

What We All Need to Know About FAIR HOUSING – Speakers’ Biographies

THE LONG ISLAND HOUSING PARTNERSHIP, INC. & THE LONG ISLAND BOARD OF REALTORS®

Theresa E. Sanders, Pres. & CEO, Urban League of Long Island

Since 1997, Ms. Sanders has led the Urban League of Long Island, an affiliate of the National Urban League. Ms. Sanders has 15 years of administrative experience at the Urban League, a not-for-profit community based organization that annually serves more than 20,000 children and families in Nassau and Suffolk counties. As an administrator, Ms. Sanders develops direct service programs that help infuse millions of dollars into the regional economy, by empowering disadvantaged individuals to become economically self-sufficient and socially conscience community members. Under the leadership of Ms. Sanders, the Urban League of Long Island addresses key issues that affect the local community. Her vision has led to the development of the Long Island Center for Community Empowerment to address the growing demand for youth and family services. Ms. Sanders holds a B.S. in Business Management from the State University of New York at Old Westbury, a M.S. in Instructional Technology from the New York Institute of Technology, as well as credits towards a M.S. in Public Policy Analysis from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Ms. Sanders also is pursuing her Ph.D. from the Dowling College School of Education. Theresa Sanders works as an adjunct professor at the State University of New York at Old Westbury, and currently serves on the Long Island Regional Planning Council. In addition, Ms. Sanders serves on the boards of Suffolk County Community College and the Community Development Corporation of Long Island. Within the Urban League Movement, Ms. Sanders is a past Regional Vice-President of the Eastern Region of the National Urban League Association of Executives, and President of the New York State Association of Presidents. In 2004, Sanders was honored as one of Long Island Business News’ Top 50 Women, she is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and is a member of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Long Island Chapter. Theresa Sanders is a member of Living Hope Fellowship Baptist Church and member of the Belmont Lake Civic Association.

Marlene Zarfes, Esq. – Fair Housing Director, Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. (WRO)

Marlene has been WRO’s Fair Housing Director since September 2010. She is currently supervising HUD and local grants focusing on enforcement, education and outreach for both fair housing and fair lending throughout the Lower Hudson Valley. In addition to teaching fair housing to realtors, cooperative and condominium boards, and community groups, Marlene focuses on advocacy, including for the rights of persons with disabilities and seniors. Prior to joining WRO, she practiced corporate law, most recently at Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP’s New York City office, participating in a variety of pro bono matters including contributing to the drafting of two amicus briefs before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Rabbi Dr. Steven A. Moss, Chairperson, Suffolk County Human Rights Commission

Rabbi Moss was appointed to the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission in 1992. Rabbi Moss has served at the B'nai Israel Reform Temple in Oakdale as its spiritual leader since 1972. He was initially appointed Chairperson of the County's Anti-Bias Task Force by former County Executive Patrick Halpin, and has been appointed Chair (and later Co-Chair) of the Task Force for each of the subsequent years by County Executives Robert Gaffney and Steve Levy. He serves as Chief of Chaplains for the Suffolk County Police Department, the Chiefs of Police Association, the Police Association, and serves as chaplain to many local hospitals and senior facilities. He received his undergraduate degree from New York University, and his graduate degrees and ordination from the Hebrew Union College in New York. He was the recipient of the District Attorney's Distinguished Citizen Award, and Chaplain of the Year 1987 and Rabbi of the Year 2007 awards, given by the New York Board of Rabbis. In 2009, he received the Lehman-LaGuardia Award for Civic Achievement. In 2003, he was appointed to the Board of the Suffolk Center on the Holocaust, Diversity, and Human Understanding. He is the longest sitting member of the Islip Town Board of Ethics. He is Chair of the Islip Town Anti-Bias Task Force and Vice Chair of the Suffolk Center for the Holocaust, Diversity and Human Understanding.

Jennifer Blaske, Esq., Executive Director, Suffolk County Human Rights Commission

Jennifer Blaske began her career at the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission in 1999 as an Investigator. She received several promotions throughout the years and was appointed Executive Director of the Commission in 2011. In addition to overseeing the day-to-day operations and investigation of cases filed with the agency, Jennifer works closely with community members, groups and organizations committed to furthering human rights and equal opportunity. Since 2012, when the Suffolk County Anti-Bias Task Force became a subcommittee of the Human Rights Commission, Jennifer has also focused much effort on supporting the work and needs of the individual Town Anti-Bias Task Forces. Jennifer's community involvement also includes her participation as a member of committees and organizations throughout the County such as the Advisory Board of the Suffolk Center on the Holocaust, Dignity and Human Understanding, Inc. at Suffolk County Community College, the Dignity for All Students Committee, the National Organization for Women, and the Suffolk County Disabilities Advisory Board, to name a few. Jennifer also has been honored as a volunteer, providing legal representation on a pro bono basis to indigent clients in civil matters. She earned her J.D. from Hofstra University School of Law.

Barbara Lee Ford, Esq., Chairperson NYS Assoc. of REALTORS® Co-op Working Group

Barbara Ford received her undergraduate degree from Long Island University, C.W. Post Campus, obtaining a B.S. in Finance with Honors. In 1998, she received her J.D. from Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, where she graduated Cum Laude. In 1980, she became a Realtor and a member of the Long Island Board of REALTORS®. Her management company, Phase II Management Corp., specializes in the management of residential cooperative properties and condominiums. She has been the chairperson of the New York State Association of REALTORS®, Inc. Cooperative and Condominium issues working group for more than (10) ten years, and has been active in initiating and supporting legislation that provides transparency and fairness in cooperative and condominium transactions. Barbara Ford is recognized by the Supreme Court of Nassau County as an expert in the marketing of Co-op properties.

Honorable DuWayne Gregory, Presiding Officer, Suffolk County Legislature

In 2014, 15th District Suffolk County Legislator DuWayne Gregory became the first person of color to be elected as Presiding Officer of the County Legislature, continuing the landmark achievements that have marked his career in public service. That achievement is the high point—so far—of Legislator Gregory’s 20 years of service to the country, county and the public. In 2011, Legislator Gregory became the first person of color in the history to be elected Majority Leader of the Suffolk County Legislature. In that role, Legislator Gregory led the Democratic Caucus, which has controlled the Legislature since 2006. A native Long Islander, he enlisted in the United States Army in 1993. Soon after, he was accepted to Officer Candidate School (OCS). After completion of OCS, Lieutenant Gregory was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in Field Artillery. After his Honorable Discharge, he continued his public service in the Town of Babylon where he served as the Citizen’s Advocate.

Honorable Waylyn Hobbs, Deputy Mayor, Village of Hempstead

Deputy Mayor Waylyn Hobbs has been a resident of the Village of Hempstead for more than 40 years. He works continuously and tirelessly on behalf of the entire community to foster social, educational, economic, and community development. Deputy Mayor Hobbs previously served as a Commissioner of the Hempstead Housing Authority. Because of his commitment to the Village and its residents, he also serves as a Lieutenant in the Hempstead FD where he is active in the Rescue Squad.