IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA MIAMI DIVISION Case No.:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

V.

TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff United States of America ("United States") alleges:

- 1. This action is brought on behalf of the United States to enforce the provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e, *et seq.* ("Title VII").
- 2. This Court has jurisdiction over this action under 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(f), § 2000e-6(b) and 28 U.S.C. § 1345.
- 3. Defendant, Town of Davie, Florida ("Davie"), is a corporate, governmental body, and a political subdivision of the State of Florida, established pursuant to the laws of the State of Florida. Davie is located in Broward County, Florida, within the jurisdiction of this Court.
- 4. Davie established the Davie Fire Rescue Department (the "Fire Department").

 The Fire Department is part of Davie and not a separate legal entity.
- 5. Davie is a "person" within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. § 2000e(a), and an employer within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. § 2000e(b).

- 6. In early 2008, the Fire Department, which requires its female firefighters to notify Davie upon learning of a pregnancy, adopted a new policy or practice for handling pregnant firefighters.
- 7. Though the Fire Department operates under a written policy that allows the Fire Chief discretionary authority to grant employee requests for light duty assignments, since 2008 the Fire Department also has uniformly operated under a policy or practice of not granting a pregnant firefighter light duty until the start of her second trimester regardless of her medical or physical needs.
- 8. Despite the restriction on a pregnant firefighter's ability to obtain light duty in her first trimester, the Fire Chief has granted other firefighters' requests for light duty needed because of non-work related injuries.
- 9. Despite the restriction on a pregnant firefighter's ability to obtain light duty in her first trimester, the Fire Chief maintains a policy or practice of granting other firefighters' requests for light duty needed because of non-work related injuries within 7 to 10 work shifts (approximately 21 days) of the request.
- 10. Since 2008, the Fire Department has also required pregnant firefighters to leave active firefighting duty upon the start of their second trimester regardless of their ability to fulfill the essential functions of their position. Starting with the second trimester, the pregnant firefighter is allowed a light duty assignment or may take their own sick or annual leave until they are done with their pregnancy.
- 11. The acts, policies and practices of the Fire Department described in paragraphs 6 10, above, constitute a pattern or practice of intentional resistance to the full enjoyment of the rights of pregnant females employed by defendant to equal employment opportunities without

discrimination based on sex and pregnancy, in violation of § 707 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-6.

12. All conditions precedent to the filing of this Complaint have been performed or have occurred.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff United States prays that this Court grant the following relief:

- a. Enjoin defendant and all officers, agents, employees, successors and all persons in active concert or participation with it, from denying any employee who is pregnant or may become pregnant equal access to a light duty assignment as that enjoyed by any employee suffering from a non-work related injury;
- b. Enjoin defendant and all officers, agents, employees, successors and all persons in active concert or participation with it, from subjecting any employee who is pregnant or may become pregnant to a policy or practice that discriminates on the basis of sex and pregnancy by requiring mandatory light duty or the mandatory use of sick or leave time without inquiring into the individual's ability to perform the essential duties of her job;

c. Require defendant to:

- ii. adopt a policy regarding light duty for pregnant employees that complies with Title VII;
- iii. adopt a policy that establishes an effective mechanism for receiving and responding to complaints of sex and pregnancy discrimination;
- iii. provide adequate training to all of defendant employees and officials who are responsible for making determinations regarding complaints of sex and pregnancy discrimination; and

iv. take other appropriate nondiscriminatory measures to overcome the effects of sex and pregnancy discrimination.

The Plaintiff United States prays for such additional relief as justice may require, together with its costs and disbursements in this action.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS E, PEREZ Assistant Attorney General Civil Rights Division

BY:

DELORA L. KENNEBREW (GA Bar No. 414320)

Chief

KAREN D. WOODARD (MD Bar - no number issued)

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BY:

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Attorneys for the United States of America

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA MIAMI DIVISION Case No.:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

ν.

TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA,

Defendant.

CONSENT DECREE

This action was brought by the United States against the Town of Davie, Florida ("Davie"), to enforce the provisions of § 707 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-6.

In its Complaint, the United States alleges that Davie has engaged in conduct constituting a pattern or practice of intentional discrimination, based on sex, against women employed by Davie. Specifically, the United States alleges that since 2008, the Davie Fire Rescue Department ("Fire Department") has operated under a policy or practice of denying any pregnant firefighter light duty until the start of her second trimester regardless of her medical or physical needs while routinely granting other non-pregnant firefighters' requests for light duty for non-work related injuries. Further, since 2008, the Fire Department has also required any pregnant firefighter to leave active firefighting duty upon the start of her second trimester regardless of her ability to fulfill the essential functions of her position.

Davie categorically denies these allegations, and maintains that it has not discriminated against pregnant firefighters.

The Parties, desiring that this action be settled by appropriate consent decree and without the burden of protracted litigation, agree to the jurisdiction of this Court over the parties and to the Court's subject matter jurisdiction. Subject to the Court's approval of this Consent Decree ("Decree"), the Parties waive a hearing and findings of fact and conclusions of law on all issues, and further agree to the entry of this Decree as final and binding between themselves as to the pattern or practice violations alleged in the United States' Complaint filed in this case.

This Decree, being entered with the consent of the parties, shall in no way constitute an adjudication or finding on the merits of the case, nor be construed as an admission by Davie of a finding of any wrongdoing or violation of any applicable federal or state law or regulation. Nor shall it be construed as a resolution, conclusion or bar of any individual claims brought or pending by or on behalf of any individual Davie employees under § 706 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5.

As used in this Decree, the term "date of entry of this Decree" is defined as the date on which the Court grants final approval to and enters this Decree as a final order of the Court.

It is therefore, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED as follows:

A. **FINDINGS OF THE COURT**

Having examined the provisions of this Decree, the Court finds the following:

- (a) The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action and the Parties to this action.
- (b) The terms and provisions of this Decree are lawful, fair, reasonable and just. The rights of the Parties are adequately protected by this Decree.

(c) This Decree conforms with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VII"), and is not in derogation of the rights and privileges of any person. The entry of the Decree will further the objectives of Title VII and will be in the best interest of the Parties.

B. GENERAL INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

Davie, by and through its officials, agents, employees and all persons in active concert or participation with Davie in the performance of employment or personnel functions, are enjoined from:

- (a) subjecting any employee who is pregnant or may become pregnant to a policy or practice that discriminates on the basis of sex (including pregnancy) by requiring mandatory light duty without evaluating the employee's ability to perform the essential functions of her job;
- (b) subjecting any employee who is pregnant or may become pregnant to a policy or practice that discriminates on the basis of sex (including pregnancy) by treating that employee differently than any non-pregnant employee suffering a non-work related injury with regards to the application, availability or opportunity to perform light duty work assignments;
- (c) engaging in any act or practice that has the purpose or effect of unlawfully discriminating against any employee or potential employee in Davie because of that individual's sex or pregnancy;
- (d) retaliating against or adversely affecting the terms or conditions of employment of any person because that person has opposed policies or practices that allegedly violate any provision of Title VII, has filed a charge with the Equal Employment

- Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") or any corresponding state agency, or because of that person's participation in or cooperation with the initiation, investigation, litigation or administration of this case or this Decree; and
- (e) enforcing or becoming a party to, any contractual agreement that operates to discriminate on the basis of sex (including pregnancy).

C. <u>IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</u>

- 1. Within one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days from the date of entry of this Decree, Davie shall review and, to the extent necessary, adopt or amend its written policies and procedures that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex (including pregnancy) to ensure the following provisions are included therein:
 - (a) Any employee who is pregnant or may become pregnant shall have equal access to a light duty assignment as that enjoyed by any employee suffering from a non-work related injury, in the event Davie continues to provide said assignment for non-work related injuries;
 - (b) Davie will not subject any employee who is pregnant or may become pregnant to a policy or practice that discriminates on the basis of sex and pregnancy by requiring mandatory light duty or the mandatory use of sick or leave time, including leave without pay, without considering information and documentation related to the individual's ability to perform the essential duties of her job;
 - (c) A description of the manner in which an employee or potential employee of Davie may make a discretionary complaint of discrimination based on sex (including pregnancy), including the name and contact information for the Equal Employment Opportunity ("EEO") Officer;

- (d) The identification, by job title and telephone contact information, of all individuals who are authorized to accept complaints of discrimination on the basis of sex (including pregnancy) against Davie;
- (e) A statement that all complaints of discrimination based on sex (including pregnancy) will be promptly and objectively investigated;
- (f) A description of the procedures which will be used to investigate complaints of discrimination based on sex (including pregnancy), and identification of the person or persons by position title in Davie, who will conduct the investigation and make conclusions about the results of the investigation; and
- (g) A statement that Davie will provide the results of an investigation of a complaint of discrimination on the basis of sex (including pregnancy) to the complaining party in writing no later than thirty (30) calendar days from the date the complaint is received, or, for a complaint alleging harassment, as soon as possible to comply with its obligations under Title VII to investigate such complaints promptly (but in no event later than forty-five (45) calendar days).

Davie shall present to the United States for its review a draft of the proposed new or revised policies at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to their initial anticipated adoption. In the event the United States proposes modifications to the policies submitted by Davie, the United States agrees to advise of said modifications in writing within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving said policies from Davie and allow a reasonable opportunity, but not less than sixty (60) days, for Davie to incorporate said modifications and adopt the proposed new or revised policies.

- 2. Within forty-five (45) calendar days from the date upon which Davie implements the written policies and procedures set forth in Paragraph C 1, above, Davie shall take the following steps:
 - (a) Davie shall distribute copies of such policies and procedures to all of its employees, supervisors and agents and shall provide a copy to the United States. Each individual (other than the United States) who receives a copy shall sign an acknowledgment that it has been received and read. The signed acknowledgment by each employee shall be placed in the employee's personnel file, and the signed acknowledgment by each supervisor also shall be maintained by the EEO Officer. Electronic means of distribution of, access to, and acknowledgment of Davie's policies and procedures shall be a sufficient means of complying with this provision.
 - (b) Davie shall publicize such policies and procedures by, *inter alia*, posting them in all buildings and facilities used for posting EEO information, by email to all employees, and on any internet or intranet website used for posting notices or policy changes for or concerning Davie, if available.
 - (c) Davie shall ensure that each new employee or supervisor receives a copy of the written policies and procedures implemented pursuant to Paragraph C 1, above, at the time of the new employee's hire or at the time of the supervisor's election or appointment. Each new Davie employee or supervisor shall sign an acknowledgment that she or he has read and understands such policies. The signed acknowledgment by a new employee shall be placed in the employee's personnel file, and the signed acknowledgment by a new supervisor also shall be

- maintained by the EEO Officer. Electronic acknowledgments shall be acceptable to comply with this provision.
- 3. Within ninety (90) calendar days from the date upon which Davie implements the written policies and procedures set forth in Paragraph C 1, above, Davie shall provide training with respect to Title VII's prohibitions against employment discrimination based on sex (including pregnancy) and Davie's policies and procedures relating to the prohibition of sex (including pregnancy) discrimination to all supervisory personnel in the Davie Fire Department who are involved in the hiring and selection procedure, evaluation of job performance, or discipline of Davie employees. Davie shall also provide separate training on this material to all non-supervisory employees in the Davie Fire Department. Each training session shall be held live and include, at a minimum, a detailed explanation of the prohibitions against sex (including pregnancy) discrimination contained in Title VII and Davie's policies and procedures. A description of each of the proposed training programs, including copies of all proposed training materials, shall be submitted to counsel for the United States for review and approval at least thirty (30) calendar days before the date upon which Davie proposes conducting either training session.

D. RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

1. Davie shall retain during the life of this Decree all records necessary to document the implementation of this Decree. Davie shall furnish all records and documents relevant to its compliance with the implementation of this Decree to counsel for the United States within thirty (30) calendar days of any written request, or such greater time as provided by the United States, but not less than thirty (30) calendar days.

- 2. Davie shall provide written notice to counsel for the United States of any notification by a firefighter of that firefighter's pregnancy within fifteen (15) calendar days of Davie's receipt of that information. The United States shall have the right to inspect and copy all documents related to such matter upon reasonable notice to Davie without further order of this Court, which reasonable notice shall not be less than thirty (30) calendar days after notification by a firefighter of that firefighter's pregnancy. If practicable, Davie may elect to produce the aforementioned documents by electronic means.
- 3. Davie shall retain all records that come into its possession relating to complaints or charges of employment discrimination based on sex (including pregnancy) as it relates to the provisions of this Decree that may be filed against Davie or any employee, agent or representative of Davie and pertaining to an employee or applicant for employment with Davie: (a) through any informal channels of complaint; (b) through Davie's internal grievance procedure; (c) with the EEOC; or (d) through or with any other federal, state or local agency authorized to receive such complaints. Davie shall provide copies of documents reflecting such complaints or charges to counsel for the United States within fifteen (15) calendar days of its receipt of such complaints or charges. In addition, the United States shall have the right to inspect and copy all documents related to such complaints or charges upon reasonable notice to Davie without further order of this Court, which reasonable notice shall not be less than thirty (30) calendar days. Davie may elect to produce the aforementioned documents by electronic means.

E. <u>DISPUTE RESOLUTION</u>

The Parties shall attempt to resolve informally any dispute that may occur under this Decree. The Parties shall engage in good faith efforts to resolve the issue before seeking action

by the Court. If the Parties are unable to expeditiously resolve the issue, either Party may move the Court for resolution, provided that written notice is first provided to the other Party at least ten (10) calendar days in advance of taking such action.

F. JURISDICTION OF THE COURT

- 1. During the life of this Decree, the Court shall retain jurisdiction over this Decree for the purposes of enforcing its provisions, resolving any disputes that may arise between the parties under it and entering such orders as may be appropriate.
- 2. This Decree shall terminate two (2) years from the date of its entry without further order of the Court.

G. <u>COSTS</u>

The parties shall bear their own costs in this action, including attorney's fees.

H. SCOPE OF THE DECREE

- 1. This Decree sets forth the entire agreement between the United States and Davie, and supersedes all other negotiations, representations or agreements, either written or oral, between the United States and Davie.
- 2. If any provision of this Decree is found unlawful, only the specific provision in question shall be affected and the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

I. <u>COMMUNICATIONS</u>

The Parties agree that all requests from either Party to the other shall be made in writing. Moreover, all responses to written requests shall be made within fifteen (15) calendar days, or such greater time as provided by the requesting Party. Notice shall be sent to the following addresses:

To United States:

U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Employment Litigation Section 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Patrick Henry Building, Room 4613

Washington, DC 20530

Attn: Jeffrey G. Morrison, Esq., - jeffrey.morrison@usdoi.gov

To Davie:

Town of Davie 6591 Orange Drive

Davie, Florida 33314 Attn: Rence Daugherty-Reene_Daugherty@davie-fl.gov

Risk Manager

With Copy to:

Lydecker | Diaz

1221 Brickell Avenue, 19th Floor

Miami, Florida 33131

Attn: Onier Llopiz, Esq.- ol@lydeckerdiaz.com

Stephanie Pidermann, Esq.- sp@lydeckerdiaz.com

DONE AND ORDERED this	day of, 2012.
	UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
Agreed and Consented To:	
On behalf of Plaintiff The United States of America:	On behalf of Defendant The Town of Davie, Florida:
THOMAS E. PEREZ Assistant Attorney General Civil Rights Division	
BY: DELORA L. KENNEBRÉW	ONIER LLOPIZ (FBN 579475)
(GA Bar No. 414320) Chief	Lydecker Diaz
La Cic	
KAREN D. WOODARD (MD Bar - no # issued)	
Deputy Chief	
Jelk Momi	WATHAN
YEFFREYG. MORRISON	STEPHANIE PIDERMANN (FBN 60414)
(MÖ Bar No. 44401) Senior Trial Attorney	/Lydecker Diaz
U.S. Department of Justice	(/ 221 Brickell Ave, 19 th Fl Miami, Florida 33131
Civil Rights Division	Telephone: (305) 416-3180
Employment Litigation Section	Facsimile: (305) 416-3190
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW	www.lydeckerdiaz.com
Patrick Henry Building, Room 4613	

Washington, DC 20530 Telephone: (202) 353-1845 Facsimile: (202) 353-8961

jeffrey.morrison@usdoi.gov

SJS 44 (Rev. 11/04)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating

the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRU	OCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)					
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS			
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA			TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA			
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Adda Veronica Harrell-James, Assista United States Attorney's Office	PT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) ress, and Telephone Number) ant U.S. Attorney				•	
(d) Check County Where Action	Arose: DADE DMONROE BROWARI	D	MBEACH	ST. LUCIE INDIAN RIVER	OKEECHOBEE HIGHLANDS	
II. BASIS OF JURISDICT	TION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	III. CI	ITIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff	
1 U.S. Government (G3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)			TF DEF 1 □ 1 Incorporated or Pr of Business In Thi		
	□4 Diversity	Citiz	en of Another State	2		
Defendant	(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		en or Subject of a	of Business In 2 3	Another State	
	lace an "X" in One Box Only)					
CONTRACT	TORTS		FEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
□ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY □ 210 Land Condemnation □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 362 Personal Injury 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 368 Asbestos Persor Injury Product Liability 340 Marine 368 Asbestos Persor Injury Product Liability 345 Marine Product Liability 370 Other Fraud 370 Other Fraud 370 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage	e	510 Agriculture 520 Other Food & Drug 525 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 530 Liquor Laws 540 R.R. & Truck 550 Airline Regs. 560 Occupational Safety/Health 590 Other LABOR 710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting & Disclosure Act 740 Railway Labor Act 790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal	400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 810 Selective Service 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 892 Economic Stabilization Act 893 Environmental Matters 894 Energy Allocation Act 895 Freedom of Information Act 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
	Court Appellate Court	Reo	nstated or another special another special special special another special ano		1 Judgment	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	(Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964. LENGTH OF TRIAL via days estimated (for both side)	42 U.S.	.C. Section 2000e, et		es unites uiversity <i>)</i> :	
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	ON D	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND	if demanded in complaint:	
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY) (See instructions): JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER	•	
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT # AMOU	SIGNATURE OF A Y CO UNT APPLYING IFP		1 0	re		

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

No.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,						
vs.	Plaintiff,					
TOWN	TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA,					
	Defendant/					
CIVIL COMPLAINT COVER SHEET						
1.			atter pending in the Northern Region of the United ober 14, 2003? Yes _X No			
2.	Did this matter originate from a matter pending in the Central Region of the United States Attorney's Office prior to September 1, 2007? YesX_ No					
			Respectfully submitted,			
			WIFREDO A. FERRER UNITED STATES ATTORNEY			
		BY:	s/ Veronica Harrell-James VERONICA HARRELL-JAMES ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY Florida Bar No. 644791 99 N. E. 4th Street Miami, Florida 33132-2111 TEL (305) 961-9327 FAX (305) 530-7139			