



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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**MANHATTAN U.S. ATTORNEY FILES CIVIL RIGHTS LAWSUIT  
AGAINST RIVERDALE LANDLORD FOR DISCRIMINATING AGAINST  
AFRICAN-AMERICANS**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that the United States has filed a federal civil rights lawsuit under the Fair Housing Act against LOVENTHAL SILVER RIVERDALE LLC, GOODMAN MANAGEMENT COMPANY and JESUS VELASCO for discriminating against African-Americans seeking to rent apartments at 3800 Independence Avenue in the Bronx, New York.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA said: "It is hard to fathom that in this day and age, there are still landlords who engage in race discrimination. But, sadly, this lawsuit alleges exactly that. The lawsuit also demonstrates that we will enforce the fair housing laws, and that illegal discrimination will not be tolerated."

According to the Complaint filed in Manhattan federal court:

The apartment complex at 3800 Independence Avenue is a 72-unit, residential apartment complex located in the Riverdale neighborhood of the Bronx. The apartment complex is owned by LOVENTHAL SILVER RIVERDALE LLC and managed by GOODMAN MANAGEMENT COMPANY. JESUS VELASCO is the superintendent of the apartment complex.

According to the Complaint, since at least April 2009, LOVENTHAL SILVER RIVERDALE LLC, GOODMAN MANAGEMENT COMPANY and JESUS VELASCO have engaged in conduct constituting illegal discrimination on the basis of race and color under the Fair Housing Act. The Complaint alleges that they failed to inform African-American prospective tenants about available apartments, told African-Americans that certain apartments were not available and failed to show them available apartments, while telling Caucasians the opposite and showing them available apartments.

In addition, the Complaint alleges that LOVENTHAL SILVER RIVERDALE LLC, GOODMAN MANAGEMENT COMPANY and JESUS VELASCO failed to give rental applications and the management company's contact information to African-Americans but provided that information to Caucasians. The Complaint also alleges that LOVENTHAL SILVER RIVERDALE LLC, GOODMAN MANAGEMENT COMPANY and JESUS VELASCO did not provide the same discounted rent prices to African-Americans that were offered to similarly situated Caucasians.

The Complaint seeks an injunction against the defendants' discriminatory practices, as well as monetary damages for victims of discrimination and a civil penalty against the defendants.

The case is being handled by the Office's Civil Rights Unit. Assistant United States Attorney ALICIA M. SIMMONS is in charge of the case.

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