



New York State Association of REALTORS®, Inc.

Fair Housing and Cultural Diversity Committee Meeting Report

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Live Meeting – The Desmond

2:00 pm-3:30 pm

Ron Garafalo, Chair

Michelle Kay, Vice Chair

Chair, welcomed attendees, and the previous meeting report was accepted.

Chair and Vice Chair, introduced three of the NAR Fair Housing Champion Award recipients who joined the meeting and presented via Zoom:

- Harrison Beacher, Managing Partner of the Coalition Properties Group
- Sabrina Brown, Broker/Owner, Brown and Brown Real Estate
- Rafael Perez, Realtor, San Diego.

Chair, thanked the three speakers for their participation and introduced NYS Division of Human Rights, Director of Disability Rights, John Herrion, Esq., who gave a presentation on Housing Discrimination based on Disability under NYS Law. He noted that over 50% of Housing complaints DHR receives have some type of Disability Rights component. DHR partners with DOS to flag complaints – if DOS gets a complaint about a Fair Housing violation by a real estate professional, they share these with DHR and likewise. Review of reasonable modifications and policy modifications were discussed along with details regarding how complaint investigations are handled.

Director Herrion took questions from the audience.

Under new business a Motion was made, second and carried that “NYSAR and the Education Committee review existing education available regarding Fair Housing and Disabilities and improve upon educating members.” Additional discussion will take place at the next scheduled meeting.

Chair, announced that NYSAR would be partnering with NYS Division of Human Rights on programming for their Fair Housing Conference to be held at NYS Museum in Albany, NY on April 25. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Meeting was adjourned.