



## **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

Friday, September 25, 2020

**10:00 AM**

Web link: [NYSenate.gov/Events](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. An initial follow-up hearing was held on September 17, which included individuals who did not appear during the first hearing who testified after being subpoenaed, who provide information regarding housing discrimination on Long Island. That hearing also 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 also provided 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.

Following judicial intervention, the individuals who failed to appear on September 17 for testimony at the public hearing, shall appear, under authority of the Legislative Subpoenas, for

testimony on September 25 at 10:00 AM. Appearance is mandatory and noncompliance shall be punishable by civil and/or criminal penalties.

**Oral testimony is by subpoena only, and oral testimony will be limited to 5 minutes.**

For those testifying, you can email your testimony to [investigations@nysenate.gov](mailto:investigations@nysenate.gov).

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@nysenate.gov](mailto:investigations@nysenate.gov).

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Sen. James Skoufis

Chair, Committee on  
Investigations and  
Government Operations

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Sen. Brian Kavanagh

Chair, Committee on Housing,  
Construction and Community  
Development

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Sen. Kevin Thomas

Chair, Committee on  
Consumer Protection