FAIR HOUSING:

IT'S THE LAW

NYC Commission on Human Rights

The New York City Human Rights Law is a broad civil rights law that prohibits housing, employment and public accommodation discrimination in New York City and encourages diverse groups to live and work together.

Fair Housing means that you have a right to live wherever you choose and to be treated according to the same rules as everyone else. Fair housing laws promote equal opportunity and prohibit discriminatory practices that can unfairly limit the housing choices of numerous groups, such as immigrants, people with disabilities, and families with children.

FAIR HOUSING LAW

The Human Rights Law prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of a person's real or perceived race, color, national origin, creed (religion), disability, sexual orientation, marital status, partnership status, gender (including gender identity and sexual harassment), alienage or citizenship status, age, lawful occupation, lawful source of income or familial status (because children are or may be members of your household). These are called "protected classes."

Unlawful practices based on these protected classes include:

- Refusing to sell or rent housing;
- Misrepresenting the availability of housing;
- Setting different terms, conditions or privileges for the sale or rental of housing;
- Providing different housing services or facilities;
- Discriminatory advertising (for example, ads that say "no children" or "couples preferred");
- Refusing to provide a reasonable accommodation for a person with a disability;
- Steering a potential homebuyer or renter to or away from an area on the basis of race or national origin;
- Pressuring, for profit, homeowners to sell by exploiting ethnic, racial or other demographic changes (blockbusting); or
- Threatening, coercing or intimidating a person because they exercise their fair housing rights or assist others in doing so.

FILING A COMPLAINT

If you believe you have been the victim of housing discrimination in New York City, you may file a complaint with the Law Enforcement Bureau of the NYC Commission on Human Rights. You have one year from the last incident of discrimination to file a complaint. Some complaints involve a continuing harm that extends the statute of limitations.

To schedule an appointment, please call ***(212) 306-7450.*** If you are unable to travel to the Commission's offices, we will make other arrangements.

The following offices may be contacted if have any questions about our human rights laws or Dial 311:

CCHR Central Office & Community Service Centers

MANHATTAN
100 Gold Street, Suite 4600
New York, NY 10038

BRONX
1932 Arthur Avenue, Suite 203A
Bronx, NY 10457

BROOKLYN
275 Livingston Street, 2nd Fl.
Brooklyn, NY 11217

QUEENS
153-01 Jamaica Ave, Room 203
Jamaica, NY 11432

STATEN ISLAND
60 Bay Street, 7th Fl.
Staten Island, NY 10301
(Opposite Staten Island Ferry)

BILL DE BLASIO, Mayor • **CARMELYN P. MALALIS,** Commissioner/Chair