

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

SUSAN GOODLAXSON, et al.,

*

Plaintiffs,

*

v.

*

CIVIL NO. JKB-21-1454

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF
BALTIMORE,

*

*

Defendant.

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* * * * *

ORDER

For the reasons stated in the foregoing Memorandum, it is ORDERED that:¹

1. The Joint Motion for Preliminary Approval (ECF No. 121) is GRANTED.
2. The Court hereby conditionally certifies the proposed Settlement Class pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a) and 23(b)(2) as follows:
 - a. The Court hereby conditionally appoints Plaintiffs Susan Goodlaxson, Janice Jackson, Keyonna Mayo, and the IMAGE Center of Maryland as Settlement Class representatives.
 - b. The Court hereby conditionally appoints Disability Rights Advocates, Disability Rights Maryland, Fox & Robertson, P.C., and Goldstein, Borgen, Dardarian & Ho, Plaintiffs' attorneys of record, as Class Counsel.
3. The Court hereby grants preliminary approval to the terms and conditions contained in the Partial Consent Decree, attached as Exhibit 1 to the Declaration of Linda M. Dardarian in Support of the Parties' Joint Motion for Preliminary Approval (ECF No. 123 at 35–68).

¹ Unless stated otherwise, the terms in this Order have the meaning set forth in the Partial Consent Decree.

4. The Court finds that the Partial Consent Decree is fair, reasonable, and adequate to all potential Settlement Class members, and warrants the dissemination of notice to the Settlement Class apprising them of the Partial Consent Decree.
5. The Court hereby approves, as to form and content, the proposed Class Notice, attached as Exhibit B to the Partial Consent Decree (ECF No. 123 at 83–91).
6. The Class Notice shall be disseminated to the Settlement Class, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit B to the Partial Consent Decree, by the following means:
 - a. Within 10 days of this Order, Defendant will cause the Notice and other required documentation to be provided to the Attorney General of the United States and Appropriate State Officials, U.S. Department of Justice and attorneys general of relevant states, as required by Section 1715 of the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005.
 - b. Within 10 days of this Order, Class Counsel will mail the Notice to the stakeholder organizations listed in Exhibit D to the Partial Consent Decree (ECF No. 123 at 112–13).
 - c. Within 20 days of this Order, Defendant shall publish the Notice on the City’s website for four consecutive weeks, and Class Counsel shall publish the Notice on their websites. The Notice will be posted in English, Spanish, and Korean. The Notice will comply with WCAG 2.1 Level AA.
 - d. Within 30 days of this Order, Defendant shall cause the Notice to be published once per week for four consecutive weeks in each of *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Baltimore Banner*, and *The Daily Record*.
 - e. Counsel for both Parties shall submit declarations to the Court as part of the Parties’ Motion for Final Approval confirming compliance with the above

notice provisions by March 17, 2025.

7. Any Settlement Class member may object to any aspect of the Partial Consent Decree, either on their own or through an attorney hired at their expense. Any Settlement Class Member who wishes to object to the fairness, reasonableness, or adequacy of the Partial Consent Decree or any aspect of it, the attorneys' fees and costs to be requested by Class Counsel, or the service payments for the Class Representatives must submit an Objection no later than March 17, 2025.
 - a. Objections should include:
 - i. The case name and case number: *Goodlaxson, et al. v. Mayor and City Council of Baltimore*, Case Number 21-1454-JKB;
 - ii. The Objector's name, address, and if available, telephone number and e-mail address of the Objector;
 - iii. If represented by counsel, the name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of the Objector's counsel;
 - iv. The specific grounds for the objection;
 - v. A statement of whether the objection applies to the Objector, to a specific subset of the class, or to the entire class; and
 - vi. Whether the Objector wishes to speak at the Fairness Hearing.
 - b. Objections must be submitted either in person at the Clerk's Office for the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland or by mail to the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, 101 West Lombard Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.
 - c. Settlement Class members may also appear to present their objections at the Fairness Hearing. Any Settlement Class member who fails to timely submit

objections or appear at the Fairness Hearing shall be deemed to have waived any objections and shall be foreclosed from objecting to the Partial Consent Decree, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

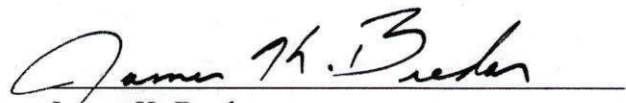
- d. Class Counsel and counsel for Defendant will respond to any timely filed objections no later than March 20, 2025.
 - e. The procedures and requirements for filing objections in connection with the Fairness Hearing are intended to ensure the efficient administration of justice and the orderly presentation of any Settlement Class Member's objection(s) to the Partial Consent Decree, in accordance with the due process rights of all Settlement Class Members.
8. A hearing is appropriate to determine whether this Court should grant final approval of the Partial Consent Decree, and to allow adequate time for Settlement Class members to support or oppose this settlement.
 9. Pending the Fairness Hearing, all proceedings in this Action, other than proceedings necessary to carry out and enforce the terms and conditions of the Partial Consent Decree and this Order, are hereby stayed.
 10. A Fairness Hearing pursuant to Rule 23(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to determine whether the Partial Consent Decree is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and whether it should be finally approved by the Court, shall be held before the undersigned on March 27, 2025 at 11 a.m. in Courtroom 5A at 101 W. Lombard St., Baltimore MD.
 11. Plaintiffs will file their Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and their Motion for Service Awards no later than February 24, 2025.
 12. The Parties will file their Joint Motion for Final Approval of the Partial Consent

Decree no later than March 7, 2025.

13. If for any reason the Court does not grant the Motion for Final Approval of the Partial Consent Decree, the proposed Partial Consent Decree and all evidence and proceedings in connection therewith shall be null and void.
14. The Court enjoins all Settlement Class Members from asserting any claims to be released by the Partial Consent Decree until the date of the Fairness Hearing.

DATED this 13 day of January, 2025.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James K. Bredar", written over a horizontal line.

James K. Bredar
United States District Judge