



For Immediate Release
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**REMINGTON TENANTS EXERCISE THEIR
RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL
City Law Demonstrates Qualified Tenants Can Live American Dream**

Baltimore, MD. - When 48 rental houses were suddenly put up for auction in Remington last July, the tenants residing in them did not know what to do. Each had questions, anxieties and uncertainties about their homes.

Working side-by-side, Episcopal Housing Corporation (EHC) and the Civil Justice, Inc. gave those residents a place to turn. These two community based groups contacted each qualified tenant in the Remington community with information on their right to purchase their rental property by exercising their statutory Right of First Refusal—a statutory right for qualified tenants in the City of Baltimore whose homes are sold by their landlords.

Most Remington tenants thought last summer that buying a home would be beyond their reach. However, through the work of EHC, Civil Justice, and the City of Baltimore the first of these tenants recently purchased her former rental property of 16 years and is now a proud homeowner!!

“Buying the house has been a really great experience,” said former tenant and new homeowner Alicia Carlos. “I wish that more tenants were aware of the programs available to help them make this kind of dream come true. EHC and Civil Justice were terrific in guiding me through this process.”

Not all tenants were interested in buying their rental property. However, for interested residents, Civil Justice provided legal services and EHC provided housing counseling services. EHC helped tenants determine their financial eligibility for mortgages and connected them with the programs of Baltimore City Office of Homeownership.

Two other Remington tenants were also able to purchase their rental properties in the last couple of months. All three tenants say they would never have been able to exercise their Right of First Refusal without the help and support of EHC and Civil Justice.

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Episcopal Housing Corporation is a housing and community development corporation doing work in the Greater Baltimore area. EHC's work includes developing real estate projects for people with limited incomes and special needs. EHC also does community building work, which consists of organizing residents, bringing in needed resources for the community, and serving as housing advocates for tenants and homeowners.

Civil Justice Inc. is a Maryland not-for-profit corporation formed for the purpose of increasing the delivery of legal services to clients of low and moderate income while promoting a statewide network of solo, small firm and community based lawyers who share a common commitment to increasing access to justice through traditional and non-traditional means.

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EHC's mission is to respond to God's call to establish justice for those most in need by building affordable housing and creating the foundations for healthy and sustainable communities.