



EMBARGO: Not for publication before Friday, October 16th, 2015 at 10:00AM

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Seniors File Class Action Lawsuit against Landlord Presbyterian Homes

Chicago, IL – Residents representing 112 low-income seniors will announce their class action lawsuit against property owner Presbyterian Homes on Friday, October 16th, 2015 at 10:00AM at 70 West Madison Street, Suite 4000.

This past August, CEO Todd Swortzel sent a letter notifying all residents that they will have to vacate their homes by November 2016 because the program has become “financially unsustainable” for the organization. Residents have learned that the charitable non-profit intends to sell to a market rate developer instead of an affordable housing developer, who would pay market rate for the buildings and allow residents to stay.

The lawsuits seeks an order requiring Presbyterian Homes to honor the leases, an injunction to protect the seniors from being evicted, and assistance for those who have already been forced to leave. “Presbyterian Homes promised these residents a home for life. Indeed for most if not all of them, they would not have chosen to live there otherwise. They have life leases. Presbyterian Homes cannot break the leases because they now want to sell these buildings. Any sale must be subject to the existing lease rights, and compensation must be provided to those who have already been forced out,” said Matthew Piers of Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd., one of the attorneys for the senior residents.

When she moved into Presbyterian Homes just seven months ago, 73-year-old resident and named plaintiff Linda Armitage was told: “You can live here all your life so long as you can follow the rules.” However, just a matter of months later, Armitage received a notice that she would have to move out, which she and her neighbors were “stunned and angry” to receive. She adds, “It’s too much for us to handle. None of us can afford a market rate apartment, and really, we shouldn’t have to, given the charitable mission of Presbyterian Homes.”

WHAT: Press conference to announce residents’ class action lawsuit

WHEN: Friday, October 16th, 2015, 10:00AM

WHERE: 70 W. Madison St., Suite 4000 – Offices of Hughes Socol Piers Resnick Dym, Ltd.

WHO: Presbyterian Homes residents and residents’ attorneys. #####

