| 1 | Sandra S. Park** | | | | | |
|-------|--|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 2 | Lenora Lapidus** | | | | | |
| | Michaela Wallin** | | | | | |
| 3 | ACLU Women's Rights Project | | | | | |
| 4 | 125 Broad Street, 18 th Fl. | | | | | |
| 4 | New York, NY | | | | | |
| 5 | Telephone: (212) 519-7871 | | | | | |
| | Email: spark@aclu.org | | | | | |
| 6 | llapidus@aclu.org | | | | | |
| 7 | mwallin@aclu.org **Pro hac vice application forthcoming | | | | | |
| 8 | Heather Macre (Bar No. 026625) | | | | | |
| 9 | Aiken Schenk Hawkins & Ricciardi P.C. | | | | | |
| | 2390 East Camelback Road, Suite 400 | | | | | |
| 10 | Phoenix, Arizona 85016-3479 | | | | | |
| 11 | Telephone: (602) 248-8203 | | | | | |
| 12 | E-Mail: ham@ashrlaw.com | | | | | |
| | Daniel J. Pochoda (Bar No. 021979) | | | | | |
| 13 | Victoria Lopez (Bar No. 330042)** | | | | | |
| 14 | Joel Edman (Bar No. 031324) | | | | | |
| | ACLU Foundation of Arizona | | | | | |
| 15 | 3707 North 7th Street, Suite 235 | | | | | |
| 16 | Phoenix, AZ 85011-0148 | | | | | |
| | Telephone: (602) 650-1854 Email: dpochoda@acluaz.org | | | | | |
| 17 | vlopez@acluaz.org | | | | | |
| 18 | **Admitted pursuant to Ariz. Sup. Ct. R. 38(f | ?) | | | | |
| 19 | Attorneys for the Plaintiff |) | | | | |
| | IN THE UNITED STAT | ES DISTRICT COURT | | | | |
| 20 | EOD THE DISTRIC | OT OF ADIZONA | | | | |
| 21 | FOR THE DISTRIC | CI OF ARIZONA | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 22 | NANCY MARKHAM, | | | | | |
| 23 | Plaintiff, |). T | | | | |
| ا ، ، | V | No. | | | | |
| 24 | V. | | | | | |
| 25 | CITY OF SURPRISE; MICHAEL FRAZIER in his individual and official | COMPLAINT | | | | |
| | capacities, and CHRISTOPHER TOVAR, in | | | | | |
| 26 | his individual capacity, | | | | | |
| 27 | Defendants. | | | | | |
| , | 2 oronaano. | | | | | |
| 28 | | | | | | |

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff Nancy Markham, a resident of Surprise, Arizona, was a victim of repeated domestic violence and needed to contact and rely

- 11. Housing security and access to police assistance are often essential to domestic violence victims' ability to escape life-threatening violence and live free from abuse. Yet, domestic violence victims continue to face barriers to reporting the abuse to law enforcement. In addition, domestic violence is a primary cause of homelessness for women and their children.
 - 12. Reforms adopted by federal, state, and

process and equal protection. Defendants similarly violated the Arizona State Constitution's equivalent protections of freedom of speech, the right to petition, due process, and equal protection.

- 16. Defendants' policies and practices also violate or conflict with the federal Fair Housing Act's prohibitions against discrimination, Arizona Fair Housing Law A.R.S. §41-1491, and additional Arizona tenant protections, such as A.R.S. §33-1315(A)(4), which provides that no rental agreement may "waive or limit the tenant's right to summon or any other person's right to summon a peace officer or other emergency assistance in response to an emergency." *A.R.S.* §33-1315(A)(4).
- 17. Ms. Markham brings this action seeking damages for injuries suffered by Defendants' unconstitutional and unlawful enforcement of the Nuisance Property and Crime Free Lease Sections and to enjoin Defendants from enforcing these provisions in the future. The presence and enforcement of the Nuisance Policy continues to chill Ms. Markham's ability to contact law enforcement and require her to choose between calling for police assistance even in emergencies and keeping her present home.
- 18. This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1983 and 42 U.S.C. §3601 et seq.
- 19. Ms. Markham seeks declaratory and injunctive relief, as well as compensatory and punitive damages.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

20. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1343(3) and (4).

30. Arizona cities derive their legislative powers either from state law or from their own charters. Surprise does not have a charter and possesses only that legislative power authorized by state law and the Arizona Constitution. Surprise must be able to point to a delegation in state law to support its legislative enactments.

31. Defendant Michael Frazier is

- 35. Each of the individual defendants is a "person" as defined in 42 U.S.C. §1983, and at all relevant times acted under the color of state law.
 - 36. Defendant Frazier is sued in his individual and official capacities.
 - 37. Defendant Tovar is sued in his individual capacity.

FACTS

A. The Nuisance Policy

- 38. Defendants adopted, maintain and enforce the Nuisance Policy, Chapter 105, Article III §§105-104 (the Nuisance Property Section) and 105-106 (the Crime Free Lease Section) of the Surprise Municipal Code, against landlords and tenants with the aim of "providing for accountability of property owners for slum conditions and criminal conduct." *Surprise Municipal Code* §105-91.
- 39. Surprise Municipal Code Chapter 26, Article II §26-20 requires landlords to obtain business licenses for each property that a landlord desires to rent to tenants in Surprise.

The Nuisance Property Section

40. The Nuisance Policy includes the Nuisance Property Section, §105-104, which declares a property a nuisance upon the occurrence of the following, among other criteria: 1) four or more calls for police to the same service address or unit within a 30-day period when these calls relate to commission of crime under Arizona or federal law or otherwise report criminal activity or 2) commission of any two or more crimes under Arizona or federal law on the property that "negatively impacts the quality of life or

threatens the safety and/or health in the area." Exhibit A, Surprise Municipal Code §105-104.

- 41. The Nuisance Property Section authorizes Surprise to revoke or suspend a landlord's business license and/or charge the landlord with a civil or criminal violation if, after receiving notice that a tenant "allows" any nuisance offense to occur at the property, the landlord fails to take steps against the tenant to effectively abate the alleged nuisance violation.
- 42. The Nuisance Property Section does not distinguish between perpetrators and victims of crime or between those who call the police frivolously and those who are in need of emergency assistance.
- 43. The Nuisance Property Section states that notice will be given to the "responsible party," which it defines as the "owner, occupant, lessor, lessee, manager, licensee, or other person having control."
- 44. However, after providing notice to the "responsible party," Surprise is not required to notify tenants about alleged nuisance offenses or any threatened or imposed penalty.
- 45. In fact, the law does not require Defendants to provide notice of the law to tenants at any stage of enforcement, including when police respond to emergency calls from a home.
- 46. The Nuisance Property Section does not give a tenant or occupant any opportunity to contest the decision to enforce the Nuisance Property Section against the property owner, landlord or property manager, or to contest the determination that various

incidents at the property should be characterized as an "offense," justifying enforcement and resulting in harms to the tenant.

47. On information and belief, Surprise has informed only property owners, landlords and managers of possible violations and threatened enforcement against them.

The Crime Free Lease Section

48. A related section of the Nuisance Policy, the Crime Free Lease Section, §105106 requires all owners, managers or leasing agents in Surprise to include a lease provision
that, on information and belief, permits them to evict tenants upon a single occurrence of
any criminal activity, regardless of whether the tenant was the perpetrator or victim of that
crime. Thus, the Crime Free Lease Section requires landlords to adopt a lease provision that
serves as a ready abatement measure to av[(anyee)(v[(

56. In addition to the letter, at the June 2010 meeting of the Surprise City Council, a representative from the Morris Institute again voiced concern about the negative impacts of the Nuisance Property Section, stating that it would deter victims of crime from seeking police assistance and could penalize victims of domestic violence seeking law enforcement assistance against serious threats.

57. The chair of Surprise's own Quality of Life Commission also expressed concern that the Nuisance Property Section could be enforced against, and lead to evictions of, domestic violence victims. **Exhibit C, Video of June 24, 2010 City Council Meeting, available at**:

 $http://surpriseaz.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=\&clip_id=1584\&meta_id=21665.$

58. These predictions were well grounded because calls regarding domestic violence make up the largest category of calls a police department receives in many communities.¹

59. According to an article dated June 30, 2010 in the Arizona Republic, Surprise City Councilmember John Williams attempted to allay concerns about the use of the Nuisance Property Section against victims of crime and domestic violence victims in particular by assuring that "[e]nforcement of the new ordinance will be 'situational,' and the City will continue to encourage residents to report crimes and suspicious activity." **Exhibit D, copy of the June 30, 2010 Arizona Republic Article**.

¹ Andrew R. Klein, Nat'l Inst. Of Justice, Practical Implications of Current Domestic Violence Research: For Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, and Judges (June 2009), http://www.nij.gov/topics/crime/intimate-partner-violence/practical-implications-research/Pages/welcome.aspx.

- 86. After arguing with Ms. Markham through the night, early that morning, R.V. put his hands around Ms. Markham's neck, choked her repeatedly, and punched her in the mouth.
 - 87. R.V. left before the police arrived at the Property.
- 88. Following this, Surprise police made visits to the Property to find and serve R.V. with a charge of aggravated assault stemming from the March 13, 2014 domestic violence attack.
- 89. In March and April 2014, police responded on three other occasions when Ms. Markham called 911 for aid once when she feared R.V. had returned to the Property and twice when R.V. was at the Property, threatening her and refusing to leave.
- 90. In July and August of 2014, the Property was the subject of four police calls in thirty days one call on July 22, two calls on July 31, and one call on August 1.

July 22, 2014 Event

- 91. On or about July 22, 2014, Ms. Markham's son let R.V. into the home to get some personal items that he had left there.
- 92. R.V. and Ms. Markham began arguing and R.V. left, taking Ms. Markham's car without her permission.
 - 93. Ms. Markham called 911 to report the incident.
 - 94. Police officers responded to the call, which was coded as "domestic violence."
- 95. The officers located the vehicle and spoke to R.V. He confirmed that he had argued with Ms. Markham at her home.

The neighbor described R.V. as the male who had been taken into custody by the police the night before.

- 107. The neighbor stated that he found text messages on the phone from R.V.'s son.
- 108. The phone was taken by the police and placed into safekeeping for R.V. to pick up when he was released from jail.

D. Defendants' Enforcement of the Nuisance Policy Against Ms. Markham

- 109. Under the direction of Defendant Frazier, the Surprise Police Department initiated its enforcement of the Nuisance Policy by having Defendant Tovar contact Ms. Markham's Landlord on August 4, 2014.
- 110. Under the Nuisance Property Section's definition of a nuisance as a situation where a tenant "allowed" a nuisance offense to occur, the decision to pursue enforcement against the Property necessarily involved a determination that Ms. Markham should be held at fault for the domestic violence committed against her at the Property.
- 111. Officer Tovar informed the Landlord that "serious criminal problems" were occurring at Ms. Markham's rental home and warned that the Property may be deemed a criminal nuisance under the Nuisance Property Section if the problems were not corrected.
- 112. Officer Tovar sent the Property Manager formal notice of the four calls to police and criminal activity occurring at the rental home on August 6, 2014. In addition to warning that the property could be deemed a criminal nuisance, the letter threatened the Property Manager directly, stating "should you fail to take reasonable steps to prevent future unlawful use of this property, you will not be considered an 'innocent owner/agent' in any

future action with respect to this property." Exhibit I, Letter from Chris Tovar, Crime Prevention Unit Surprise Police Department to Adam Botticello, Property Manager, AZ Rental Homes (Aug. 6, 2014).

- 113. The Property Manager corresponded with Officer Tovar over the next week, and told Officer Tovar that he had no knowledge of any criminal activity at the property.
 - 114. Officer Tovar then shared a list of calls for police service to the Property.
- 115. Defendant Tovar told the Property Manager that Ms. Markham's home was the subject of "numerous calls for various incidents," including three where officers arrested

R.V. Exhibit J, E-Mail from Chris Tovar Cr

stay at the Property by Ms. Markham, rather than an unwanted perpetrator of domestic violence who Ms. Markham could not control.

- 120. Likewise, a supplementary report to an April 2014 Surprise police response to the Property inaccurately described R.V. as Ms. Markham's "live-in boyfriend." R.V. never lived at the Property.
- 121. At no point did Defendant Tovar, Defendant Frazier or anyone else at the Surprise Police Department directed by Frazier, instruct or advise the Property Manager or Landlord that Ms. Markham should not be the subject of negative housing action or penalty on the basis of the domestic violence occurring at her home or related police calls. Instead, Officer Tovar pushed for Ms. Markham's removal by discussing the possible legal grounds for evicting her from the residence with the Property Manager.

Neighbors' Letter and Eviction Threat

- 122. On August 14, 2014, some of Ms. Markham's neighbors wrote a letter to Chief Frazier expressing concerns about the police responses to the domestic violence incidents at Ms. Markham's Property.
- 123. The letter blamed Ms. Markham for the violence perpetrated against her, evinced significant animus against Ms. Markham as a victim of domestic violence and demanded action against her. Exhibit L, Letter from Residents of Ocotillo Lane to Michael Frazier, Police Chief Surprise Police Department (Aug. 14, 2014).
- 124. The letter attracted police attention and Defendant Frazier demanded, in an email sent to Officer Christopher Tovar, among others, that someone at the department "take ownership of this issue. . . [and] keep me apprised as to the status of this situation."

Exhibit M, E-mail from Michael Frazier, Police Chief Surprise Police Department to Geoffrey Leggett, Criminal Investigations Commander Surprise Police Department and others (Aug. 18, 2014).

125. On August 18th, Police Chief Frazier responded to the neighbors' letter and stated that there were already a number of actions in progress that were designed to abate the issue and that police "have a strategy in place that should result in a permanent solution, but it is still a work in progress." Defendant Frazier indicated that Officer Tovar would be handling this issue, stating that he would contact the neighbors. **Exhibit N, E-mail from Michael Frazier, Police Chief Surprise Police Department to April Irish (Aug. 18, 2014)**.

126. As part of the "strategy" put in place by Defendant Frazier and in response to

| 1 | August 20, 2014 Event | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2 | 128. On August 20, 2014, Ms. Markham again called the police to report a | | | | |
| 3 | domestic violence incident and serious threat | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | |
| 5 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | |
| 1718 | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | |
| 22 | | | | | |
| 23 | | | | | |
| 24 | | | | | |
| 25 | | | | | |
| 26 | | | | | |
| 27 | | | | | |

- 134. On that date, Officer Tovar informed the Landlord and Property Manager that Ms. Markham had again called the police regarding domestic violence for which R.V. was arrested.
- 135. Officer Tovar also notified the Property Manager of the complaint letter that was sent by some of Ms. Markham's neighbors and demanded action against her.

Defendants Discourage Any Alternative to Eviction

- 136. On August 26, 2014, Ms. Markham responded to the Property Manager's threat of eviction, assuring him in an email that the problems at her Property had been resolved because of the protection order against R.V. and because R.V. was now incarcerated.
- 137. The Property Manager was receptive to this explanation and requested that Ms. Markham send him a police report to verify this, indicating his willingness to work matters out and not require Ms. Markham and her children to leave their home.
- 138. On September 2, 2014, Defendant Tovar again contacted the Property Manager to confirm that he was proceeding to evict Ms. Markham and to remind him about the need for abatement of the nuisance, referencing an earlier phone conversation in which the Property Manager said he was giving Ms. Markham until the end of August to get out.
- 139. In response, the Property Manager told Defendant Tovar that Ms. Markham had informed him that R.V., the cause of the disturbances, would no longer be able to return to the Property because he had been arrested and Ms. Markham had obtained an order of protection against him.
 - 140. The Property Manager asked Tovar if he could verify this information.

- 141. While Officer Tovar confirmed that R.V. was arrested and served with an order of protection, he told the Property Manager that this was not an adequate solution. He noted a police report indicating that Ms. Markham had obtained an order of protection in the past but did not serve it on R.V..
- 142. However, the police report cited by Defendant Tovar did not contain any discussion of a prior order of protection against R.V. and did not substantiate Officer Tovar's characterization.
- 143. On information and belief, Defendant Tovar based enforcement of the Nuisance Policy, including his pursuit of Ms. Markham's eviction, on stereotypical notions about survivors of domestic violence. Because Ms. Markham had already served a protection order against R.V., the only purpose for Officer Tovar's statement was to assert

property was being maintained, noting that she had recently obtained an order of protection against the ex-boyfriend who was causing the problem and that the rent was paid.

- 147. The Landlord then sought the views of the Surprise Police Department, under the direction of Defendant Frazier, and emailed Defendant Tovar on September 8, 2014 for his response to the Property Manager's recommendation.
- 148. Defendant Tovar reported having a phone conversation with the Landlord that same day. Tovar's report indicates that he did not disclaim his previous statements to the Landlord and Property Manager, which urged Ms. Markham's eviction on the basis of the domestic violence committed against her.

Eviction Notice

- 149. On September 9, 2014, the Landlord directed the Property Manager to move forward with the eviction of Ms. Markham.
- 150. On September 12, 2014, the Property Manager told Ms. Markham that the Landlord was not willing to let her stay and that she would be evicted in the next month if she failed to move before that time.
- 151. Under Arizona Landlord Tenant Law, where there is a criminal breach of lease through criminal acts such as threatening, intimidating and assault, the landlord may deliver a written notice for immediate termination of the rental agreement. *A.R.S.* §33-1368.
- 152. In response to Ms. Markham's request for a reason for the eviction, and her explanation that "[t]here was no criminal activity going on at [her] home, it was a domestic violence issue and [the abuser] was not living at the home," the Property Manager replied that he had no choice but to move forward. He acknowledged that: "[t]his is coming from

the city," which "has a law on the books where they can designate a home with a lot of police activity a 'public nuisance' or something else to that effect." Exhibit Q, Email from Nancy Markham to Adam Botticello, Property Manager, AZ Rental Homes (Sept. 16, 2014) and Email from Adam Botticello, Property Manager, AZ Rental Homes, to Nancy Markham (Sept. 15, 2014); Exhibit R Email from Adam Botticello, Property Manager, AZ Rental Homes, to Nancy Markham (Sept. 18, 2014).

- 153. The Property Manager suggested that Ms. Markham contact the Surprise Police Department for more information, explaining that "[b]asically they are threatening to deem the property a public nuisance." Exhibit R Email from Adam Botticello, Property Manager, AZ Rental Homes, to Nancy Markham (Sept. 23, 2014).
- 154. Based on the Property Manager's statements, Ms. Markham would be evicted on or soon after October 1, 2014.

E. Discriminatory Enforcement Based on Gender

- 155. Blaming and stereotyping of domestic violence survivors, the majority of whom are women, as responsible for or contributing to the violence perpetrated against them is a form of discrimination that many women domestic violence survivors experience in their encounters with law enforcement.
- 156. Officer Tovar demonstrated this kind of gender-biased policing practice in the statements he made to the Property Manager and Landlord, described above, as well as in his differing enforcement of the Nuisance Policy against male victims of domestic violence.
- 157. Defendants enforced the Nuisance Policy against one residence involving male victims of domestic violence at a similar residential community in Surprise.

164. Even though Ms. Markham's Property Manager suggested a similar method of abating any nuisance activity at her property, Defendants did not make a similar accommodation for Ms. Markham and her children. This is particularly striking in light of Officer Tovar's acknowledgement that Ms. Markham was the victim in all the domestic violence incidents at her home and the fact that Ms. Markham was never charged with any criminal acts at the property.

165. This disparate treatment on the basis of sex and on the basis of gender stereotypes that blame women victims of domestic violence for the abuse perpetrated against them violates constitutional and fair housing rights and ignores the well-being of women victims such as Ms. Markham.

F. The Harms to Ms. Markham and Her Children

- 166. The actions by Defendants, in adopting and enforcing the Nuisance Policy, resulted in significant harms to Ms. Markham including loss of constitutional rights and violations of statutory protections, imminent loss of her and her children's home, as well as severe and ongoing emotional suffering and mental anguish.
- 167. At all relevant times, the individual Defendants were acting pursuant to the policy and authority of the current Nuisance Policy enacted in 2010.
- 168. As a result of each and every violation of law set out in the individual Counts,Ms. Markham has suffered loss of rights and safety, and great emotional distress.
- 169. The continued existence of the Nuisance Policy after its enforcement against Ms. Markham as described above has resulted in a chilling effect on Ms. Markham's ability to call the police or seek law enforcement assistance in the future. Based on her previous

173. Defendants responded by denying they had taken any action either against Ms. Markham or the Landlord to abate the "nuisance" at the Property. Defendants claimed that they recommended that the Landlord "not terminate the lease agreement relative to the domestic violence incidents." However, they did not address Officer Tovar's repeated discussions of Ms. Markham's eviction with the Landlord and Property Manager, all of which was due to the domestic violence and police calls to the Property. Exhibit T, E-mail from Lieutenant Harold Brady, Public Safety Legal Advisor, Surprise Police Department, to Michaela Wallin, Equal Justice Works Fellow, ACLU Women's Rights Project, and Sandra Park, Senior Staff Attorney, ACLU Women's Rights Project (Oct. 6, 2014).

174. Defendants did not respond to the request to suspend enforcement and made no assurance that the Nuisance Policy would not be enforced against Ms. Markham or the Landlord at a later date. Defendants did not even indicate that Ms. Markham would not be sanctioned for reported crimes against her or calls for police assistance when she was the victim of domestic violence.

175. Ms. Markham's counsel also contacted the Landlord and Property Manager to inform them that the threatened eviction was unlawful and that other negative housing action on the basis of incidents of domestic violence or Ms. Markham's status as a victim of domestic violence would be unlawful.

176. Ms. Markham received no initial response from the Landlord or Property Manager regarding whether they would continue to pursue her removal from housing.

177. Eventually, upon further correspondence with Ms. Markham's counsel, the Property Manager stated, on December 3, 2014, that there was no pending eviction or legal action against Ms. Markham coming from our office.

178. On March 5, 2015, Ms. Markham submitted a Notice of Claim to Surprise, the Surprise Arizona Police Department, Police Chief Michael Frazier, and Officer Christopher Tovar.

H. Injunctive and Declaratory Relief

- and continues to cause irreparable harm to Ms. Markham, including by chilling her First Amendment rights to free speech and to petition the government and by violating her Fourteenth Amendment rights to Due Process and Equal Protection and her rights under the federal Fair Housing Act and state law, as described above.
- 180. Ms. Markham has suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable harm unless this Court permanently enjoins Defendants from enforcing the Nuisance Policy.
- 181. Absent injunctive and declaratory relief, Ms. Markham and other crime victims in Surprise face the very real threat of losing their homes if they contact the police for help.
- 182. The policies and practices of Defendants have caused and continue to cause a serious threat to the safety and well-being of such victims, including Ms. Markham.
- 183. Defendants' actions continue to result in a significant chilling effect on the exercise of Ms. Markham's, and other Surprise tenants', free speech rights and their ability to seek the assistance of law enforcement.

Ms. Markham has no adequate remedy at law. Unless enjoined by the Court, Defendants will continue to infringe Ms. Markham's rights and those of Surprise residents

190. The Nuisance Property and Crime Free Lease Sections also chill the exercise of First Amendment rights by imposing penalties on the basis of crime occurring at a property, regardless of whether the tenant was the victim or perpetrator, and thereby deterring and outright burdening tenants' ability to report crime and seek police assistance.

191. The Nuisance Property Se

women to justify its action, blaming women victims for the criminal conduct perpetrated against them.

- 211. Officer Tovar, the primary official who enforced the Nuisance Property Section, also treated Ms. Markham less favorably than a similarly-situated male victim of domestic violence and did so based on the same gender stereotypes about abused women's responsibility for the violence committed against them.
- 212. The disparate enforcement of the Nuisance Property Section against women intentionally discriminated against female tenants in Surprise, such as Ms. Markham, who are victims of domestic violence.
- 213. Ms. Markham was injured by the discriminatory enforcement of the Nuisance Property Section because she could not seek police assistance without risking being evicted.
- 214. Enforcement of the Nuisance Property Section in situations where residents seek emergency or police assistance or are the victims of crime does not advance an important or legitimate government interest, and is not substantially or rationally related to advance such an interest.
- 215. Accordingly, Defendants violated and continue to violate the Fourteenth Amendment and its Arizona equivalent.
 - 216. Therefore, Ms. Markham requests the relief outlined below.

Count IV: Discrimination in Housing on the Basis of Sex (Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. §§3601 *et seq.*; Ariz. Rev. Stat. §41-1491)

217. Ms. Markham incorporates by reference the allegations in the preceding paragraphs as though set forth at length herein.

- 218. The Fair Housing Act and its Arizona equivalent prohibit discrimination in housing on the basis of any protected class, including sex, and further prohibit any law that purports to require or permit any action that would constitute a discriminatory housing practice or has a disparate impact on a protected class.
- 219. Ms. Markham was a victim of domestic violence. The great majority of victims of domestic violence are women, a protected class recognized by the Fair Housing Act and its Arizona equivalent.
- 220. Defendants interfered with Ms. Markham's housing on a discriminatory basis, otherwise making housing unavailable to her and discriminating in the provision of services or facilities on the basis of sex.
- 221. Defendants made housing unavailable to Ms. Markham pursuant to the Nuisance Policy by pressuring her Landlord to evict Ms. Markham based on the domestic violence committed against her and predicated on inaccurate gender stereotypes about women victims of domestic violence.
- 222. Defendants discriminated against Ms. Markham in the provision of services by enforcing the Nuisance Policy to penalize Ms. Markham for seeking police services in response to incidents of domestic violence.
- 223. Defendants' acts and decisions in enforcing the Nuisance Policy against Ms. Markham, as described above, demonstrate their discriminatory animus against women victims of domestic violence.

- 224. The City Council knowingly disregarded local stakeholders' warnings about the harmful impact the Section would have on women victims of domestic violence and the likely Fair Housing Act violations that would result.
- 225. The Surprise Police Department relied on gender stereotypes about abused women in justifying police action against Ms. Markham and more aggressively enforced the Nuisance Property Section against her as compared to a similarly situated male.
 - 226. Defendants engaged in such discriminatory conduct intentionally, willfully,

232. The Nuisance Property Section directly conflicts with A.R.S. §33-1315 by imposing penalties and prohibiting a property owner, agent, or manager to rent or continue to rent "to a tenant following "[f]our or more calls for police service to the same service

238.

VERIFICATION State of Arizona County of Maricopa) I, Nancy Markham, hereby declare that I am the Plaintiff in the attached matter, Markham v. City of Surprise et al., and that I have read the foregoing Complaint, and that I know of the contents thereof; that the same are true and correct to the best of my belief, except as to those matters alleged on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. DATED this 25th day of August, 2015. /s/ Nancy Markham Nancy Markham