

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
WESTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	Case No.
)	
RYAN RICHARDSON,)	
)	
and)	<u>COMPLAINT</u>
)	
RYAN SMITH,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This action is brought by the United States of America on behalf of Shaunta Patrick (“Patrick”), Rex Tall, Jr. (“Tall”), and their four minor children, and the Toledo Fair Housing Center (“FHC”), pursuant to § 812(o) of the Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 3601, *et seq.*
2. This court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1345 and 42 U.S.C. § 3612(o).
3. Venue is proper in the Northern District of Ohio under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and 42 U.S.C. § 3612(o), in that the events or omissions giving rise to this action occurred in this district.

PARTIES

4. Complainants Shaunta Patrick (“Patrick”) and Rex Tall, Jr. (“Tall”), and their minor children, are residents of Ohio who rented a single family house located at 1225 Harvard Boulevard in Toledo, Ohio, in which they resided for approximately one year. Ms. Patrick,

Mr. Tall, and their minor children are African-American. Patrick, Tall, and their minor children are “aggrieved persons” as defined by the Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. § 3602(i).

5. Complainant Toledo Fair Housing Center (“FHC”) is an Ohio non-profit corporation, with its principal place of business at 432 North Superior Street, Toledo, Ohio. FHC is an “aggrieved person” as defined by the Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. § 3602(i). The Toledo Fair Housing Center's mission is to eliminate practices of housing discrimination and expand equal housing opportunities.
6. Defendants Ryan Richardson (“Richardson”) and Ryan Smith (“Smith”) are residents of Ohio and are the owners of a single family house located at 247 University Boulevard in Toledo, Ohio, in which they reside. Richardson and Smith’s house is located on the next block from the house that Patrick and Tall rented.
7. The single family house in which the Patrick -Tall family resided is a “dwelling” within the meaning of the Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. § 3602(b).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

8. The Patrick-Tall family took possession of the house at 1225 Harvard Boulevard in Toledo, Ohio, on or about April 1, 2009, pursuant to a lease agreement in the name of Shaunta Patrick. Although Tall was not a named party on the lease agreement, the lease indicated that two adults and three minor children would occupy the property. After the family moved into the home on Harvard Boulevard, Patrick gave birth to her fourth child.
9. As detailed infra, shortly after Patrick and Tall moved into the Harvard Boulevard home, Defendants began a campaign of discrimination and harassment, which included making numerous unfounded complaints to the landlord, to local police and child protective services

agencies, and to Ohio professional licensing boards, about Patrick, Tall, and their friends and family members. This continued until the Patrick-Tall family lost the lease on their home in April 2010.

10. Defendants also forged a bizarre letter to neighbors purporting to be from Patrick and Tall, in which they made it appear that Patrick and Tall were using racially-charged language and boasting about engaging in child abuse, drug trafficking, and other criminal activity.
11. As a result of Defendants' harassment, Patrick and Tall were visited multiple times by investigators and subjected to drug testing, and their children were required to undergo physical examinations. Ultimately, Patrick and Tall lost the lease on the house at 1225 Harvard Boulevard and were forced to move.
12. On or about July 26, 2010, Patrick filed a complaint on behalf of herself with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission ("OCRC"), a participant in the Fair Housing Assistance Program ("FHAP") with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"). The complaint alleged that Richardson and Smith discriminated against her on the basis of her race, African American, by threatening, intimidating, harassing, coercing, and interfering with the exercise of her fair housing rights, in violation of § 3617 of the Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. § 3601, *et seq.* and the substantially equivalent Ohio state statute.
13. On or about September 21, 2010, OCRC waived jurisdiction over Patrick's complaint to HUD.
14. On or about April 11, 2011, Patrick's HUD complaint was amended to add Tall, her fiancé, and their minor children as aggrieved parties.

15. On or about May 11, 2010, Patrick contacted FHC regarding the harassment her family was experiencing at the subject property. FHC opened a complaint on behalf of Patrick and conducted an investigation into her complaint of discrimination.
16. On or about January 11, 2011, FHC filed its own fair housing complaint with HUD alleging that Defendants' race discrimination against Patrick, Tall, and their minor children frustrated its mission and caused it to divert its resources in violation of § 3617 of the Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. § 3617.
17. Pursuant to the requirements of 42 U.S.C. § 3610 (a) and (b), the Secretary of HUD conducted and completed an investigation of the complaint, attempted conciliation without success, and prepared a final investigative report. Based on the information gathered in the investigation, the Secretary, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 3610(g)(1), determined that reasonable cause exists to believe that discriminatory housing practices occurred. Accordingly, on or about August 25, 2011, the Secretary issued a Charge of Discrimination ("the Charge") pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 3610(g)(2)(A), charging Defendants with engaging in discriminatory housing practices in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 3617.
18. On or about August 31, 2011, Defendants elected to have the Charge resolved in a civil action in federal district court, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 3612(a).
19. Following this election, the Secretary of HUD authorized the Attorney General to commence a civil action, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 3612(o).

Complaints to Patrick and Tall's Landlord

20. Shortly after the Patrick and Tall family took possession of the house at 1225 Harvard Boulevard, their landlord, Neil Hilfinger ("Hilfinger"), began receiving complaints that Patrick and Tall were damaging and /or not maintaining the property.
21. In response to the complaints described in paragraph 21, Hilfinger repeatedly called Patrick and visited the subject property.
22. Hilfinger has identified the calls as being made by someone named "Ryan." Upon information and belief, one or both of the Defendants made these calls.
23. On or about April 20, 2010, Defendant Richardson confronted Hilfinger in person to demand that he not renew Patrick's lease, threatening to sue him if he did renew.

Complaints to the Toledo Police Department

24. On or about May 23, 2009, one or both of the Defendants made two calls to the Toledo Police Department to report the Patrick-Tall household. The first was recorded by the police as a complaint of "disorder," and the second as "susper" (presumably "suspicious person"). After investigating the complaints, the police left within minutes without writing a report.
25. On or about May 25 and 26, 2009, one or both of the Defendants made calls to the Toledo Police Department regarding a "fight" and "drugs," respectively, at the Patrick-Tall home. Again, police investigated the calls and left without writing a report.
26. On July 4, 2009, Patrick and Tall hosted an Independence Day party, where police again arrived in response to complaints made by one or both of the Defendants and left without writing a report.

27. On or about November 11, 2009, Defendant Richardson called police to report drug dealing at the Patrick-Tall home. Police responded and left after approximately 15 minutes without writing a report.
28. On or about January 19, 2010, Defendant Smith sent a private Facebook message to Sgt. Phil Toney, a Toledo Police officer who lived near the Patrick-Tall family, recounting an alleged drug "hand off" at the subject property by Patrick's sister, Barbara Patrick. In the Facebook message, Defendant Smith admits to following and photographing Patrick and her sister, Barbara. The Facebook message refers to Tall as Patrick's "baby daddy" and calls him a "high profile felon."
29. On or about January 19, 2010, Defendant Richardson called Toledo Police and complained of drug dealing at the Patrick-Tall home. Police went to the house, but left after approximately 15 minutes without writing a report
30. Sgt. Toney, an experienced narcotics officer, has stated to HUD investigators that he saw no indication of drug trafficking by Patrick, Tall, or anyone visiting their home. In fact, Toney has stated that some of the "evidence" Defendants cited as proof that Patrick and Tall were selling drugs was actually attributable to others living in the neighborhood. For example, in an April 19, 2010 e-mail to Child Protective Services, Defendants claimed drug customers were driving through the neighborhood, "blasting their stereos in their ghetto rides." According to Toney, the music Defendants heard was coming from a stereo in the bedroom of a white teenager.

Complaints to the County Children Services Office

31. On June 6, 2009, Defendants complained to Lucas County Children Services ("Child Services") that preschool age children had been left home alone at 1225 Harvard Boulevard and that the home was a suspected "drug house." In response, Child Services notified the police that preschool age children had been left home alone, after which police conducted a safety check on Patrick and Tall's children. The police found that the children were fine, and left without writing a report.
32. On or about January 30, 2010, Defendant Richardson reported Patrick to Lucas County Children Services for posting "shaken baby syndrome that's all ima say!!!!!" on her Facebook page. Patrick has explained this as a facetious remark she wrote following an exhausting night awake with her newborn child.
33. On or about March 24, 2010, Defendant Richardson wrote an e-mail to Child Services, which stated, in part, that Tall's father was a drug trafficker from LaGrange, a reference to an area that local residents perceive as a low income neighborhood with more African-Americans than the area around Harvard Boulevard.
34. On or about March 24, 2010, Defendant Richardson wrote an e-mail to Child Services in which he admitted to having called Child Services 17 times in one day and 20 times over the course of a year, to complain about Patrick.
35. On or about March 26, 2010, Defendant Richardson wrote an e-mail to Child Services in which he admitted to having complained about Patrick to "vice/narcotics," telling them that Patrick is an LPN (licensed practical nurse) with access to narcotics. In this e-mail, he also admitted to contacting the state nursing board to file a similar complaint about Patrick.

36. On or about March 27, 2010, Defendant Richardson wrote an e-mail to Child Services inviting the addressees to view Patrick's Facebook page (presumably related to Patrick's January "shaken baby" comment).
37. On or about March 28, 2010, Defendant Richardson wrote to Child Services and admitted calling Hilfinger to complain about Patrick and Tall. He sent two more e-mails on March 29 and 31, 2010.
38. On or about April 26, 2010, Defendant Smith electronically filed a complaint of child abuse with Child Services against Patrick.
39. Child Services caseworker Sherrie Twining conducted an investigation into the allegations of child abuse by Patrick. On information and belief, Child Services made three unannounced visits to the Patrick-Tall home. Twining was permitted to examine and privately interview the Patrick-Tall children. She found no evidence of child abuse on the children's bodies and nothing of concern in her discussions with them.
40. Both Patrick and Tall voluntarily complied with an impromptu drug screen on March 25, 2010, and both screens came back negative. The children were further examined by a pediatrician at the request of the County, who also found no indications of abuse.
41. Child Services also interviewed Defendants and various neighbors during its investigation. All of the neighbors interviewed contradicted Defendants' accounts of Patrick's and Tall's activities. Some of the neighbors indicated that Patrick and Tall kept to themselves and that they rarely saw Patrick and Tall or their children.

42. On or about April 30, 2010, a summary report issued by Child Services determined there were no indications of child abuse or drug abuse, no evidence of drug sales in the home, and the housing conditions were habitable.
43. On or about May 4, 2010, Child Services referred the matter of Defendants' unfounded and false complaints to the Lucas County Prosecutor for criminal prosecution for filing false complaints of child abuse and neglect.

Other Harassment by Defendants

44. On or about February 4, 2010, Defendant Richardson anonymously wrote and sent Patrick a letter that read:

"Shaunta,
We couldn't help but notice that you're still living here...I guess that means you want to get caught. Have you shaken the baby yet? Or was that a ploy to get a sitter...you're a sick BITCH...Move to Springfield Twp..there aren't any cops and you won't be bothered anymore GOD ISN'T ON YOUR SIDE!!!!" (Emphasis original.)

45. On or about February 4, 2010, Defendant Smith forged a letter which was supposedly from Patrick and Tall. He mailed it to Patrick and Talls' next door neighbors, the Pucketts, and hand-delivered copies of the letter to various other neighbors. The letter read:

"Puckett Family:
Hey, we are your neighbors [sic] You know, we are the ones that sell drugs, beat and abuse our children, and, amongst other things, completely trashed our rental house. We are husband and wife, sorta...We have 4 children now! We are just writing to tell you more about [sic] our selves!

Shaunta Patrick: I was born in 1986 to my mom, Phyllis Patrick. Mom now lives at 1331-33 Waverly just off Dorr street [sic] and my older cracked-out sister and I spend a lot of time there selling drugs and just being obnoxious, when we think we might get caught on Harvard. We both enjoy beating our children as past [sic] time, by my sister (Barbara?) really shows no mercy! I have been pursuing my RN, which is cool because those prescriptions sure do sell for a lot! I don't know that a neighbor

has already reported me to the state boards of Ohio and Michigan...yet. I work as a hair stylist at a salon near Upton and Bancroft, but that doesn't really pay the rent, well, why pay rent anyhow, Neil Hilfinger (877-0919, 11760 Doran Rd, [sic] Whitehouse) is too scared of being sued for a Fair Housing violation to ever do anything to evict us... I am a God-fearin' women [sic], but when I want to go out drinking and hooking up, I just tell everyone on facebook [sic] that I am going to shake my baby, and sure enough, my aunt comes and picks the kids up...I am a great mother, I really just can't figure out how CSB [this refers to "Children Services Board," the former name of Lucas County Children Services] got involved in all that.

Rex Tall Jr. [sic]: I am a lot like my dad Rex Tall Sr. [sic], who has made a living traffic [sic] drugs in the LaGrange neighborhood. He was pivotal in scaring out all the whities, and he has always told us never to give up when trying to wreck a neighborhood, the white folk will get scared and move out if you are obnoxious for long enough! I don't really get into beating the kids and find Shaunta's sister pretty annoying; I have been to jail already, so I don't really appreciate her drawing so much attention to us. Yes...I have been to jail...It was just an armed robbery conviction...unfortunately, since I sued the prison while incarcerated, it is public knowledge that I was incarcerated in Marion, OH. I get into a lot of trouble, so stay tuned to the Blade [sic], because my name gets in there a lot! I'm not allowed to live at 1225 Harvard, so don't tell the landlord!

If you want to know pretty much anything else about us, we both have facebook [sic] pages and love to tell everyone about how classy and rich we are. We just posted how we are never going to move, so we just wanted the neighbors to get to know us better!

Sincerely,
Shaunta and Rex"

46. On or about February 4, 2010, Defendant Smith created and hand-delivered a sign to neighbors that stated in large and bolded block letters "NO." In an accompanying letter, he speculated that the Patrick-Tall family posted a similar sign in their window to signal to their narcotics customers when they could and could not buy drugs. In fact, the sign was used to alert the Head Start bus driver that the Patrick-Tall children would not be riding the bus that day. Defendant Smith's letter to neighbors read:

"Prominently display this sign to show neighborhood solidarity and to say 'NO' to the residents of 1225 Harvard (Shaunta Patrick and Rex Tall II, felon armed robbery) blatantly trafficking drugs etc [sic] for another year!

The 'NO' sign has been used by Shaunta and Rex since they moved here, probably to denote that they are not available to sell drugs, and by displaying this sign you are saying that it is never time to sell drugs.

You may also want to take a moment of your time to contact the landlord Neil (and Michelle) Hilfinger and let them know that renewing Shaunta's lease for another year is not the right decision 419-877-0919.

-Your Neighbors"

47. On or about February 11, 2010, Defendant Richardson again wrote an anonymous letter to

Complainant Patrick, which read as follows:

"Ms [sic] Shaunta Patrick,

You do realize that you are constantly watched by the entire neighborhood, not just those living next to you? Given all that we know you're doing, you would seriously be best served to leave ASAP before you land in prison for trafficking. Remember, you live within eyeshot of a drug enforcement officer; everyone sees you and reports everything to the police. Take a hint and MOVE OUT!" (Emphasis original.)

48. On or about April 5, 2010, Defendant Richardson complained to the Lucas County Prosecutor via e-mail. In his e-mails to the prosecutor, he alleged that Patrick's mother, Phyllis Patrick, who he erroneously believed worked for Child Services, destroyed records of complaints against Patrick to protect her. He further admitted to calling the state board of social workers to file a complaint against Patrick's mother, who does, in fact, work in the social work field.
49. On or about April 18, 2010, in an e-mail to the Lucas County Prosecutor and Child Services, Defendant Richardson admitted to following Patrick and Tall and their children at the local Menards hardware store.

50. On or about April 19, 2010, Defendant Richardson sent an e-mail to Child Services, the Mayor of Toledo, and others in which he stated in relevant part:

"The residents of Harvard Terrace are sick and tired of Shaunta Patrick, Barbara 'Shavon' Patrick and Rex Tall Jr. [sic] flagrantly selling drugs out of 1225 Harvard Blvd...they had lookouts posted tonight and people not from the neighborhood very obviously trying to assert control, blasting their stereos in their ghetto rides and staring down anyone that was outside. They started their shit at 6PM tonight. I think they're going to take down the neighborhood...and at this rate they might win! It's pathetic that the lazy asshole homeowner, Neil Hilfinger of 11760 Doran Rd [sic] Whitehouse OH [sic] 43571, (419) 877-0919 admitted to me in February that he knows that illegal activity is going on but 'he don't condon [sic] it, and he's not the police...'"

51. Between March 23 and April 19, 2010, Defendant Richardson sent approximately 18 e-mails and complaints about Patrick and Tall, as well as Patrick's sister, Barbara, and mother, Phyllis, to various public agencies and officials, including Child Services, Toledo Mayor Michael Bell, City Councilman D. Michael Collins, Lucas County Prosecutor Julia Bates, Toledo Police Chief Michael Navarre, Child Services case worker Sherrie Twining, the Toledo Board of Community Relations, Animal Control, and state nursing and social work boards. In those e-mails, Defendant Richardson emphatically accused Patrick and her sister of child abuse and drug trafficking.
52. On or about April 24, 2010, Defendant Richardson sent a Facebook message to Sgt. Toney, wondering if it was time to get out of town, before the neighborhood becomes "LaGrange."
53. On or about April 27, 2010, Defendant Smith wrote to City Councilman D. Michael Collins and attached Facebook messages reporting on Patrick's and Tall's activities and offered to provide pictures.

54. On or about August 11, 2010, Patrick received a letter from the Ohio Board of Nursing informing her that the Board had been told she had been selling drugs out of her home since May 1, 2009; upon information and belief, that complaint is pending.
55. The Lucas County Prosecutor's Office is investigating the Defendants to see if their conduct against the Patrick-Tall family constituted criminal telecommunication fraud and forgery. To date, the Lucas County Prosecutor has not made a determination as to whether the Defendants will be criminally charged.

Discriminatory Motive

56. Throughout Defendants' campaign of harassment against the Patrick-Tall family, they made statements and engaged in conduct revealing that race was a factor behind it.
57. For example, Defendant Richardson told the Lucas County Prosecutor's Office investigator that he first became aware of the Patrick-Tall household around May 23, 2010, when Patrick and Tall hosted a birthday party at their home. Defendant Richardson stated that he noticed an unusual amount of traffic on his street that day, and remarked that "the people in the cars were not typical of the type of people in the neighborhood." Most of the families living in the neighborhood around 1225 Harvard Boulevard are white.
58. In the January 19, 2010 Facebook message to Sgt. Toney, Defendant Smith refers to Tall as Patrick's "baby daddy" and calls him a "high-profile felon," both of which would be understood in this context by a reasonable reader as negative stereotypes of African-Americans. Indeed, Toney has stated that he believes Defendants' conduct toward Patrick and Tall has been racially motivated.

59. In the February 4, 2010 anonymous note to Patrick, Defendant Richardson wrote, “Move to Springfield Township.” That would be understood by a reasonable reader as a racial reference, as Springfield Township has a higher percentage of minority residents than does the area where 1225 Harvard Avenue is located.
60. In the forged February 4, 2010 letter to the Pucketts, which purported to be from Patrick and Tall, Defendant used several terms which would be understood by a reasonable reader as having negative racial connotations. For example, he wrote that the landlord was afraid of committing a Fair Housing Act violation if he evicted Patrick and Tall, and that Tall’s father had taught Tall how to frighten white people into moving out, and “was pivotal in scaring all the whities” out of another neighborhood. Indeed, Chris Puckett has told investigators that he understood Defendants’ complaints about Patrick and Tall to be racially motivated.
61. In his March 24, 2010 e-mail to Child Services, Defendant Richardson claimed that Tall’s father was a drug trafficker from LaGrange. LaGrange is perceived by local residents as a low-income neighborhood with a higher percentage of African-American residents than the Harvard Boulevard area, and a reasonable reader would understand Defendant Richardson’s comment to be racially negative.
62. In his March 24, 2010 e-mail to Child Services, Defendant Richardson referred to an employee of that office as a “black girl” and mocked her speech, quoting her response to his complaints about Patrick and Tall as “you just racist.” A reasonable reader would understand this as a negative racial stereotype about language usage.
63. Similarly, in his March 27, 2010 e-mail to Child Services, Defendant Richardson mentioned an African-American Facebook employee he had spoken with on the telephone. He wrote

that she was “well-spoken” and “professional in her speech pattern,” which a reasonable reader would understand to imply that this woman’s speech was a noteworthy departure from his negative stereotypical perceptions about African-Americans’ language usage.

64. In Defendant Richardson’s April 19, 2010 e-mail to the Mayor, Child Services and others, he made several references which a reasonable reader would understand to connote negative racial stereotypes of African-Americans, including “people not from the neighborhood” and “blasting their stereos in their ghetto rides.”
65. In an April 20, 2010 Facebook message to Sgt. Toney, Defendant Richardson made several remarks which a reasonable reader would understand to be negative racial references. For example, he wrote that Patrick’s sister Barbara “and some old black guy were doing business out of there around 630 [sic] last night; did you see her little 12-year-old lookouts riding their bike and the 1978ish while [sic] Olds 88 with 30" wheels blasting his stereo and staring everyone down???” Defendant Richardson concludes the message by conjecturing about “blockbusting,” a race-based practice.
66. In his April 24, 2010 Facebook message to Sgt. Toney, Defendant Richardson wondered whether it was time to move away from the area, before it becomes “LaGrange.” As noted supra, LaGrange is a low-income neighborhood with a higher percentage of African-American residents than the Harvard Boulevard area.

Loss of the Patrick-Tall Family’s Lease

67. On or about April 7, 2010, Hilfinger informed Patrick that he would not renew her lease and instructed her to vacate the house at 1225 Harvard Boulevard by May 1, 2010. Patrick, Tall, and their children ultimately moved out of the home in June 2010.

68. On or about July 13, 2010, Hilfinger sold 1225 Harvard Boulevard to a white female on an installment land contract.

Consequences of Defendants' Actions

69. As a consequence of Defendants' meritless complaints to police, Child Services and other public agencies, Patrick, Tall, and their children were subjected to numerous investigations, including drug testing and physical examinations of their children.
70. After the Patrick-Tall family became aware that they were the targets of harassment, they became fearful for their safety and well-being. Patrick left the house for work before dawn, and she often ran to her car or asked Tall to escort her. Patrick and Tall stopped allowing their children to play outside, and, on at least one occasion, the children asked their grandmother to take them to her house because they did not want to be at 1225 Harvard Boulevard.
71. Patrick and Tall lost the company of family and friends who became uncomfortable visiting them at 1225 Harvard Boulevard.
72. Patrick and her mother have suffered embarrassment and negative professional consequences as a result of Defendants' unfounded complaints about them to professional licensing boards.
73. As described supra, Defendants Richardson's and Smith's conduct, motivated in whole or in part by considerations of race and/or color, constitutes unlawful coercion of, intimidation of, threatening of, or interference with Patrick, Tall, and their minor children in their exercise or enjoyment of, or on account of their having exercised or enjoyed, rights granted or protected by the Fair Housing Act, in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 3617.

74. As a result of the harassment and discrimination described supra, Patrick, Tall, and their minor children suffered significant damages, including but not limited to severe emotional distress, embarrassment, loss of equal housing opportunities, and inconvenience.
75. Defendants Richardson and Smith violated 42 U.S.C. § 3617 when, motivated in whole or in part by considerations of race and/or color, by harassing and taking discriminatory actions against Patrick, Tall, and their minor children, they interfered with and frustrated the open housing mission of FHC and forced it to divert scarce resources away from its mission-critical activities toward counseling Patrick and Tall, enforcing fair housing laws, and taking actions to counteract the effects of Defendants Richardson's and Smith's race discrimination.
76. As a result of the harassment and discrimination, the FHC also suffered damages when its time and resources were directed away from its services and programs, including education and outreach, and toward the investigation of the discriminatory conduct and the enforcement of fair housing laws against Defendants. Further, FHC's mission to eliminate housing discrimination and to ensure equal housing opportunities for all was frustrated and its constituents harmed by Defendants' harassment and discrimination.
77. The discriminatory actions of Defendants Richardson and Smith were intentional, willful, and taken in disregard for the rights of Patrick, Tall, and their minor children and the FHC.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the United States prays that this Court:

1. Declare that the discriminatory housing practices of Defendants as set forth above violate § 3617 of the Fair Housing Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 3601, *et seq.*;
2. Enjoin the Defendants from coercing, intimidating, threatening, and interfering with Patrick, Tall, or any member of their families;
3. Enjoin the Defendants from coercing, intimidating, threatening, and interfering with rights granted or protected by the Fair Housing Act in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 3617;
4. Enjoin the Defendants from failing or refusing to take such affirmative steps as may be necessary to restore, as nearly as practicable, Patrick and Tall to the position they would have been in but for the discriminatory conduct;
5. Enjoin the Defendants from failing or refusing to take such affirmative steps as may be necessary to prevent the recurrence of any discriminatory conduct in the future and to eliminate, to the extent practicable, the effects of their unlawful practices;
6. Award monetary damages to Patrick, Tall, their minor children, and FHC pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 3612(o)(3) and 3613(c)(1).

The United States further prays for such additional relief as the interests of justice may require.

Dated: September 30, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

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By

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