

PRESS RELEASE

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PHRC ISSUES A CONSENT ORDER IN A FAIR HOUSING CASE BROUGHT BY THE FAIR HOUSING COUNCIL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Philadelphia, PA, November 22, 2004 – The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission issued a Consent Order and Decree in a disability complaint filed in 2001 by the Fair Housing Council of Montgomery County. In early 2001, the Council received a complaint from an individual with a disability who had been denied an apartment by Arthur Nemroff, the owner of Regina Rose Apartment in Elkins Park. The Council gathered evidence that Mr. Nemroff refused to rent to people with service animals. Prior to filing the complaint, the Council had contacted Mr. Nemroff to request a reasonable accommodation for the individual with a disability but Mr. Nemroff refused. The Council proceeded to file a complaint based upon a violation of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act that prohibits discrimination based upon disability and refusal to make reasonable accommodations for a person with a disability.

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission investigated the matter and found probable cause that discrimination had occurred. The Consent Decree ordered training for Mr. Nemroff, issuance of a non-discriminatory policy to all current and future employees and agents of Regina Rose, affirmative advertising, and posting of appropriate equal opportunity/fair housing notices. Furthermore, Mr. Nemroff agreed that in any subsequent complaints the matter will proceed directly to a PHRC hearing for a determination as to whether a reasonable accommodation must be made.