

**Anderson v Vark St. Houses, Inc.**

2023 NY Slip Op 31070(U)

April 5, 2023

Supreme Court, New York County

Docket Number: Index No. 154907/2021

Judge: Frank P. Nervo

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This opinion is uncorrected and not selected for official publication.

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
NEW YORK COUNTY**

PRESENT: HON. FRANK P. NERVO PART 04

*Justice*

-----X

NATASHA ANDERSON,

Plaintiff,

- v -

VARC STREET HOUSES, INC.,

Defendant.

-----X

INDEX NO. 154907/2021

MOTION DATE 01/23/2023

MOTION SEQ. NO. 001

**DECISION + ORDER ON  
MOTION**

The following e-filed documents, listed by NYSCEF document number (Motion 001) 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18

were read on this motion to/for AMEND CAPTION/PLEADINGS.

Plaintiff seeks an order permitting amendment of the summons and complaint to add Related Urban Management Co., Related Management Holdco. LLC, and Related Management Co. LP as defendants (hereinafter “Related defendants”). Plaintiff further seeks permission to serve the Related defendants with the amended summons and complaint as well as deem same served upon Vark Street Houses Inc. *nunc pro tunc*. Finally, plaintiff seeks to amend the caption to add the Related defendants. The motion is wholly unopposed.

CPLR § 3025(b) governs permissive leave to amend a pleading upon terms which are just. Leave is to be freely given absent a showing that amendment would cause surprise or prejudice (*Fahey v. County of Ontario*, 44 NY2d 934

[1978]; *170 W. Vil. Assoc. v. G & E Realty, Inc.*, 56 AD3d 372 [1st Dept 2008]; *Lanpont v. Savvas Cab Corp., Inc.*, 244 AD2d 208 [1st Dept 1997]). However, “[i]n order to conserve judicial resources, an examination of the underlying merits of the proposed causes of action is warranted. Where a court concludes that an application to amend a pleading clearly lacks merit, leave is properly denied” (*Eight Ave. Garage Corp. v. HKL Realty Corp.*, 60 AD3d 404 [1st Dept 2009] [internal citation omitted]).

Here, the motion is unopposed. The Related defendants are necessary to afford complete relief, and their addition to this slip-and-fall matter is neither surprising nor prejudicial given their alleged management and interests in the accident site. Plaintiff’s proposed pleading does not clearly lack merit.

Accordingly,

ORDERED that the motion is granted without opposition; and it is further

ORDERED that the amended summons and complaint is deemed served upon answering defendant Vark Street Houses Inc. *nunc pro tunc*; and it is further

ORDERED that the caption in this matter, under Index No. 154907/2021,  
shall be amended to read:

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

-----X  
NATASHA ANDERSON,

Plaintiff,

-against-

VARX STREET HOUSES, INC., RELATED URBAN  
MANAGEMENT COMPANY, L.L.C., RELATED  
MANAGEMENT HOLDCO L.L.C., and RELATED  
MANAGEMENT COMPANY L.P.,

Defendants.

-----X

; and it is further

ORDERED that within ten days of its entry by the Clerk, Plaintiff shall  
serve a copy of this order with notice of entry on the County Clerk and the  
Clerk of the Trial Support Office, and it is further

ORDERED that upon service on the County Clerk and Clerk of the Trial  
Support Office, the County Clerk and the Clerk of the Trial Support Office  
shall amend their records to reflect the above caption change; and it is further


ORDERED that plaintiff shall serve the amended summons and complaint, annexed as exhibit C (NYSCEF Doc. No. 17), upon defendants Related Urban Management Co., Related Management Holdco. LLC, and Related Management Co. LP within 20 days of this decision and order; and it is further

ORDERED that all parties shall familiarize themselves with the Part Rules, available on the Court’s website; and it is further

ORDERED that following service of the amended summons and complaint, and any answers thereto, all parties shall confer and file, as appropriate, a joint-letter/proposed discovery order via NYSCEF with courtesy copy to chambers no later than July 31, 2023. Failure to timely file a proposed discovery order may constitute waiver of discovery

THIS CONSTITUTES THE DECISION AND ORDER OF THE COURT

4/5/2023  
DATE

  
HON. FRANK P. NERVO  
J.S.C.

CHECK ONE:	<input type="checkbox"/> CASE DISPOSED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NON-FINAL DISPOSITION
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GRANTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GRANTED IN PART
	<input type="checkbox"/> DENIED	<input type="checkbox"/> SUBMIT ORDER
APPLICATION:	<input type="checkbox"/> SETTLE ORDER	<input type="checkbox"/> FIDUCIARY APPOINTMENT
CHECK IF APPROPRIATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> INCLUDES TRANSFER/REASSIGN	<input type="checkbox"/> REFERENCE