

**CITY OF AKRON CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_ (office use only)

CITY OF AKRON  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
RECEIVED  
2023 SEP -7 AM 11:00



1. Complainant Information (information about you):

- a. Name: Seleke Korleh
- b. Home Address: 2630 Shoreline Dr.  
City/State/Zip: Akron, OH, 44316
- c. Phone Number: 330-322-4387
- d. Email Address: ioKolo@OkoloLawfirm.com

I prefer to be contacted via: Phone  Mail  E-mail

I prefer to be addressed by the title of: Mrs.  Ms.  Miss   
Mr.  Dr.  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

I identify with the following pronouns: she/her/hers   
he/him/his  they/them/theirs  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Respondent Information (information about alleged discriminator):

- a. Name: VanDevere Chevrolet
- b. Address: 1490 Vernon Odom Blvd.  
City/State/Zip: Akron, OH, 44320
- c. Phone Number: 330-556-6487
- d. Your relationship to Respondent (such as: tenant, landlord, student, teacher, customer, manager, employer, employee, etc.): Former employee

3. Category of Discrimination (choose any/all that apply):

- Housing
- Public Accommodations
- Employment

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4. I believe I was discriminated against because of my (choose any/all that apply):

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Age                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Military Status                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ancestry                      | <input type="checkbox"/> National Origin                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Color                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Race (includes hair texture/style)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creed                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sex   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Familial Status               | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender Identity or Expression | <input type="checkbox"/> Source of Income related to Real estate transaction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marital Status                |  |

5. Date or dates of alleged discrimination: 8/2/2023

6. Location of alleged discrimination: VanDevere Chevrolet

7. Please briefly describe the discrimination you believe you experienced:

See attached.

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8. Have you filed any complaint about this discrimination with any of the following?

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Ohio Civil Rights Commission

Federal Court

State Court

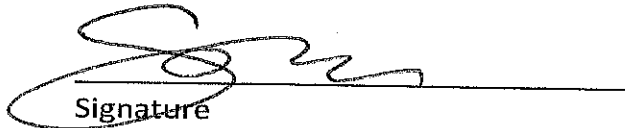
If so, what is the current status of the complaint?

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Please sign and date below:

I declare under penalty of perjury that I have read this complaint and that it is true and correct.

  
Signature

9-06-23  
Date

Your complaint may be submitted in-person or by mail to the following address:

City of Akron Department of Law – Civil  
Division Ocasek Government Office  
Building  
161 South High Street, Suite 202  
Akron, OH 44308

You will be contacted within a reasonable time upon the City's receipt of your complaint. Please note that a copy of this complaint will be provided to the respondent.

## Akron Civil Rights Commission Complaint

Seleke Korleh began employment with Vandevere Chevrolet ("Vandevere") as a Sales Consultant, selling cars in October 2022. At the time Seleke had locs, a natural hairstyle worn primarily by individuals of African descent. As time went on, Seleke's locs began to grow longer and his former employer Vandevere began to have issues with his natural hairstyle.

In late July 2023, a manager at Vandevere began acting passive aggressively toward Seleke. He had been acting this way toward Seleke for some time. On this day, the manager asked Seleke where his hat was that he would wear from time to time. Seleke informed him that his hat was at home. The manager told Seleke that his hair did not comply with Vandevere's professionalism standards. That following week, Seleke spoke with a manager about the way he was being treated regarding his hair. The manager told Seleke that Vandevere requires their sales consultants to have a professional and conservative appearance, and Seleke's hair did not meet that standard. The manager told Seleke his "hair was getting out of control." Seleke informed the manager that his hair was professional, conservative, complied with company policy, and that he would not be cutting his hair. The manager asked Seleke whether he was "choosing his hair over his employment and source of income." Seleke responded by telling the manager that asking him to cut his hair and change his appearance is stripping him of his identity. The manager told Seleke that he would speak to the owner and other managers and will give him a decision about what the company was going to do in one week.

Later that day, the manager came back to Seleke with an ultimatum. The Manager told Seleke that he could cut his hair, wear a hat every day to work, or work in the back of the dealership in a non-customer facing role (that would pay less). Seleke was told that he could think about his decision. Seleke went home and braided his locs with the hope that Vandevere would change their mind regarding his locs. When Seleke went into work the next day, he was told his locs still were not acceptable. Vandevere asked Seleke to resign and Seleke said no. Seleke packed his things up that day and left. Before leaving, Vandevere had Seleke sign a document detailing the facts of what happened from their perspective.

Seleke is not the first individual to be discriminated against on the basis of race at Vandevere. Your investigation will reveal that there is a pattern and practice of discriminating against employees on the basis of race, which includes but is not limited to situations involving the City of Akron Crown Legislation.

Seleke is being represented by attorney Imokhai Okolo, Esq. with the Okolo Law Firm LLC. All communication should be directed through counsel. Seleke is requesting a thorough investigation, hearing, and an award of all damages available under the law.