



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Follow-up Joint Public Hearing on Housing Discrimination on Long Island.

PURPOSE: To examine possible illegal and unequal treatment of homebuyers of color on Long Island and the effectiveness of legislative actions and proposals to combat such treatment

COMMITTEES: Standing Committees on Housing, Construction and Community Development; Investigations and Government Operations; and Consumer Protection

Thursday, September 17, 2020

10:00 AM

Web link: <https://www.nysenate.gov/events>

Oral Testimony by Invitation Only

On December 12, 2019, the Senate Standing Committees on Housing, Construction and Community Development; Investigations and Government Operations; and Consumer Protection held a joint public hearing to gather testimony and gain insight about potential legislative responses to allegations of housing discrimination on Long Island. This hearing was a direct response to a Newsday investigation concerning racial discrimination and evidence of unequal treatment by real estate agents on Long Island.

Many of the realtors and supervisors at realty companies named in the investigation who were invited to testify at that joint hearing did not appear, leaving gaps in the information needed for crafting additional legislative solutions. This follow-up hearing, initially scheduled for April 17, is meant to give the individuals who did not appear during the first hearing the chance to testify and provide information regarding housing discrimination on Long Island. The hearing is also expected to include testimony from experts on fair housing laws, best practices for ensuring compliance, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on fair housing, and related matters. Witnesses are invited to provide feedback on legislation (S6874A) enacted this year imposing new sanctions against real estate brokers or sales people found guilty of housing discrimination as well as various pending legislative proposals (such as S6713, S7625, S8096, S7581, and S7632) aimed at preventing such discrimination and promoting fair housing in the future.

Oral testimony is by invitation only, and oral testimony will be limited to 10 minutes.

For those testifying, to the extent practicable, please provide your testimony in writing in advance. You can email your testimony to investigations@nyenate.gov.

In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committees will, to the extent practicable and consistent with other obligations, accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. Timing requests should be made on the attached Reply Form or communicated, as early as possible.

In accordance with its policies of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to the Legislature's facilities and activities. Please send any requests to investigations@nyenate.gov.

Sen. James Skoufis

Chair, Committee on
Investigations and
Government Operations

Sen. Brian Kavanagh

Chair, Committee on Housing,
Construction and Community
Development

Sen. Kevin Thomas

Chair, Committee on
Consumer Protection

Joint Public Hearing on Housing Discrimination on Long Island

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Your presence is requested to provide oral testimony at the Joint Public Hearing on Housing Discrimination on Long Island, on Friday, September 17, 2020, at 10:00 AM. Oral testimony is by invitation only.

Please return this Reply Form no later than Friday September 6, 2020 via mail, fax, or email to:

New York State Senate

Room 815 – Legislative Office Building Albany,
New York 12247
Phone: (518) 455-3290
Fax: (518) 426-6784
Email: investigations@nyenate.gov

I plan to attend and testify at the public hearing concerning Housing Discrimination on Long Island held by the Standing Committees on Housing, Construction and Community Development; Investigations and Government Operations; and Consumer Protection on Friday, September 17, 2020. I will address my remarks on the following subjects:

I do not plan to attend and testify at the above hearing.

I will require the following assistance or accommodation in order to make this hearing accessible to me:

Name: _____	Address: _____ _____
Title: _____	Phone: _____
Organization: _____	Email: _____