

## Club ordered to pay up for age bias

By Jay Fitzgerald | Wednesday, November 4, 2009 | <http://www.bostonherald.com> | Business & Markets

A lush Cape Cod golf club developed by former Reebok chief executive Paul Fireman engaged in age discrimination and retaliation when it laid off its 59-year-old vice president of sales, the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination has ruled.

The commission has ordered that the former Willowbend Country Club employee, Virginia Dilorio, should be paid a whopping \$200,000 for the alleged discrimination, in addition to getting her \$62,000 annual salary from the time she was laid off four years ago to her 65th birthday.

The commission also awarded Dilorio half of her 2005 commissions, though that amount wasn't stipulated in a statement yesterday.

A spokesman for the private Mashpee golf and resort club, which has denied the allegations, said in a statement yesterday that it plans to keep fighting the charges.

"While we respect the MCAD, we disagree with the decision and will appeal it," said spokesman George Regan.

In a statement, the commission said it rejected Willowbend's argument that it fired Dilorio due to her "higher salary" within its real estate office.

The commission instead said testimony indicated the club's general manager wanted to "bring in some younger blood."

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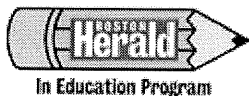
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