

**JOINT STATEMENT FROM TOMIKA ANGLIN, AND ANTHONY AND LORI
GOTZIS REGARDING THE SETTLEMENT OF THEIR CASE**

Tomika Anglin and Anthony and Lori Gotzis are pleased to announce the amicable resolution of the charge filed with the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations (PCHR) for violation of the Philadelphia Fair Practices Ordinance (“FPO”), which prohibits discrimination based on source of income. According to the Complaint, the Respondents discriminated against Ms. Anglin by not accepting a housing voucher. *See Anglin v. Allegiance Real Estate LLC and Anthony Gotzis and Lori Gotzis*, PCHR Charge No. 2019-08-12-2001. PCHR began its investigation of this complaint in August 2019. The parties reached a settlement through the agency’s administrative conciliation process by which none of these parties admitted to fault or liability. However, in addition to undisclosed monetary terms, Respondents have adopted written policies regarding compliance with applicable federal, state and local fair housing laws.

“As housing costs increase and wages for many remain stagnant, discriminating against a tenant based on how they pay their rent is yet another barrier to securing housing,” said Ms. Anglin. “I appreciate the Gotzis’ implementation of source of income anti-discrimination policies in their leasing practices.”

“We are pleased that Anthony and Lori Gotzis have demonstrated a serious commitment to abiding by the spirit and letter of the FPO source of income discrimination protection,” said Sari Bernstein, an attorney at the Public Interest Law Center, which represented Tomika Anglin in this case. The FPO protects renters from discrimination, including discrimination based on the manner in which a renter intends to pay rent, such as Housing Choice Vouchers. “The adoption of anti-discrimination policies make it easier for both the landlord and tenants to understand their rights and responsibilities under local law.”

“Anthony and Lori Gotzis commitment to complying with the FPO will allow people with housing vouchers to have fair access to housing,” said Molly Flynn, Esq., of Faegre Drinker, an attorney who also represented Ms. Anglin in this action.

The Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations enforces Philadelphia’s laws that protect an individual’s basic right to fair and equal treatment by landlords and other providers of housing and property.

“This experience has been a valuable lesson for us, a small landlord who uses property management companies,” said Anthony and Lori Gotzis. “It has encouraged us to take a more active role with our management company, and see that policies are in place to ensure compliance with the law. We are pleased that we could work with Ms. Anglin and the Public Interest Law Center to both properly rectify the situation and raise awareness among all small landlords in Philadelphia.”

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The Public Interest Law Center uses high-impact legal strategies to advance the civil, social, and economic rights of communities in the Philadelphia region facing discrimination, inequality, and poverty. We use litigation, community education, advocacy, and organizing to secure their access to fundamental resources and services in the areas of public education, housing, health care, employment, environmental justice and voting. For more information visit www.pubintl.org or follow on Twitter @PubIntLawCtr.