

COOK COUNTY COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

69 West Washington Street, Suite 3040
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Keke UZOKWE, Complainant)

v.)

HISTORIC MANOR CONDOMINIUM)
ASSOCIATION and MIKE NEWMAN,)
Respondents)

Case No. 2006H008

Entered: March 27, 2014

ORDER

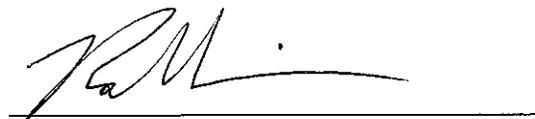
On September 26, 2006, Complainant Keke Uzokwe (“Uzokwe”) filed a complaint against her condo association and a member of its board, respectively, Respondents Historic Manor Condominium and Mike Newman (collectively, “Respondents”), for race- and parental-status-based housing discrimination in violation of the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance (“Human Rights Ordinance”). On October 15, 2007, the Cook County Commission on Human Rights (“Commission”) concluded its investigation and found substantial evidence of unlawful discrimination. The Commission ordered that this matter be set for an administrative hearing. Yet, this hearing never occurred, and, in the summer of 2010, Commission staff contacted Uzokwe to determine how she wished to proceed. After initially stating that she wished to prove her claim at a hearing, Uzokwe told legal counsel for the Commission on July 20, 2010, that she was not seeking any damages for her injury and was content with the Commission’s investigative determination. She represented to the Commission’s legal counsel that she would send the Commission a letter withdrawing her complaint and explaining her reasons for doing so. Uzokwe neither sent this letter nor submitted one of the Commission’s Request to Withdraw Forms. But more than three-and-a-half years have passed without another word from Uzokwe, and the Commission must now presume from her conduct a sustained desire to withdraw.

The Commission’s Procedural Rules state that “[a] Complainant may request to withdraw a Complaint or any part thereof at any time.” CCHR Pro. R. 480.160. If the request is knowingly and voluntarily made, the Commission approves the request and enters an order dismissing the complaint. *Id.* The Commission’s Procedural Rules typically require that a complainant’s request to withdraw be in writing and signed by the complainant or his or her attorney of record, *see id.*, however, the Commission waives this requirement of a written withdrawal in cases such as this where a complainant’s conduct confirms his or her oral representation of a desire to withdrawal. *See, e.g., Austin v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 2010PA001 (CCHRC Feb. 5, 2014); *Carter v. Cook County Sheriff’s Office*, 2011E020 (CCHRC Oct. 21, 2013); *Mallette v. Cook County Health & Hospitals System*, 2012E012 (CCHRC Jan. 6, 2014).

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission hereby grants Uzokwe's request to withdraw her complaint and orders that complaint 2006H008 be DISMISSED pursuant to a VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL.

March 27, 2014

By delegation:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Hakim', is written above a solid horizontal line.

Ranjit Hakim
Executive Director of the Cook County
Commission on Human Rights