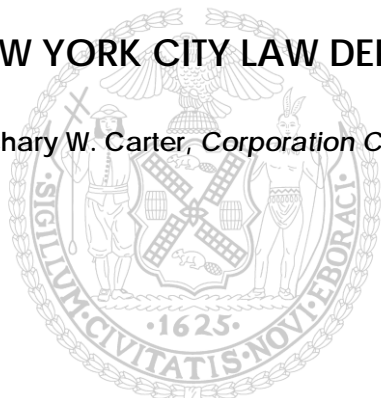


# NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT

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## NEW YORK CITY SUBMITS AMICUS BRIEF TO SUPPORT A LAWSUIT ALLEGING SOURCE OF INCOME DISCRIMINATION AT BROOKLYN'S SPRING CREEK TOWERS

The New York City Law Department today announced that the City of New York has submitted an amicus brief to support a lawsuit filed by individuals who allege landlords discriminated against them based on their "source of income," in violation of the New York City Human Rights Law. The 2015 lawsuit brought by two individuals and the Fair Housing Justice Center against Starrett City, Inc. and Grenadier Realty Corp. claims the two women were each denied rental apartments at Spring Creek Towers in Brooklyn because they were planning to pay their rent with a voucher from the Living in Communities (LINC) program. LINC is a City initiative that helps homeless individuals and families move from temporary shelters into stable homes. A New York State Supreme Court ruling denied the defendant owners' motion to dismiss the case, but the defendants have appealed that decision. The City's brief argues against their efforts, saying they are distorting the scope and application of City anti-discrimination law and that the appeals court should reject any attempt to exclude LINC participants and other recipients of state and local housing assistance from the Human Rights Law's source of income protections.

**Corporation Counsel Zachary W. Carter** said: "Our Human Rights Law is clearly intended to protect recipients of government assistance, including persons using housing vouchers from programs such as LINC, from source of income discrimination. Defendants' arguments that these New Yorkers fall outside the scope of our anti-discrimination law misconstrue prior court rulings and are inconsistent with the very best of our City's values of inclusion, fairness and access to opportunity for all."

"To automatically consider renters who receive rental assistance vouchers undesirable tenants is not only unfair but also illegal in the City of New York," said **Department of Social Services Commissioner Steven Banks**. "We are dedicated to addressing this problem to ensure that landlords understand and comply with the law and that tenants with rental assistance vouchers are aware of their rights."

**Chair and Commissioner of the New York City Commission on Human Rights, Carmelyn P. Malalis**, said: "Discrimination based on a tenant's source of income is prohibited under the NYC Human Rights Law and the appeals court must reject any attempt by landlords or brokers to skirt these vital Human Right Law protections. The Commission, which has made this a priority area of enforcement, launched 120 new investigations into source of income discrimination last year, the highest in the Commission's history. We look forward to further collaboration with the Law Department to support crucial cases like this one."

The City's amicus brief can be accessed [here](#).

*Tracing its roots back to the 1600s, the New York City Law Department is one of the oldest and most dynamic legal offices in the world, ranking among New York City's largest law offices and the country's largest public law offices. Led by the Corporation Counsel, the Department's 885 attorneys represent the City on a vast array of civil litigation, legislative and legal issues, and in the criminal prosecution of juveniles, encompassing a caseload of 70,000 active or ongoing legal matters each year in 16 legal divisions. The Corporation Counsel heads the Law Department and acts as legal counsel for the Mayor, elected officials, the City, and all its agencies. For more information, visit the Law Department's website at [www.nyc.gov/law](http://www.nyc.gov/law)*

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