

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Heather Hill Residents Fight Back Against Rental Conditions

Temple Hills, MD – The Prince George’s County NAACP, Community Legal Services of Prince George’s County, PG Change Makers, and Economic Action Maryland celebrate the announcement by Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown and his Consumer Protection Division to formally [file charges](#) against Heather Hill, et. al. due to inhumane living conditions in the Heather Hill apartment complex which violates state and local laws. In addition, the charges allege that Heather Hill’s property managers continued to collect rent without a valid license, a violation of the Maryland Collection Agency Licensing Act.

Earlier this year, longtime Heather Hill resident, Ms. Charlene Hall organized tenants within the apartment complex. Fellow Maryland advocates strategized alongside Heather Hill tenants to provide tenant advocacy and legislative support, and ensured that County leaders were aware of the ongoing conditions the tenants faced.

“When the mold and other safety hazards began affecting my health, I knew I had to do something,” said Charlene Hall, Heather Hill tenant. “I began reaching out to Heather Hill tenants to find out if they were having the same issues. Unfortunately, my concerns were not uncommon. I knew that we needed to be heard by county leaders including Governor Wes Moore and Attorney General Brown. I am happy they took our concerns seriously and are working to find a solution. “

This filing is a critical step for Heather Hill tenants seeking safe and humane living conditions and a testament to the power of community action and the pursuit of justice. We remain resolute that Maryland renters deserve safe and healthy housing and are free to voice their health and safety concerns. We applaud the steadfastness of the Heather Hill tenants as they continue their fight for dignity and fair housing.

“We are thrilled to see the Office of the Attorney General is prioritizing the rights of tenants to live in safe and healthy housing,” said Carol Ott, Tenant Advocacy Director at Economic Action Maryland. “For far too long, property management companies have been allowed to skirt the law, putting tenants at risk. We hope the Attorney General will continue to look at these practices and send a firm and clear message that tenants in Maryland deserve better.”

We encourage other Prince George's County residents experiencing unsafe housing conditions to reach out to learn more about their rights and possible remedies. Income-eligible tenants seeking legal advice can call Community Legal Services at (240) 391-6532 to speak with an attorney.

We thank Attorney General Brown for seeking redress on behalf of the Heather Hill residents, Councilmembers Edward Burroughs and Krystal Oriadha, and Senator Nick Charles for bringing attention to these serious issues. Additionally, we thank CASA for their organizing and advocacy support.

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Founded in 1909 in response to the ongoing violence against Black people around the country, the NAACP is the largest and most pre-eminent civil rights organization in the nation. Our mission is to achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate the well-being, education, and economic security of Black people and all persons of color.

