



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Northern District of Ohio*

United States Court House
801 West Superior Avenue, Suite 400
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1852

Re: Sexual Harassment in Housing and the COVID-19 Crisis

Dear Community Partner:

In these unprecedented times and as the nation mounts a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we see the need to re-confirm our commitment to eradicating sexual harassment in housing in our district. Sexual harassment by landlords, property managers, maintenance workers, and others may violate the federal Fair Housing Act. The Department of Justice, through the United States Attorney's Office, remains unwavering in the enforcement of this statute.

As a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis, many in our communities have found themselves out of work, furloughed, or otherwise in dire financial straits. This has led many to seek abatements or suspensions of their rent or seek other accommodations during this time. While many landlords and housing providers have positively responded with understanding, others have seen an opportunity to exploit the financially vulnerable through demands for sexual favors and other acts of unwelcome sexual misconduct.

Please know that the U.S. Attorney's Office remains ready to investigate complaints of sexual harassment in housing and to deploy all available enforcement tools against anyone who engages in this behavior. Please contact us should you have any questions or become aware of any potential incidents of sexual harassment in housing. You can leave a voice message at 216-622-3932 or email us at USAOHNCivilRights@usdoj.gov, and we will respond promptly.

Enclosed please find a copy of a flyer in English and Spanish, with information about sexual harassment in housing and contact information for reporting potential complaints. Please feel free to share the flyer by printing and displaying or distributing it, and by sharing it through social media.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

JUSTIN E. HERDMAN
United States Attorney

By: Michelle L. Heyer

Heather Tonsing Volosin
Assistant United States Attorneys

Enclosure