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HUD Opens Civil Rights Compliance Review of League City, Texas

Texas Appleseed-MALDEF complaint against city for banning child refugees drives HUD review

AUSTIN, Texas — The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will send officials to League City, Texas, to investigate whether the city's programs are in compliance with nondiscrimination laws. The in-person compliance review begins November 3, 2014.

The response is one part of the relief that Texas Appleseed and MALDEF requested from HUD when the two nonprofit advocacy organizations filed a federal complaint against League City in July challenging the city's resolution that banned child refugees, and alleging other violations of civil rights laws. HUD is requesting League City's documents starting in fiscal year 2011.

The review will examine whether League City is administering HUD-funded and HUD-assisted Community Development Block Grant programs and activities free from the effects of discrimination based on race, color, or national origin. The HUD letter specifically cites nondiscrimination requirements of Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as well as Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If the review finds noncompliance, HUD will require corrective action.

"We are pleased that HUD has started this review and believe it will confirm that League City has repeatedly violated fair housing and civil rights requirements," said Maddie Sloan, director of Texas Appleseed's Disaster Recovery and Fair Housing Project. "Our hope has always been that League City will come back into compliance with civil rights laws and treat all of its residents equally."

On July 8, 2014, the city council of League City passed Resolution No. 2014-23, effectively banning unauthorized immigrants, particularly child refugees, from its jurisdiction. Among other mandates, city officials voted 6-2 to use "any manner necessary" within the government's power to keep refugee children out of League City. League City called on other jurisdictions to join them in passing similar resolutions.

(more)

The Texas Appleseed-MALDEF complaint was the first action of its kind nationally since jurisdictions began passing anti-refugee resolutions in response to the tens of thousands of children who arrived at the U.S. border this year to escape extreme violence in their home countries including El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

About Texas Appleseed

Texas Appleseed is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote social and economic justice for all Texans by leveraging the skills and resources of volunteer lawyers and other professionals to identify practical solutions to difficult, systemic problems.
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