

## **Class Action Settlement Seeks to Pay Victims of Displacement**

On May 22, 2020 Federal District Judge Wilhelmina Wright ordered preliminary approval of a class action settlement in the case of *Campbell, et al v. City of Rochester*. The proposed \$200,000 settlement will compensate former residents of several downtown Rochester rental properties who were required to move in 2017 without any of the relocation assistance to which they were entitled.

In 2017, a developer working with the City of Rochester acquired two adjoining apartment buildings and several nearby rental units for purposes of demolition and redevelopment. All the residents, were required to move out and into a very difficult rental market with much higher rents. With one partial exception, none of the residents were provided any relocation assistance.

Two of those residents, James Campbell and Sarah Louisell, filed a class action lawsuit asserting that the City's involvement in the redevelopment triggered the Minnesota Uniform Relocation Act. The Act requires that displaced residents be provided help in relocating, including substantial payments to cover moving costs and increased housing costs at their new location. The plaintiffs are represented by the Housing Justice Center, a Twin Cities based public interest law firm, as well as by Schnitker Law Office and Morphew Law Office.

Now that the case has preliminarily settled, the Court has appointed Three Rivers Community Action, Inc. to find and provide notice to class members, and to determine claims by class members for payments from the settlement.

Persons who lived at one of the following addresses during the period between October 2016 and July 2017 may be class members and eligible to receive payments: 507 Third Ave SW, 509 Third Ave SW, 519 Third Ave SW, 506 Fourth Ave SW, 514 Fourth Ave SW, 304 Fifth St SW, and 315 Sixth St SW.

However, class members must file a claim form with Three Rivers CAP by no later than July 13, 2020.

For more information, contact Kenedy Beebe at Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.

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