United States Attorney
Southern District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 22, 1998

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PRESS RELEASE

MARY JO WHITE, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today the filing of a Consent Decree in White Plains federal court in a discrimination suit filed under the federal Fair Housing Act against a company that manages a residential apartment complex in Tarrytown and its employee.

In this civil action, which was consolidated with a private action brought against the same defendants, the Government charges that the defendants, SAMSON MANAGEMENT COMPANY, the manager of Sleepy Hollow Gardens located at 177 White Plains Road in Tarrytown, New York, and MANNY ZEVALLOS, an employee of Samson Management Co., discriminated against a rental tenant on the basis of disability.

According to the Complaints, the defendants refused to make a reasonable accommodation in their rules, policies, practices and services when such an accommodation was necessary to afford the complainant an equal opportunity to use and enjoy her rental apartment. Specifically, according to the Complaints,

the defendants violated the Fair Housing Act by refusing for several months to provide the tenant with a reserved parking space near her apartment, and later imposing a fee on her for the requested accommodation, even though the parking space had been used by other tenants free of charge.

Under the Consent Decree filed last week, the defendants agreed not to discriminate in the future on the basis of disability and to make reasonable accommodations to present and future disabled tenants to afford those tenants an equal opportunity to use and enjoy their apartments. The defendants also agreed to designate three parking spaces at Sleepy Hollow Gardens for use without charge by disabled tenants. The defendants will also pay $8,000 in compensatory damages to the complainant in this case.

MS. WHITE said: "This case demonstrates the Government's commitment to vigorously pursue management companies and their employees who refuse to make reasonable accommodations in their rules, policies, practices and services to tenants with disabilities. Housing discrimination of this nature simply cannot be tolerated."

Assistant United States Attorney MARIANNE T. O'TOOLE is in charge of the Government's case.

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