

# **EXHIBIT E**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

CARMEN THOMPSON, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
HOUSING AND URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. MJG-95-309

**DECLARATION OF MEL FREEMAN  
IN SUPPORT OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

1. I am Executive Director of the Citizens Planning & Housing Association, Inc. (CPHA), a non-profit organization founded under the laws of Maryland in 1941. CPHA promotes civic action and assists communities working to improve Baltimore's neighborhoods, transportation, and housing to be healthy and inclusive for all.

2. CPHA is also a founding member of the Baltimore Regional Housing Campaign (BRHC). Launched in 2004, the BRHC supports locating housing across the region in balanced ways that affirmatively further fair housing and provide low-income families with the choice to raise their children in safe communities with good schools and jobs to support them.

3. I enthusiastically support the Settlement Agreement as a means to further a regional approach to fair housing by complementing the local efforts in the Baltimore Region already underway, such as the coordinated regional planning efforts recently funded through a grant from HUD's Sustainable Communities Initiative, in which CPHA has participated. In addition, the Settlement Agreement promises to continue and expand the Baltimore Housing

Mobility Program established under the *Thompson* Partial Consent Decree. I believe all of this is critical to dismantling barriers to opportunity that hold back the economy and prosperity of our region.

4. In October 2009, the BRHC, together with the Poverty & Race Research Action Council in Washington, published a detailed study of the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program finding that families who moved through the program improved their quality of life. Specifically, families reported that their new neighborhoods were more integrated than their old ones and offered better schools and friendly neighbors. Families also reported that their new neighborhoods were safer, with lower crime and less drug use. Some families even reported better health outcomes. *See* Poverty & Race Research Action Council & Baltimore Regional Housing Campaign, *New Homes, New Neighborhoods, New Schools: A Progress Report on the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program* (2009), available at [www.prrac.org/pdf/BaltimoreMobilityReport.pdf](http://www.prrac.org/pdf/BaltimoreMobilityReport.pdf).

5. This historic agreement will help to achieve the goals of housing choice and access to opportunity for all who live and work in the Baltimore Region. It also can serve as a model for other U.S. cities confronting the challenges of segregation and concentrated poverty.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: November 15, 2012



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Mel Freeman  
Baltimore, Maryland