

Edward Riccio, Shoreline Acquisition Group LLC

To: Program Review & Investigation Committee

Please review and Change the process of How discrimination complaints are processed.

We ask the legislature to make these changes to have a fair legal process for all parties involved

Please address these major points below:

1. Program Review & Investigation Committee The Standard of Review should be raised so that the Complainant can only request "Reconsideration" (Appeal) just one time - not have the right to appeal an unlimited amount of times driving the defense into making deals to avoid endless litigation costs.
 - a.) Respondents shall be extended the same right to Reconsideration as Complainants.
2. A Complainant must SWEAR UNDER OATH that their complaint is true and factual and must also be Notarized
 - a.) Restore the affidavit language that requires the complaint to make true and factual statements; the same condition required of Respondents.
3. Damages should be limited to actual damages. It was never intended to give Complainants a career in bringing housing complaints and asking for monetary damages that bear no rational relation to the injury or to the facts of the situation.
 - a.) Likewise, private attorneys should not be able to use the CHRO forum to bring discrimination cases- they should have to avail themselves of the regular court system like all other cases seeking monetary damages.
 - b.) Solicitations, like the Craig's list ad, should not be allowed. Its comparable to an underage minor being allowed to be hired to go into establishments to "sting" sellers of tobacco and alcohol- certainly allowed by the police, who can bring charges, but not allowed by members of the public or for attorneys wherein are seeking monetary gain in the form of "damages".
4. Raise the "Burden of Proof" so that a Complainant must show a Fair Housing violation by a preponderance of the evidence. Currently the standard is "Reasonable Cause" and is too low for a burden of proof as it MUST BE MORE LIKELY that discrimination occurred rather than LESS LIKELY.
5. Complaints Must Be Pre-Screened by a Merit Assessment Review before Respondents are subjected to the investigative process and submit a "Schedule A." Cases that are retaliatory and frivolous must be denied at an early stage.
6. Secret tape recordings of conversations are not permitted. Any Complainant having made any secret recording shall be grounds for immediate dismissal of that complaint.

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