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Spring Valley Clinic Fights Sabbath “Discrimination” Claim
Complaint Alleges that Closing on Saturdays is a Human Rights Violation

Spring Valley, N.Y. (Oct. 19, 2006): Today, the Ben Gilman Medical and Dental Clinic (a location of Community Medical and Dental Care, Inc.), filed its response in the Rockland County Commission on Human Rights, rejecting all claims that it discriminates by closing on Saturdays instead of Sundays, in accordance with Jewish religious observance. The original complaint, filed on August 2 by the president of the NAACP of Spring Valley, alleges that such a schedule was an “unlawful discriminatory practice” under the New York Human Rights Law simply because it accommodates those of the Jewish faith.

“The clinic will fight these spurious charges,” said lead counsel Roman P. Storzer. “Nowhere in the Human Rights Law will you see even a suggestion that private businesses may not select specific days of operation for any reason, including religious accommodation. Shutting down a medical office on Wednesdays to play golf would be legal; so is closing for the Sabbath.” The Clinic is open on Sundays, and emergency rooms of local hospitals remain open on weekends to ensure necessary healthcare services for the local population.

The Clinic is represented by the law firm of Storzer & Greene, P.L.L.C., which represents religious institutions of all faiths throughout the nation, and The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, a public interest law firm based in Washington, D.C. Recently, Storzer & Greene filed suit against the Village of Suffern, N.Y. for its attempt to shut down a nonprofit group’s operation of a “Shabbos House” near a hospital that accommodates those whose religious beliefs forbid them from driving on the Sabbath.

“This complaint fails even to state a claim under the Human Rights Law,” said Storzer. “But even more importantly, the religious liberty principles enshrined in the First Amendment protect the Clinic’s right to observe the Sabbath. Forcing the clinic to stay open on Saturdays would be the discriminatory act here.”

The Clinic’s response will be available at <http://www.storzerandgreene.com> on Wednesday.

NOTE: Clinic representatives and lead counsel Roman Storzer will be available onsite for interviews Oct. 18 and 19. Call for appointment and location.