



WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND URBAN AFFAIRS

For Immediate Release

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Equal Rights Center and Paradigm Development Company Agree to Expand Accessible Housing

ERC Welcomes Paradigm as newest addition to MultiFamily Housing Resource Program

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 19, 2010 —Today, Paradigm Development Company—a D.C. based apartment developer—and the Equal Rights Center (ERC)—a national civil rights organization based in Washington, D.C.—announced their agreement to work collaboratively to expand accessible housing for people with disabilities in Paradigm’s communities.

Under the parties’ agreement, Paradigm will survey and modify its housing units located in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, along with the public use and common use areas associated with those units. Paradigm will also become the newest member of the ERC’s Multifamily Housing Resource Program (MHRP), making a 10-year commitment to the program.

"Paradigm is pleased to announce the partnership with the Equal Rights Center and begin our initiative to make our developments more accessible," said [Paradigm spokesperson]. "By joining other leading and nationally recognized developers in the Multifamily Housing Resource Program, Paradigm is demonstrating our commitment to providing quality and accessible housing to those in our nation’s capital."

Since beginning its accessible housing initiative just 5 years ago, the ERC has reached agreements with 14 national, regional and local multifamily companies resulting in the alteration of more than 35,000 apartment and condominium units at more than 200 complexes in 18 states and the District of Columbia, to make them more accessible to people with disabilities.

“The Equal Rights Center welcomes Paradigm to our quickly growing MHRP family of developers committed to ensuring accessible housing,” said Don Kahl, Executive Director of the Equal Rights Center. “We look forward to working with Paradigm to improve the lives of people with disabilities looking for a quality place to call home.”

The MHRP is a proactive collaboration between the ERC and housing developers to increase the number of residential housing units in the United States that are accessible to persons with disabilities, and to enhance housing industry compliance with federal state and local accessibility laws through the use of best practices, employee training, and collaboration with disability advocates. In addition to its 10-year commitment to the MHRP, Paradigm will continue its commitment to training employees with respect to fair housing and accessibility issues.

Today, the MHRP works with developers who own hundreds of apartment properties across the nation to address housing accessibility issues in a proactive way. Paradigm joins other major multifamily companies, including AvalonBay, Bozutto, Camden Property Trust, Kettler, and Trammell Crow Residential in multi-year commitments to proactively work with the ERC to improve and ensure accessibility in housing through MHRP membership.

The ERC was represented in negotiating its agreement with Paradigm by the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights & Urban Affairs, and the Washington law firms of Gilbert LLP.

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About The Paradigm Companies (<http://www.paradigmcos.com/devmain.html>)

Paradigm Development Company has provided the expertise and capabilities required to develop, construct and manage over 3,000,000 square feet of institutional-quality residential and commercial buildings in the Washington DC area. Paradigm's reputation has been established in its ability to structure successfully financed transactions which have been delivered on schedule and within budget to the benefit of a wide variety of institutional clients, tenants, and third party owners. Paradigm has extensive experience in mixed zone projects and in working in joint ventures with non-profit housing organizations.

About the Equal Rights Center (www.equalrightscenter.org)

Originally formed in 1983, the Equal Rights Center (ERC) is a national non-profit civil rights organization based in Washington, D.C. With members located in 33 states and the District of Columbia, the ERC works nationally to promote equal opportunity in housing, employment, disability rights, immigrant rights, and access to public accommodations and government services for all protected classes under federal, state, and local laws.

About the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs (<http://www.washlaw.org/>)

The Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs was established in 1968 to provide pro bono legal services to address issues of discrimination and entrenched poverty. Since its founding, the Committee has handled more than 5,000 cases on behalf of individuals and advocacy organizations in the areas of equal employment, fair housing, public accommodations, public education, asylum and refugee rights, and disability rights. For more information about the Committee, see www.washlaw.org. The Committee can be reached at 202.319.1000.