

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF GEORGETOWN

[REDACTED]

Complainant,

vs.

Varner Commercial Property Consultants, Inc.,
owner and mgmt. co.
c/o [REDACTED] registered agent
814 A Johnnie Dobbs
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29646

[REDACTED], Property Manager
Garden Grove
706 Pathfinder Way
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

Respondent.

) BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA
) HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

) SHAC No. H-3-17-042
) HUD No. 04-18-0342-8

CONCILIATION AGREEMENT

This compromise Conciliation Agreement is entered into by and between the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission (hereinafter "Commission"), on behalf of [REDACTED] (hereinafter "Complainant"), versus Varner Commercial Property Consultants, Inc., et. al. (hereinafter "Respondent").

WHEREAS, a verified complaint was filed on September 3, 2017 by Complainant against Respondent alleging a violation of the South Carolina Fair Housing Law and dual-filed with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Federal Fair Housing Act, as amended.

I. CASE SYNOPSIS

Complainant [REDACTED] identifies herself as a person who has a disability. The Complainant belongs to a class of person(s) whom the Fair Housing Act (the "Act") protects from unlawful discrimination because of disability. The subject property is located at 514 Richway Drive, Murrells Inlet, (Horry County), South Carolina 29576. The Respondent is [REDACTED], property manager, Varner Commercial Properties, owner and property management company.

The Complainant alleges that the Respondent denied her requests for reasonable accommodations and has subjected her to disparate terms and conditions. The Complainant stated that she made Respondent Cathy Newcomer aware that she needed an accessible parking space when she moved in. The Complainant said that Cathy Newcomer told her on June 15, & 25, 2017 that she will have to pay \$769 to park in the space that she uses or she will take her deposit. The Complainant said the other parking spaces are too small and the parking space that she uses is the only one that allows her enough space to use her ramp so she

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can exit and enter her vehicle. The Complainant believes she is being denied the rights and privileges that non-disable tenants are afforded because she is being harassed about easy access in and out of her vehicle.

Respondent does not agree with the version of the facts presented by Complainant and denies having discriminated against Complainant, but agrees to settle the claims in the underlying action by entering into this Conciliation Agreement.

WHEREAS, the Commission and the parties hereto wish to reach a just resolution of the aforementioned dispute, and reach a full, equitable and final settlement of all matters arising out of the aforementioned complaint.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereby agree and stipulate to the following:

II. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. The terms set forth herein are contractual and not merely a recital.
- B. The parties acknowledge that this Agreement is a full settlement of the disputed complaint. The parties hereto state that they have read and fully understand the significance of the terms set forth herein and have executed this compromise Conciliation Agreement freely and voluntarily. No party has been coerced, intimidated, threatened, or in any way forced to become a party to this Agreement.
- C. This conciliation agreement fully and completely resolves all issues arising out of SHAC Case #H-3-17-042/HUD Case #04-18-0342-8 through the effective date of this agreement. The Commission and the Charging Party will take no further legal action with respect to, and will not initiate any action pertaining to, the facts and events which led to the filing of the charge so long as the parties abide by the terms of this Conciliation Agreement.
- D. This Agreement, after it has been approved by the Commissioner of South Carolina Human Affairs Commission (SCHAC) is binding upon all Respondents, their employees, successors and all others in active concert with them in the ownership or operation of [Varner Commercial Property Consultants, Inc., et. al.].
- E. It is understood that, pursuant to Section 31-21-120 (D) of the South Carolina Code of Laws Fair Housing Law, upon approval of this Agreement by the Commissioner of SCHAC, it is a public document.
- F. This Agreement does not in any way limit or restrict SCHAC's authority to investigate any other complaint involving Respondents made pursuant to the Fair Housing Law, or any other law within SCHAC's jurisdiction.
- G. This Conciliation Agreement constitutes closure of the complaint at HUD and South Carolina Human Affairs Commission upon a determination that the Complainant(s) and Respondent(s) have complied with the terms of the Agreement.

III. PROVISIONS FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST

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In order to assure that the public interest is protected, Respondent, without admitting to any violation of the South Carolina Fair Housing Law or Federal Fair Housing Act, agrees to continue to take such affirmative action as may be necessary to assure the elimination of discriminatory housing practices and the prevention of their occurrence in the future, including, but not limited to the following:

- A. Respondent agrees to comply with all Federal and State Housing Laws.
- B. Respondent agrees to consistently apply its standards for acceptance and rejection of housing applicants in an objective manner.
- C. Respondent agrees to allow any qualified person the right to purchase, rent, or occupy a dwelling regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.
- D. Respondent and Respondent's employees agree to attend Fair Housing training provided by the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission within six months from the date of the signed agreement.
- E. Within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this Agreement, Respondent agrees to display and maintain English and Spanish Fair Housing posters, form SHAC (8-92), in the main rental and/or purchase area.
- F. Respondent agrees to be monitored by the Commission for 6 months.

IV. RELIEF FOR COMPLAINANT

- A. Respondent agrees to pay the Complainant damages in the amount of \$1,000.00
- B. Respondent agrees to waive the Complainant's past due balance of \$446.63.
- C. Respondent agrees that there shall be no discrimination or retaliation of any kind against Complainant or any person who assisted the Commission in the filing of this charge or in the investigation of this matter.

V. RELEASE BY COMPLAINANT

- A. Upon compliance with the terms of Paragraph IV through herein, Complainant agrees to release and forever discharge Respondent and Respondent's employees, agents, successors, insurers, and assigns from any and all claims which may be raised on account of the matters raised herein.

VI. BREACH OF CONCILIATED TERMS

- A. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preclude the Commission and/or any aggrieved individual(s) from bringing suit to enforce this Agreement in the event that the Respondent fails to perform the promises and representations contained herein. Neither does it preclude the Commission from filing charges in the future concerning events occurring after the execution of this conciliation agreement. The Commission shall determine whether the Respondent has

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complied with the terms of this agreement. In the event that the Commission determines that the Respondent has not complied with the terms hereof, the Commission shall send written notice to the Respondent and the Respondent shall be given a reasonable time period to remedy such non-compliance.

B. Complainant and Respondent agree that this Agreement may be used as evidence in a subsequent proceeding in which any of the parties allege a breach of this Agreement.

VII. REPORTING & RECORDKEEPING

Parties shall submit proof of compliance with the terms of this Agreement to:

South Carolina Human Affairs Commission
Fair Housing Division
Attention: [Redacted]
1026 Sumter Street, Suite 101
Columbia, SC 29201

The submitter of any documentation should include the SCHAC and HUD case numbers, which are as follows:

SCHAC No. H-3-17-042
HUD No. C4-18-0342-8

VIII. COMMISSION REVIEW

A. Subject to the provisions of Section 814 of the Fair Housing Act, as amended, 42 U. S. C. Section 3614, and in accordance with the provisions of State Regulations R. 65-225.G., the Commission may, from time to time, review compliance with this Conciliation Agreement, and, if necessary, recommend to the South Carolina Attorney General that a civil action be filed to seek the enforcement of any of the terms set forth herein.

IX. EFFECTIVE DATE

This agreement shall become effective on the date on which it is approved and signed by the Commissioner of the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have subscribed their names hereto on the day and date indicated.

[Redacted signature line]
Complainant

9/21/18
(Date)

[Redacted signature line]
Varner Commercial Property Consultants, Inc., et. al., Respondent,

7/20/18
(Date)

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[Redacted Signature]

Property Manager

7/30/18

(Date)

[Redacted Signature]

Conciliator

9/25/18

(Date)

Approved on Behalf of the Commission

Raymond Buxton II
Raymond Buxton II, Commissioner

9/26/18
(Date)

