

Kris Mayes. Attorney General of Arizona
Attorney General's Office
Arizona Department of Justice
Attn: Consumer Information and Complaints Unit
2005 N Central Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85004-2926

Re: Landlord Companies Accused of Illegal Rent-Fixing in Washington D.C. Also Hold Properties in Arizona

Dear Attorney General :

On behalf of nonpartisan government watchdog Accountable.US, I am writing to encourage you to review the business dealings of major rental companies operating in Arizona that were among the fourteen landlords sued by District of Columbia Attorney General Brian Schwab's office over allegations they ["illegally rais\[ed\] rents for tens of thousands of residents by collectively sharing their data with \[property management software company RealPage\]."](#)

[Mid-America Apartments](#) and [Camden Property Trust](#) are among the companies involved in the lawsuit with ties to Arizona that we are especially concerned may be engaging in price-fixing elsewhere given their troubling histories of profiteering and misconduct. In recent years, Accountable.US has documented how too many corporations are motivated by greed and are price-gouging consumers. And the landlord industry is often among the worst offenders. It is critical that enforcers of consumer protection and antitrust laws like yourself stand up for consumers instead of corporations that profit from rising prices.

In a report [released last year](#) that received national attention [from CBS News](#), Accountable.US found Camden Property Trust touted rent increases while calling rent caps "impediments to running our business" after seeing FY 2021 net income grow by nearly 143% to \$312 million. Meanwhile, its CEO's compensation rose by almost \$420,000 to over \$4.2 million.

Securities and Exchange Commission records indicate that Mid-America Apartments operates 2,968 units across 10 properties in Arizona, as of December 31, 2022. And Camden Property Trust operates 4,029 units across 13 properties in the state, as of December 31, 2022.

As we have documented, these companies have shown their recent rent hikes were based on greed, not need, after reporting massive increased profits over the previous year while generously rewarding their executives. Now the same companies fueling the housing affordability crisis have allegedly stooped to illegal price-fixing and collusion to pad their profits – making matters worse for many struggling renters in Washington D.C.

The question is: If these companies were willing to allegedly engage in rent fixing surrounded by federal and local regulators in the nation's capital, why not in Arizona as well? In our view, it is

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worth looking into whether Arizona tenants dealing with these same companies are not also victims of illegal practices that further drive housing costs through the roof.

As you know, the U.S. Labor Department's latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) report found that shelter was by far ["the largest contributor" to inflation in September](#). We know corporate profiteering played a major role in that. You may be able to answer whether illegal price collusion also contributed to the problem in Arizona. If you agree this matter merits a serious review, we look forward to hearing about the results of your office's findings.

Sincerely,



Caroline Ciccone
President, Accountable.US