

Housing Rights, Inc.

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Attorneys Robert Salinas of Sundeen Salinas & Pyle and Philip Rapier Settle Lawsuit Against Mobilehome Park in San Pablo for \$520,000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A lawsuit by 15 Latino families alleging that the Caucasian resident managers of the Alpine Mobilehome Park in San Pablo, California, repeatedly used racial slurs and intimidating behavior has been settled for \$520,000.

On May 3rd, 2004, Marin Trujillo, Director of Social Service for Dover Elementary School, attended a San Pablo City Council meeting. He spoke regarding the treatment of families by the manager of the Alpine Mobile Home Park across the street. According to Sr. Trujillo, it all started with one family coming over wanting help with understanding a document they had been given. From there, other families came over seeking help and the conduct of the managers came to light.

Housing Rights, Inc. staffperson Julianne Prescop worked with families at the Park and also worked with Dover school as well. The resident managers used racial epithets against the tenants, mocked them when they asserted their rights, and showed a general aggression because of the tenants' ancestry. This included constant yelling and screaming, cussing, inappropriate physical gestures, and saying things like "Mexicans are pigs" and "Mexicans are stupid."The tenants also complained that the resident managers threatened to

call the “INS” and obstructed the sale of the Latinos’ mobilehomes by requiring purchase documentation beyond that of non-Latinos, resulting in abandonment. These tenants complained that the resident managers then assumed ownership of the abandoned trailers and sold them for profit. . The Manager towed only the Latino family's cars and refused to let Latino family children play outside. They also reported that the Manager used security cameras that were located throughout the park and if they had guests or company over, the Manager would immediately come into their home and yell at them and make the guests leave.

It took the efforts of the school, Housing Rights, Inc. and other community supporters to encourage the families to accept legal help. These brave families worked with attorneys Rapier and Salinas for several years and they now have justice.

Housing Rights, Inc. is a certified Lawyer Referral Service. Through that service a referral was made to Robert Salinas of Sundeen Salinas & Pyle. Robert asked Phil Rapier to join him in what proved to be a long and hard case but ultimately successful in that they secured a settlement of \$520,000 for 15 families. The case was settled with the aid of Justice Robert Dossee (Ret.) of the JAMS mediation service in San Francisco, California.

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