

Ypsilanti man to receive settlement from apartment complex

January 17, 2007

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An elderly Ypsilanti man who was forced out of his apartment complex after he asked to be able to pay his rent three weeks later than other tenants tentatively has won a \$50,000 settlement from the complex, the U.S. Attorney's Office announced Wednesday.

Under the terms of a proposed settlement filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Ann Arbor, Fairway Trails Apartments also agreed to post a non-discriminatory rental policy, undergo training on the requirements of the Federal Fair Housing Act and to submit periodic compliance reports to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Detroit.

The government filed the suit on behalf of Tyus, 57, who had asked the complex for a modified payment arrangement to coincide with arrival of Social Security disability checks. The suit said Tyus suffers from congestive heart failure, diabetes and high blood pressure.

The complex initially tried to evict him for non-payment and, when that failed, refused to renew his lease, the lawsuit said.

U.S. Attorney Stephen Murphy said the settlement "helps to ensure that those who wish to assert their rights under the Fair Housing Act can do so without fear or reprisal."

There was no immediate comment from the apartment complex.

Pamela Kisch, of the Ann Arbor-based Fair Housing Center, which intervened on Tyus' behalf before the government got involved, called the agreement "an important victory for him and other people who have been the victims of housing discrimination or retaliation."

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