIVERA
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(914) 993-1900, (212) 637-2600

U.S. FILES CIVIL RIGHTS SUIT AGAINST ROCKLAND COUNTY
LANDLORD FOR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
AFRICAN-AMERICAN PROSPECTIVE TENANTS

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that the United States has filed a federal civil rights lawsuit under the Fair Housing Act against PEARL RIVER GARDENS, LLC, for discriminating against African-Americans seeking to rent apartments at Pearl River Gardens' residential apartment complex, located in Pearl River, Rockland County, New York.

"Landlords must follow the law so that people of all backgrounds have the same freedom to choose the community in which they live," said United States Attorney PREET BHARARA. "We will not tolerate the unequal treatment of individuals based on their race or color, and we will seek to hold accountable those who engage in this conduct."

According to the Complaint filed in federal court in White Plains:

The Pearl River Gardens apartment complex is a residential complex, located at 95-103 North Middletown Road in Pearl River. The Complaint alleges that Pearl River Gardens has engaged in conduct since at least March 2007 that has constituted discrimination on the basis of race and color under the Fair Housing Act.

Specifically, the United States alleges that Pearl River Gardens has engaged in racially discriminatory housing practices, including failing to inform African-American prospective tenants about available apartments, or telling African-Americans that certain apartments are not available, while telling non-African-American persons that such apartments were in fact available. In addition, the Complaint alleges that Pearl River Gardens told African-American prospective tenants that the prices for rental apartments were higher than the prices quoted to non-African-

American persons. The United States further alleges that Pearl River Gardens failed to show African-American prospective tenants available apartments, while at the same time showing similarly situated non-African-American persons available apartments.

The Complaint seeks an injunction against the defendant's discriminatory practices, as well as monetary damages for victims of discrimination, and a civil penalty against Pearl River Gardens, LLC.

The case is being handled by the Office's Civil Rights Unit. Assistant United States Attorneys DANIEL P. FILOR and DAVID S. JONES are in charge of the case.

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