

“No Section 8” Ads Show Up on Craigslist

By the Seattle Office for Civil Rights

Earlier this year SOCR settled a group of five director’s charges filed against property managers who had run rental ads on Craigslist, the online “want-ad” web site. (SOCR files a director’s charge when the agency has strong evidence that a fair housing violation has occurred, but there is no individual charging party able to step forward to file a charge personally.) The ads clearly stated that no Section 8 applicants need apply. The City of Seattle and unincorporated areas of King County bar discrimination against people who participate in Section 8, a federal housing rental subsidy program.

SOCR imposed a common settlement for all these cases. Property managers were required to attend training on Section 8 and fair housing, as well as to post vacancies to the Seattle Housing Authority’s Section 8 list. Several managers also were required to notify SOCR for the next two years of rental vacancies and advertisements.

Many landlords are not aware of local civil rights protections for Section 8 applicants. For more information about this and other fair housing questions:

- Seattle Office for Civil Rights, 206-684-4500, www.seattle.gov/civilrights
- King County Office of Civil Rights, 206-296-7592, www.kingcounty.gov/civilrights.