

Jim Cuddy's Statement

On behalf of the poor and disabled population served by our agency, we embrace and are humbled by today's decision by US District Court Judge Douglas P. Woodlock. In his decision, which is exhaustive in its detail, Judge Woodlock notes that the legal evidence presented by SMOC "may ultimately demonstrate that certain defendants, through abusive communications and improper efforts to manipulate the municipal permitting process, unlawfully violated the detailed legal constraints fashioned to assure that prejudice within a community not impede access to housing and related programs for those suffering from recognized disabilities." We are pleased that the Judge's ruling supports our decision to bring this action to support the rights of the disabled.

Also, while we recognize that this is such an important decision in terms of the legal rights of the disabled, we are moved by the words of Barbara Jordan as quoted by Judge Woodlock in his commentary at the end of his ruling:

"We live in community and each is not an atom of self-interest. What each one of us does has an impact on the rest of us. Therefore, the need for thoughtful judgment and wise counsel is always paramount"