

City/State

Lexington Herald-Leader, 9/30/92, p B 2, col. 3

Disabled Lexington man sues Richmond

By Chris Poore

Central Kentucky bureau

A disabled Lexington man sued the city of Richmond in federal court yesterday, saying that Richmond's sidewalks and buildings do not meet federal regulations for the disabled.

David G. Miller asked the U.S. District Court in Lexington to order Richmond to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, which took effect in July. The act requires cities to put together plans or developing such facilities as curb ramps and accesses to govern-

ment offices.

Miller's attorney, Robert L. Abell, said he met with city officials and determined that Richmond has not developed a plan.

"Basically there was no alternative but to sue," Abell said.

But Ed Worley, city manager, said the city is developing a plan and has worked hard to make streets accessible to the disabled. City officials have also put together a committee that includes an Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator and a co-coordinator who identify deficiencies in services for

the disabled.

"The city of Richmond fully intends to comply with the ADA," Worley said.

Miller, a wheelchair-bound quadriplegic, lived in Richmond until May, when he moved to Lexington. The suit says Miller often visits his father, who lives in Richmond. To get around in the city, Miller has to use streets that are difficult to travel, the suit says.

Miller first approached city officials at a June 1991 meeting with a proposal to make the city more accessible to the disabled and elder-

ly.

Miller urged at the city council meeting that his proposal be approved within two days and that it be financed as recommended or he would file a federal lawsuit against the city. Worley said Miller offered to drop the suit in exchange for \$200,000.

"That borders on extortion," Worley said at the time.

In the suit filed yesterday, Miller is not asking for money. He wants the city to meet federal requirements to accommodate the disabled.