



New York State Association of REALTORS®, Inc.

## Fair Housing and Cultural Diversity Committee Meeting Report

Friday, September 30, 2022

2:30 pm-4:00 pm

**Hind Hatoum, Chair**

**Ron Garafalo, Vice Chair**

Chair, Hind Hatoum, welcomed and discussed housekeeping items, and the previous meeting report was accepted.

Vice Chair, Ron Garafalo, introduced our speakers on Credit, Justice Involvement, and New Amendments to the HRL: Caroline Downey, General Counsel for the NYS Division of Human Rights and Nadya Salcedo, Director of the Fair Housing Office on NYS Homes and Community Renewal Community. Ms. Downey discussed changes under the Human Rights Law and noted Federal Fair Housing Act is a minimum standard in NYS. Ms. Salcedo discussed worksheets created by her office focusing on Best Practices for Housing for projects funded/supported by her office with a focus on Criminal convictions.

Chair Hatoum thanked Ms. Downey and Ms. Salcedo for their participation and introduced Usman Malik, Esq., Ali & Bains Law Firm, to present on Building Change together Towards Equal Opportunity.

Anthony Gatto, Esq., NYSAR Legal Counsel gave a very brief synopsis of what he will be covering at the Legal Update including several items discussed by Ms. Downey. He also announced that NYSAR Statewide forms would be available in multiple languages beginning in 2023.

Ms. Downey and Mr. Malik took questions from the Audience. One question related to Condo Boards rejecting buyers with no explanations. Ms. Downey said if there was a perceived potential Fair Housing violation/discrimination involved, she recommended a complaint be filed with the Division of Human Rights to initiate an investigation.

There was no new business, and the meeting was adjourned.