

City of La Crosse Human Rights Commission Complaint Form

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COMPLAINANT INFORMATION (YOURSELF)

Name * Katherine Prinsen
Address * 415 King Street Apt. 816 La Crosse, WI 54601
Phone 507-458-3037
Email kprins18088@viterbo.edu

RESPONDENT INFORMATION (PERSON/PERSON(S) YOU FEEL HAVE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST YOU)

Name * Asha Boardman
Address * 3054 Edgewater Ln, La Crosse WI 54603-1017
Phone
Email troyandashab@gmail.com

TYPE OF DISCRIMINATION ALLEGED

Check the appropriate Category, indicate the Address or Location of facility you were denied the equal opportunity to use or enjoy, and the Basis of the alleged discrimination.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they were denied the equal use/enjoyment of a facility **located in the City of La Crosse**.

Category: *

- ☒ Housing
- ☐ Place of Public Accommodation or Amusement [i.e. restaurant, hotel, retail shop]
- ☐ City Facility

Address/Location: * 3054 Edgewater Ln, La Crosse WI 54603-1017.

Basis (Check all those you feel may apply):

- ☐ Sex
- ☐ Race
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Age
- ☐ Disability
- ☐ Marital Status
- ☐ Color
- ☐ National Origin or Ancestry
- ☒ Lawful Source of Income
- ☐ Physical Appearance
- ☐ Sexual Orientation
- ☐ Gender Identity or Expression
- ☐ Political Activity
- ☐ Familial Status
- ☐ Domestic Partnership
- ☒ Student

FACTS

To the best of your ability, give a detailed statement regarding the facts giving rise to this Complaint. The statement must include the date or dates of the alleged

discrimination. City Ordinance provides that a written Complaint **must be filed within 180 days** after the complainant knew or should reasonably have known that the alleged act or acts occurred. Additional pages may be attached to this form if necessary.

Statement *

My significant other, James Harstad, and I were rental applicants for the property owned by Troy and Asha Boardman for \$1,550/month. After an initial viewing of the property, we expressed an interest in writing to Asha Boardman that we would like to rent her property. We were instructed to fill out applications which listed our rental histories, income, information for a background check, personal references, and so on. Of note, James and I have excellent rental histories. I am currently paying an apartment that is \$1,220/month. With James's military stipend of \$1,000/month, we were more than adequately positioned to accommodate the price of the Boardman's property. Asha communicated in writing that she was "saving" the property for us despite continual interest and that she would move forward with the rental process with us. Asha also said that she would not continue to show the property as she was proceeding forward with us as the renters. After submitting our applications, Asha requested to meet with James and myself again at the property to meet our dog and James's daughter. On the morning of the scheduled meeting, Asha informed us that two other applicants had offered \$1,650/month for the property. We expressed disappointment in learning that she had not been true to her word of not working with other applicants and in engaging in a "bidding war" for her property. Asha wrote back and stated that she viewed our income on our applications and was wondering if the original agreed upon \$1,550/month was "too much of a stretch" for us. I am employed as a registered nurse and attend graduate school full time and James recently returned from a deployment for the US Army and is attending college with the support of the GI Bill that he has earned. We feel very strongly that we have been discriminated upon based off our income and student status. The communication from Troy and Asha Boardman drastically changed after we had submitted our rental applications. The written affirmation that they were going to proceed with us as renters, not continue to show the property, not review new rental applications, and the desire to schedule a meeting with us to discuss rental terms and conditions as well as meet our dog and daughter changed to last minute price hikes inspired by an alleged "bidding war" and showing the property to new applicants. Our interest in renting the property was unwavering, however, their desire to rent the property to us after reviewing our income / student status is what changed.