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GENERAL NEWS

HUD Releases FY 2024 Financial Report

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (<u>HUD</u>) has <u>released</u> its fiscal year (FY) 2024 agency financial report (<u>AFR</u>). The AFR is the first part of HUD's FY 2024 performance and accountability report. HUD will release the other part, the agency performance report (APR), separately. The FY 2024 AFR features HUD's financial and performance highlights for the federal fiscal year that ended September 30, 2024. It contains three sections:

- Management's discussion and analysis
- Financial information
- Other information, including an Office of Inspector General (<u>OIG</u>) report on top management challenges facing HUD in FY 2025

DOJ Sues KY Property Manager and Owners for Sexual Harassment

In a <u>press release</u> yesterday, the Department of Justice (<u>DOJ</u>) announced that it has filed a lawsuit against the owner and operator of rental properties in Lexington, Kentucky, for engaging in sexual harassment and retaliation in violation of the <u>Fair Housing Act</u>. The lawsuit also names as defendants 12 owners of rental properties managed by the respondent.

The <u>lawsuit</u>, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky, alleges that for many years the respondent has sexually harassed numerous female tenants by offering housing-related benefits in exchange for sexual contact, making unwelcome sexual comments and advances, entering their homes without permission, subjecting them to unwelcome touching and groping, and taking adverse housing-related actions against those who refused his sexual advances. The lawsuit seeks monetary damages to compensate persons harmed by the alleged harassment, a civil penalty against each defendant to vindicate the public interest, and a court order barring future discrimination.

The Fair Housing Act prohibits harassment of tenants and other forms of housing discrimination because of race, sex, color, national origin, disability, religion, and familial status. In October 2017, the DOJ's Civil Rights Division <u>announced</u> the <u>Sexual Harassment in Housing Initiative</u>. The initiative specifically seeks to increase the Department's efforts to protect individuals from harassment by landlords, property managers, maintenance workers, security guards, and other employees and representatives of rental property owners. Since launching the Initiative, the Department has filed 46 lawsuits alleging sexual harassment in housing.



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