

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

HOPE RISING COMMUNITY CHURCH,  
a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation,

Civil Action No.

Plaintiff,

Filed electronically

v.

MUNICIPALITY OF PENN HILLS,  
a Pennsylvania municipal corporation,

Defendant.

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**VERIFIED COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff, Hope Rising Community Church, by and through its attorneys, and for its  
Complaint against Defendant, Municipality of Penn Hills, states as follows:

**Introduction**

Hope Rising Community Church (hereinafter “the Church” or “Plaintiff”) found a space in a warehouse in the City of Penn Hills to use for religious assembly. After verifying the space was available to use for worship from Penn Hills, it entered into a three-year lease with the owner of the building and performed thousands of dollars of updates to the building to use it for religious services. Thereafter, the Church secured an occupancy permit and opened its doors for worship services.

Three months later, Penn Hills shut down the Church arguing that the zoning in the district does not allow for religious services. Hope Rising sought a variance to allow services as Penn Hills does not allow religious assembly in any zoning district as of right and only allows religious assembly in residential zones through a conditional use permit. However, in order to secure space, Hope Rising would be required to purchase several residential homes, tear them down, and build a worship facility with parking subject to approval from the City of Penn Hills for Conditional Use.

In denying the zoning variance, a representative of Penn Hills boldly stated: *“In terms of freedom of religion under constitutional law and zoning, it does not apply here.”* However, the law does not support the claim of Penn Hills.

Hope Rising now seeks equitable relief as both federal and state statutory and constitutional law expressly provide for it to worship freely within Penn Hills, Pennsylvania.

### **Parties**

1. Plaintiff, Hope Rising Community Church, located in Penn Hills, Pennsylvania, is a Church incorporated as a non-profit under the laws of the state of Pennsylvania and has secured tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service pursuant to IRS Code Section 501(c)(3).

2. Defendant Municipality of Penn Hills is a Pennsylvania Municipal Corporation located in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

### **Jurisdiction and Venue**

3. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this case pursuant to 28 USC § 1331, as this action arises under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. 2000cc, and the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution; under 28 USC § 1343(a)(3), in that it is brought to redress constitutional violations and deprivations of law under color of state law, of rights, privileges and immunities secured by the United States Constitution; under 42 USC § 1983, which provides causes of actions for the protection of civil and constitutional rights and damages; and under 42 USC § 1988, to secure costs and reasonable attorney fees as part of the case.

4. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's Pennsylvania state law claim asserted herein as that claim forms part of the same case or controversy as the federal questions asserted herein, pursuant to 28 USC § 1367(a).

5. The venue in this action is proper within the Western District of Pennsylvania pursuant to 28 USC § 1391(b), in that

- a. Plaintiff has a property interest within this judicial district;
- b. Defendant is situated within this judicial district; and,
- c. All of the claims asserted by Plaintiff arose within this judicial district.

***Plaintiff's Ministry and Lease of the Property***

6. Plaintiff Hope Rising Community Church is a Church, organized by Pastor Harry Hoff on June 10, 2013, whose members assemble gather and worship together under the Christian tradition, and is incorporated as a non profit organization under Pennsylvania law and has secured tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service under section 501 (C)(3).

7. The Church exists to "Reach the Lost and Strengthen the Saved through Jesus Christ" and as a core principle, has its members meet and assemble regularly for weekly religious services. ***Exhibit 1***, Mission and Vision of Hope Rising Church.

8. As part of its religious exercise and mission, the Church conducts various outreach programs in the community including

- a. A "Hope Filled Christmas," during which the Church distributed toys to over 1,000 children in the Penn Hills, PA area;
- b. "30 Days of Hope," during which the Church members perform various community service projects including home cleaning for the elderly;
- c. Distributing water, coffee and donuts to municipal employees, schools, and members of the community;
- d. Provide for "Raise Up," an addiction recovery group;
- e. Provide for "Hope House," which is an outreach to special needs individuals in the Penn Hills, PA area twice a month;

- f. Provide a food and clothing outreach to the Penn Hills, PA area, and;
  - g. Provide youth outreach to Penn Hills, PA teens.
9. An essential component of the Church's religious exercise is gathering together for weekly worship services as one body of believers.
10. In June 2014, Pastor Hoff spoke to Christopher Blackwell, the Principal Planner in the Penn Hills Department of Planning and Economic Development and informed him that the Church wanted to rent warehouse space located at 1405 Frey Road, Penn Hills, PA and use it for religious assembly and services. Mr. Blackwell responded that he did not see a problem with the Church locating at 1405 Frey Road, Penn Hills, PA (also known as the "Property.")
11. In August 2014, Pastor Hoff and Keith Lander, the Generations Pastor Hope Rising Church, met with Penn Hills code enforcement personnel and informed them of the Church's plans for the Property, including use for Sunday morning worship services. The Code enforcement personnel lodged no objection to the Church using the leased space for religious assembly.
12. Thereafter, the Church leadership team, after prayer and consideration, decided to lease the Property and directed Pastor Hoff to meet with the property owner, Robert Verona, of Parkway Associates, and negotiate the lease for Property.
13. On or about August 8, 2014, the Church signed a three-year lease to use the Property for Sunday morning worship services as well as its other ministries. **Exhibit 2, Lease.**
14. The Church proceed to spend over seven thousand dollars (\$7,000.00) on renovations of the Property, including plastered walls, ceilings, doorways, flooring, paint,

and lighting. In addition to the out of pocket expense, church members donated over \$10,000 worth of materials and equipment for the renovation, and donated over 400 hours to do the work.

15. On August 11, 2014, the Church's landlord, Robert Verona, submitted an Occupancy Application on behalf of the Church to Penn Hills to allow the Church to occupy and use the property for religious assembly.

16. Penn Hills building official John McCafferty inspected the Property on August 29, 2014. A final inspection occurred on September 26 resulting in the City issuing the Church an occupancy permit to use the building for religious worship. **Exhibit 3**, Occupancy Permit.

#### ***The Penn Hills Zoning Ordinance***

17. The Penn Hills Zoning Ordinance ("the Ordinance ") is Title Six of Part Twelve of the Penn Hills Codified Ordinances, as amended.

18. The Ordinance divides Penn Hills into Residence Districts, Business Districts, Industrial Districts, and Mixed Use Districts. **Exhibit 4**, Zoning Ordinance, Select Provisions.

19. For each zoning district, the Ordinance provides permitted uses and conditional uses. Permitted uses are available as-of-right in their respective zoning districts, while conditional uses must go through additional land use approval procedures. If a land use is not specifically enumerated as a permitted use or conditional use, then such a land use is prohibited in the relevant district.

20. Churches and other religious assemblies are **not** a **permitted** use in **any** zoning district within Penn Hills.

21. Churches and religious assemblies are a **conditional** use in the Residence Districts only, and such use may be allowed only by special approval following an extensive, time-consuming, multi-step application process that must pass through the Penn Hills Planning Department, Planning Commission, and Municipal Council. **Exhibit 4, Zoning Ordinance Sections 5.12 and 11. Ex. 4, pp.**

22. By contrast, many secular assemblies and institutions are permitted uses in zoning districts where religious assemblies are completely prohibited. By way of example, the B-2 District permits lodges, clubs, and meeting halls as of right, whereas churches are prohibited and the I-1 District permits educational institutions, planned industrial developments, and parks and playgrounds as of right, whereas churches are prohibited. **Ex. 4.**

***Penn Hills closes the Church after granting its an Occupancy Permit***

23. In or around January 2015, Pastor Hoff was informed by the Church's landlord that the City contacted him and advised him that it would not allow the Church to continue holding worship assembly services on the Property.

24. In response, Pastor Hoff called the Penn Hills Department of Code Enforcement, asked to meet with the Code Enforcement officials and scheduled a meeting for January 21, 2015. The meeting occurred with Pastor Hoff, Penn Hills building official John McCafferty, Penn Hills code enforcement officer Catherine Zegarelli, the Penn Hills fire marshal, and two others.

25. At the meeting, the Penn Hills officials showed Pastor Hoff photographs of him preaching at the Property and demanded to know what was going on. When Pastor

Hoff replied that he was preaching at a church service, the Penn Hills officials ordered him to stop holding church services by March 1, 2015.

26. The Penn Hills officials stated that the Property is located in a zoning district that completely prohibits churches and other religious assemblies and institutions, that the Church could not assemble more than 8 people on the Property.

27. That same day, the Church received a Violation Notice from Penn Hills demanding that all “church services and large group assemblies must cease and desist by March 1, 2015.” *Exhibit 5*, Violation Notice.

***The Church Applies for a Variance***

*“In terms of freedom of religion under constitutional law and zoning,  
it does not apply here.” - Penn Hills Zoning Board Member*

28. On or about March 9, 2015, the Church submitted an application for a variance to Penn Hills. *Exhibit 6*, Variance Application.

29. In the variance application, the Church explained its various ministries and outlined its importance to the community; it also pointed out that since it began holding services in September 2014, there were no complaints about noise or increased traffic and advised that it had expended approximately \$7,000.00 on improvements to the Property. *Id.*

30. The Penn Hills Planning Department recommended denial of the variance to the Zoning Hearing Board, improperly inferring that the Church misled the City as to the use of the building even though the Church fully disclosed the use and received an occupancy permit from the City to use the building for religious assembly. *Exhibit 7*, Planning Department Memorandum.

31. On April 22, 2015 the Penn Hills Zoning Hearing Board held a public hearing regarding the Church's variance application. Remarkably, speaking on behalf of Penn Hills, Board member Capozoli acknowledged that the services provided by the Church "are really good and needed in the community," while Board member Fitzhenry concluded that, "*In terms of freedom of religion under constitutional law and zoning, it does not apply here.*" ***Exhibit 8***, Zoning Hearing Board Minutes.

32. Not surprisingly, given the rejection of the constitutional and statutory right to worship, the Board voted unanimously to deny the Church's variance application. ***Id.***

33. Currently the Church is prohibited from holding worship services at the Property and is only permitted to use the Property for clothing distribution, a food bank, small meetings for church volunteers, and individual counseling. ***Id.***

34. Since March 1, 2015, and as a result of Penn Hills's ban, the Church has been forced to meet at alternate and inadequate locations, which has resulted in a decrease in attendance from about 85 to about 40, and at times dropping as low as 27.

35. The use of facilities inadequate to accommodate a meeting of the entire Church body is a violation of the Church's religious beliefs.

## COUNT I

***Violation of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act  
Equal Terms Claim 42 U.S.C. § 2000cc(b)(1)  
Facial Challenge***

36. Plaintiff restates the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 35 as if fully restated herein.

37. To state a facial claim under RLUIPA's Equal Terms provision, a church must show (1) it is a religious assembly or institution, (2) subject to a land use regulation, which



regulation (3) treats the religious assembly on less than equal terms with (4) a nonreligious assembly or institution (5) that causes no lesser harm to the interests the regulation seeks to advance. *Lighthouse Inst. for Evangelism, Inc. v. City of Long Branch*, 510 F.3d 253, 270 (3d Cir. 2007)

38. Congress directed that RLUIPA should be, “construed in favor of a broad protection of religious exercise, to the maximum extent permitted by the terms of this chapter and the Constitution.” 42 U.S.C. 2000cc-3(g).

39. Plaintiff is indeed a religious assembly or institution.

40. Since it is subject to the Penn Hills Zoning Ordinance, and the Penn Hills Zoning Ordinance is a land use regulation, Plaintiff is subject to a land use regulation.

41. The Penn Hills Zoning Ordinance as a whole treats religious assemblies and institutions on less than equal terms with nonreligious assemblies and institutions since churches and other religious assemblies are banned in Penn Hills unless they receive special dispensation from Penn Hills in the form of a conditional use permit, whereas nonreligious assemblies such as lodges, meeting halls, clubs, educational institutions, parks and playgrounds, and planned industrial developments are allowed as of right in various zoning districts in Penn Hills.

42. The permitted nonreligious assemblies do not cause less harm to the interests of the Penn Hills Zoning Ordinance than religious assemblies or institutions.

43. More specifically, the Church seeks to locate within the I-1 zoning district in Penn Hills and leases the Property in that district.

44. The Penn Hills Zoning Ordinance permits nonreligious assemblies and institutions such as educational institutions, parks and playgrounds, and planned industrial developments as of right in the I-1 zoning district. *Exhibit 4.*

45. The Penn Hills Zoning Ordinance treats religious assemblies such as the Church on less than equal terms with nonreligious assemblies by banning religious assemblies in the I-1 zoning district. *Id.*

46. Nonreligious assemblies and institutions such as educational institutions, parks and playgrounds, and planned industrial developments do not cause less harm to the interests the Zoning Ordinance seeks to advance in the I-1 district than religious assemblies or institutions.

47. Therefore, the Penn Hills Zoning Ordinance violates RLUIPA's Equal Terms provision in the zoning districts that permit nonreligious assemblies but ban religious assemblies or require religious assemblies to obtain special dispensation from Penn Hills.

48. The Penn Hills Zoning Ordinance violates RLUIPA's Equal Terms provision specifically in Section 7, which deals with Industrial Districts, since the I-1 District treats religious assemblies and institutions on less than equal terms with nonreligious assemblies and institutions that cause no lesser harm to the interests the regulation seeks to advance.

49. Plaintiff is suffering irreparable harm for which there is no adequate remedy at law and as a direct result of the Defendants' violations of Plaintiff's rights under 42 USC § 2000cc(b)(1) of the Act, as alleged above, Plaintiff has suffered and is entitled to recover damages, equitable relief, costs and attorney fees.

## COUNT II

***Violation of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act  
Substantial Burden Claim - 42 U.S.C. § 2000cc(a)  
Facial and As-Applied Challenge***

50. Plaintiff restates the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 49 as if fully restated herein.

51. Congress provided in Section 2(a)(1) of RLUIPA statutory protections for “religious exercise” as follows:

No government shall impose or implement a land use regulation in a manner that imposes a substantial burden on the religious exercise of a person, including a religious assembly or institution, unless the government demonstrates that imposition of the burden on that person, assembly, or institution \* \* \* is in furtherance of a compelling government interest [and] is the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling government interest. 42 U.S.C. 2000cc(a)(1).

52. While Congress did not define the term “substantial burden” in the Act, Congress included the definition “religious exercise” to broadly include:

any exercise of religion, whether or not compelled by, or central to, a system of religious belief,” and specifies that the “use, building, or conversion of real property for the purpose of religious exercise shall be considered to be religious exercise of the person or entity that uses or intends to use the property for that purpose.” 42 U.S.C. 2000cc-5(7).

53. Congress further directed that RLUIPA should be, “construed in favor of a broad protection of religious exercise, to the maximum extent permitted by the terms of this chapter and the Constitution.” 42 U.S.C. 2000cc-3(g).

54. The “substantial burden” provision of RLUIPA applies when (1) the burden is imposed in a program that receives federal financial assistance; (2) the imposition or removal of the burden affects interstate commerce; or (3) the burden is imposed in a system in which a government makes individualized assessments about how to apply a land use regulation. 42 U.S.C. 2000cc(a)(2)(A), (B), and (C).

55. A “substantial burden exists where: 1) a follower is forced to choose between following the precepts of his religion and forfeiting benefits otherwise generally available to other [similarly situated persons] versus abandoning one of the precepts of his religion in order to receive a benefit; OR 2) the government puts substantial pressure on an adherent to substantially modify his behavior and to violate his beliefs.” *First Korean Church of N.Y., Inc. v. Cheltenham Twp. Zoning Hearing Bd. & Cheltenham Twp.*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 25968 at \*35 (E.D. Pa. Feb. 29, 2012)

56. Penn Hills has put substantial pressure on the Church to modify its behavior and violate its beliefs by

- a. Precluding the entire Church family from worshipping together;
- b. Banning the Church from using the Property for religious assembly;
- c. Banning churches from all zoning districts except residential districts; and
- d. Requiring churches to obtain special dispensation from Penn Hills in the form of a conditional use permit before locating anywhere within Penn Hills.

57. Penn Hills, through its actions as described in paragraph 56 and throughout, has made it practically impossible for the Church to legally carry out its religious mandate in Penn Hills.

58. The Church now faces the choice of violating Penn Hills law or violating its own beliefs.

59. Penn Hills’s actions, as described in paragraph 56 and throughout, are not the least restrictive means of furthering any compelling government interest.

60. Therefore, Penn Hills has violated RLUIPA’s Substantial Burden provision.

61. The Defendant's actions have directly resulted in the Church suffering irreparable harm for which there is no adequate remedy at law.

62. Furthermore, as a direct result of the Defendant's violations of Plaintiff's rights under RLUIPA's Substantial Burden provision as alleged above, Plaintiff has suffered and is entitled to recover damages, equitable relief, costs and attorney fees.

### COUNT III

***Violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution - 42 U.S.C. 1983  
Facial Challenge***

63. Plaintiff restates the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 62 as if fully restated herein.

64. At all relevant times, Defendant was acting under color of state law.

65. The Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment commands that no State shall "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." U.S. Const. Amend. XIV

66. The Penn Hills Zoning Ordinance denies equal protection of the law to churches and other religious organizations since it requires such organizations to obtain special dispensation in the form of a conditional use permit from Penn Hills before locating anywhere in Penn Hills. ***Exhibit 4.***

67. The Penn Hills Zoning Ordinance allows many uses in Penn Hills as of right that are similarly situated to churches and other religious organizations including but not limited to lodges, meeting halls, clubs, educational institutions, parks, and playgrounds. ***Exhibit 4.***

68. More specifically, the I-1 zoning district bans churches and other religious organizations completely, whereas similarly situated uses such as educational institutions and parks and playgrounds are permitted as of right. **Exhibit 4.**

69. Such unequal and disparate treatment bears no rational relationship to any legitimate government interest.

70. Therefore, Penn Hills has violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

71. The Church is suffering and will continue to suffer irreparable harm for which there is no adequate remedy at law as a direct result of Defendant's violation of the Church's rights under the Equal Protection Clause.

72. Furthermore, as a direct result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff has suffered and is entitled to recover damages, equitable relief, costs and attorney fees.

#### **COUNT IV**

***Violation of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act  
Unreasonable Limitations Claim - 42 U.S.C. § 2000cc - (b)(3)(b)  
Facial and As Applied Challenge***

73. Plaintiff restates the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 72 as if fully restated herein.

74. Congress provided in Section 3(b)(3) of RLUIPA statutory protections for "unreasonable limitations" as follows:

No government shall impose or implement a land use regulation that . . .  
Unreasonably limits religious assemblies, institutions, or structures within a jurisdiction.

75. Congress directed that RLUIPA should be, “construed in favor of a broad protection of religious exercise, to the maximum extent permitted by the terms of this chapter and the Constitution.” 42 U.S.C. 2000cc-3(g).

76. The “unreasonable limitations” provision of RLUIPA applies when a City has no zones that permit houses of worship as of right and the only way a church may be built is by having an individual parcel rezoned, a process which in that city takes several years and is extremely expensive. See, <http://1.usa.gov/1UswqwA>, United States Department of Justice, RLUIPA guide, p. 3;

77. Penn Hills does not allow any religious assembly uses in any zoning district as of right and only allows religious assembly in residential districts through special approval conditional use. ***Exhibit 4.***

78. Hope Rising is a small non-denominational Church who does not have the financial resources to purchase several residential homes, tear them down, build a worship assembly building, build adequate parking and secure conditional use permits to operate as a religious assembly.

79. Even if Hope Rising had the financial resources, the City of Penn Hills does not have a group of properties in a residential area that is available to purchase that is large enough to build a worship facility with adequate parking.

80. Given the restriction in the Penn Hills Zoning Ordinance of not allowing religious assembly as of right in any zoning district, and allowing it in the residential zones only with conditional use approval, the Penn Hills Zoning Ordinance has violated, on its face, RLUIPA’s unreasonable limitations provision found at 42 U.S.C. 2000cc (b)(3)(b).

81. Given the restriction in the Penn Hills Zoning Ordinance of not allowing religious assembly as of right in any zoning district, and allowing it in the residential zones only with conditional use approval, and that there is no available property in the City of Penn Hills in the residential zone for religious assembly, Hope Rising Church has established that the Penn Hills Zoning Ordinance has violated, as applied, RLUIPA's unreasonable limitations provision found at 42 U.S.C. 2000cc (b)(3)(b).

82. The Defendant's actions have directly resulted in the Church suffering irreparable harm for which there is no adequate remedy at law.

83. Furthermore, as a direct result of the Defendant's violations of Plaintiff's rights under RLUIPA's Unreasonable Limitations provision as alleged above, Plaintiff has suffered and is entitled to recover damages, equitable relief, costs and attorney fees.

#### **COUNT V**

##### ***Violation of the Pennsylvania Religious Freedom Protection Act***

84. Plaintiff restates the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 83 as if fully restated herein.

85. 71 Pa. Stat. § 2404 prohibits the imposition of a substantial burden on a person's free exercise of religion, including any burden which results from a rule of general applicability.

86. At all relevant times, Defendant was acting under color of state law.

87. Penn Hills has imposed a substantial burden on the Church by:

- a. Banning the Church from using the Property for worship services;
- b. Banning churches from all zoning districts except residential districts; and



- c. Requiring churches to obtain special dispensation from Penn Hills in the form of a conditional use permit before locating anywhere within Penn Hills.

88. Gathering together as one body of believers for weekly worship services is part of the Church's sincerely held religious beliefs and is fundamental to the Church's religion.

89. The actions of Penn Hills, as described in paragraph 87 and throughout, significantly constrain the Church's ability to meet as one body of believers for weekly worship services.

90. The actions of Penn Hills, as described in paragraph 87 and throughout, deny the Church the reasonable opportunity to engage in weekly worship services as one body of believers.

91. The actions of Penn Hills are not the least restrictive means of furthering any compelling government interest.

92. Penn Hills's exercise of governmental authority, which has already substantially burdened the Church's religious freedom, is imminent.

93. Therefore, Penn Hills has violated the Pennsylvania Religious Freedom Protection Act.

94. As a direct result of the Penn Hills's actions, the Church is suffering and will continue to suffer irreparable harm for which there is no adequate remedy at law, and is entitled to declaratory and injunctive relief.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

Plaintiff Hope Rising Community Church respectfully requests a judgment against Defendant Municipality of Penn Hills on each and every count alleged herein as follows:

1. Pursuant to 28 USC § 2201, declare the decision by Penn Hills to ban the Church from using the Property for worship services to be in violation of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act and further declare that Plaintiff is permitted as of right to use the Property as a religious assembly and for all of its other intended and stated purposes;
2. Pursuant to 28 USC § 2202, Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 64, 42 USC § 1983, and 42 USC § 2000cc-4 permanently enjoin Defendant's enforcement of all portions of the Penn Hills Zoning Ordinance that treat religious assemblies and institutions on less than equal terms with nonreligious assemblies and institutions and further enjoin Defendant from preventing the Church from using the Property for worship services;
3. Pursuant to 28 USC § 2202, Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 65, 42 USC § 1983, and 42 USC § 1988, 42 USC § 2000cc-4 award Plaintiff all necessary and appropriate equitable relief;
4. Pursuant 42 USC § 2000cc-4, award damages to the Church in an amount to be determined at trial;
5. Pursuant to 42 USC § 1988, 42 USC § 2000cc-4(d), Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 54(d), and other applicable law, award Plaintiff its reasonable attorney fees, costs; and
6. Grant such other and further relief, injunctive or otherwise, as the Court deems equitable, just and proper.

### **Verification**

I, Pastor Harry Hoff, declare that I have personal knowledge of matters contained paragraphs 6 through 35 of this Verified Complaint and that the allegations contained therein are true and accurate. Executed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2015

### **Hope Rising Community Church**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

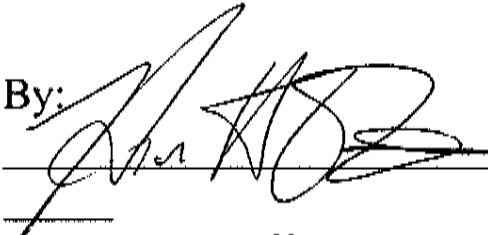
Harry Hoff

Its: Senior Pastor

### Verification

I, Pastor Harry Hoff, declare that I have personal knowledge of matters contained paragraphs 6 through 35 of this Verified Complaint and that the allegations contained therein are true and accurate. Executed this 3 day of September, 2015

**Hope Rising Community Church**

By: 

Harry Hoff

Its: Senior Pastor

### Demand for Jury Trial

Plaintiff herein demands a trial by jury in this action.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Lawrence G. Paladin, Jr.

Lawrence G. Paladin, Jr., Esq. PA ID

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**Demand for Jury Trial**

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Respectfully Submitted,

*/s/ Lawrence G. Paladin, Jr.*

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September 4, 2015