For Immediate Release

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HOME wins settlement for client

Buffalo, NY (December 3, 2018)—In December of 2015, Jackie Crouch arrived at Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME) to report that her landlords, Richard and Suzana Mazella, had refused to accept her Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher. Three months later, she was evicted and forced to leave her home. The only fair housing organization in Western New York, HOME filed Ms. Crouch’s case with the City of Buffalo’s Fair Housing Officer (FHO) in March of 2016.

The FHO found probable cause to believe that discrimination had occurred under the City’s fair housing law, and unsuccessfully attempted to conciliate the case out of court. In May of 2018, the City of Buffalo filed a case in the NY Supreme Court against the Mazellas. The case concluded in October of 2018 with the defendants agreeing to settle the case by paying Ms. Crouch $6,500. This case represents a major victory for Ms. Crouch, HOME, and the City’s fair housing law, which has prohibited source of income discrimination since 2006.

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