

5. It is understood that the execution of this Consent Order does not constitute an admission by the Respondents of any violation of the Act. The Respondents deny any violation of the Act and all allegations of fault, wrongdoing, or liability alleged in the Charge.

6. The parties agree that HUD shall file with the Office of Administrative Law Judges a Motion for Entry of an Initial Decision and Consent Order, along with this Initial Decision and Consent Order, after this document is executed by all parties.

7. This Consent Order is binding upon Respondents, their members, principals, owners, employees, successors, agents, assigns, and all others in active concert with them in the rental and management of the residential properties at issue in this matter located at 79 Groveland Street, Haverhill, Massachusetts 01830.

8. This Consent Order is a full settlement of all claims by Complainants that are in any way related to the allegations set forth in the Charge.

9. In consideration of the Respondents' execution of this Consent Order, the Complainants hereby forever waive, release, and discharge the Department, Respondents, and their attorneys, representatives, employees, and agents from any and all claims, causes of action, demands, fees, and liabilities of any kind, whether known or unknown, that Complainants have, have had, or may have concerning the subject matter of HUD ALJ No. 22-JM-0058-FH-001 and the events described in the Charge.

10. In consideration of the Complainants' execution of this Consent Order, the Respondents hereby forever waive, release, and discharge the Department, Complainants, and their attorneys, representatives, employees, and agents from any and all claims, causes of action, demands, fees, and liabilities of any kind, whether known or unknown, that Respondents have, have had, or may have concerning the subject matter of HUD ALJ No. 22-JM-0058-FH-001 and the events described in the Charge.

11. Pursuant to 24 C.F.R § 180.680, this Consent Order is a public document.

III. RELIEF FOR COMPLAINANTS

12. Within 15 days of the effective date of this Consent Order, Respondents shall pay to Complainants a total of eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000.00) in full settlement of Complainants' claims for damages arising out of the allegations presented in the Charge. Respondents shall make such payment to Complainants by certified or cashier's check(s) payable to "Jennifer Daniel" and send the check(s) to:

Jennifer Daniel



13. Complainants acknowledge that they are responsible for any tax consequences arising from the payment described above. Respondents disclaim liability for any tax consequences and will file all tax documents required by the Internal Revenue Service.

IV. RELIEF IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

14. Respondents, their agents, employees, successors and assigns as well as any other person in active concert or participation with any of them are hereby enjoined from discriminating in the sale or rental of a dwelling on the basis of familial status, as prohibited by the Act.

15. Within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Consent Order, Respondent Maryanne Hart shall attend one of the following online educational programs: (1) Institute of Real Estate Management's FHS201 Fair Housing and Beyond; (2) National Center for Housing Management's Fair Housing Essentials; (3) The Fair Housing Institute's Fair Housing Training for Property Managers, The New Basics of Fair Housing; or (4) Fair Housing in a Flash. Respondent Hart is responsible for any and all costs associated with the aforementioned training. Proof of attendance of training must be submitted to:

Daniel Weaver, Regional Director
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
10 Causeway Street, Room 308
Boston, MA 02222

16. The Respondents shall include the following statement in all future rental advertisements:

“We comply with all federal and state fair housing laws and lead paint laws. Families welcome.”

V. NONDISPARAGEMENT

17. Complainants and Respondents agree that they shall refrain from making written or oral statements concerning this matter that are intended or reasonably expected to be viewed as disparaging of the character of any Complainant or Respondent in this case for the duration of this Consent Order. This provision shall not apply to any written or oral statements describing the terms of this Consent Order or made as part of any future judicial or administrative proceeding. Complainants and Respondents agree that a violation of this clause shall be deemed a material breach of this Consent Order entitling the harmed party to injunctive relief or damages.

VI. REPORTING AND RECORD KEEPING

18. During the term of this Consent Order, Respondents shall notify HUD of any formal complaint filed against them with a local, state, or federal agency regarding equal opportunity or discrimination in housing within ten (10) days of receipt of any such complaint. Respondents shall provide a copy of the complaint with the notification to HUD. Respondents shall provide such notification to:

Daniel Weaver, Regional Director
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

10 Causeway Street, Room 308
Boston, MA 02222

VII. COMPLIANCE

19. Upon breach of any provision of this Consent Order, HUD may refer this matter to the Department of Justice to petition the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit to enforce the Consent Order and for any other appropriate relief in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 3612(j).

VIII. ADMINISTRATION

20. This Consent Order is entered into pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 3612(g)(3) and 24 C.F.R. § 180.450. This Consent Order will become effective and final thirty (30) calendar days from the date it is issued by the HUD ALJ or earlier, if affirmed by the Secretary within that time (“effective date”). 24 C.F.R. § 180.680(b).

21. The signatures of Complainants and Respondents on this Consent Order constitute a waiver of any right to withdraw their consent during the thirty-day period of review by the Secretary and a waiver of any right to challenge the validity of the Consent Order at any time.

22. This Consent Order shall remain in effect for a period of two (2) years from its effective date.

23. This Consent Order does not in any way limit or restrict HUD’s authority to investigate any other unrelated complaints involving Respondents made pursuant to the Act, or any other complaints within HUD’s jurisdiction.

24. If Respondents need an extension of time in order to satisfy a deadline provided in this Consent Order, such extension must be obtained in writing from counsel for the Department.

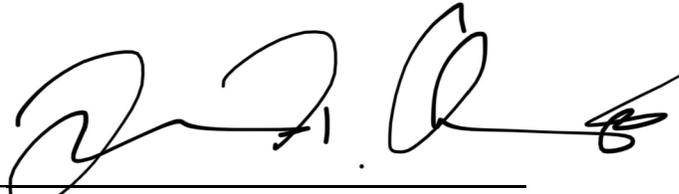
25. The signature of the parties to this Consent Order constitute a waiver of any right to apply for attorney fees or costs pursuant to 24 C.F.R. § 180.705. Each party is responsible for its own attorney fees and costs, if any.

26. The parties agree that in the interest of a prompt conclusion of this matter, the execution of this Consent Order may be accomplished by the parties’ signatures on separate pages of this Consent Order, with the signature pages and Consent Order to constitute one document to be filed with the Office of Administrative Law Judges. Signature pages may be provided by facsimile or electronic transmission.

IX. AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES

26. The parties below have read this Consent Order in HUDOHA 22-JM-0058-FH-001 and have willingly signed it with a full understanding of the rights it confers and the responsibilities it imposes upon them, as signified by their signature, or that of their counsel, below:
[SIGNATURE PAGES TO FOLLOW]

COMPLAINANTS:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francis Chase', written over a horizontal line.

Francis Chase

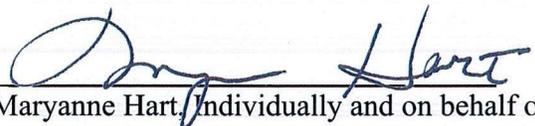
Date: 4/18/2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Daniel', written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer Daniel

Date: 4/18/2022

RESPONDENTS:



Maryanne Hart Individually and on behalf of
of Blossom Associates, LLC

Date: 4/14/22

FOR THE DEPARTMENT:

Derya Samadi

Derya Samadi
Acting Regional Counsel for New England
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development
10 Causeway Street, Room 310
Boston, MA 02222

Date: 4/18/22

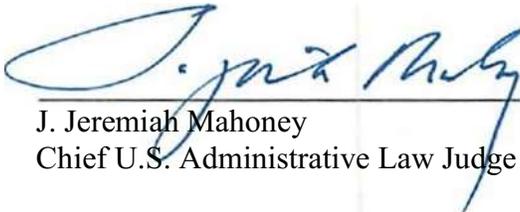
X. ORDER OF THE COURT

The foregoing order was presented to the undersigned Administrative Law Judge for approval on April 19, 2022. In accord with 24 C.F.R. § 180.450, the Administrative Law Judge shall accept a settlement agreement agreed to by the parties if he finds the agreement to be in the public interest, by issuing an Initial Decision and Consent Order.

After considering the record in its entirety, the undersigned Administrative Law Judge has independently determined that the agreement between the parties does not offend the public interest and it is approved. All parties have given their consent and signed the agreement incorporated in the foregoing Consent Order, which is hereby accepted and issued.

This Consent Order carries no precedential weight, as the matter has been reviewed solely to determine that the parties' settlement does not offend the public interest. No opinion is expressed on legal or policy statements contained herein, nor the form and quantum of the agreed relief.

So **ORDERED**, this 19th day of April 2022.



J. Jeremiah Mahoney
Chief U.S. Administrative Law Judge