

JOINT STATEMENT OF COLLEGE SQUARE, LLC AND HOME OF VA  
CONCERNING SETTLEMENT OF FAIR HOUSING LAWSUIT

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## Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia (HOME of VA) and Virginia Beach property manager enter settlement

(Richmond, VA – DATE) – Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia (“HOME of VA”) and College Square VA Beach Apartments, LLC (“College Square”) announce the settlement of a lawsuit previously pending in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

The lawsuit settled HOME of VA’s claims against College Square alleging that College Square unlawfully discriminated against prospective apartment tenants on the basis of their use of public housing vouchers to pay rent. In support of its allegations, HOME of VA testers recorded calls with a College Square representative in which testers were advised that College Square either did not accept or only in limited circumstances accepted housing vouchers.

College Square denied any allegations of intentional discrimination. In support of its defense, College Square noted that it had a history of accepting housing vouchers and that any errant information was provided by an employee who no longer works for the company.

In the wake of HOME of VA’s allegations College Square undertook important training efforts for its employees and corrected erroneous information on its website. HOME of VA and College Square also negotiated collaboratively an agreement that ensures ongoing training for College Square employees, provides for accurate information concerning housing vouchers on College Square’s website, and provides for ongoing cooperation regarding certain fair housing requirements between College Square and HOME of VA. In addition, College Square agreed to pay \$107,500 to HOME of VA in settlement of the suit.

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Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia (HOME of VA), founded in 1971, is a statewide civil rights fair housing organization and a HUD-approved housing counseling 501(c)(3) non-profit. HOME of VA fulfills its mission to ensure equal access to housing for all people by addressing housing discrimination, advocating for effective state and local policy to enforce and expand fair housing, and taking direct action to aid first-time homebuyers, families with homes under the threat of foreclosure, and individuals with Housing Choice Vouchers seeking to move to neighborhoods of opportunity. Learn more about HOME of VA and all its services at [HOMEofVA.org](http://HOMEofVA.org).