



New York State Association of REALTORS®, Inc.

## Housing Opportunities Committee Meeting Report

January 26, 2023  
Virtual Zoom Meeting  
Start time – 3:00 pm

**Sarah Stansbury**  
**Chair**

**Yvette Clark Watkins**  
**Vice Chair**

Chair, Sarah Stansbury, opened the meeting and the September 2022 meeting report was approved as published.

Bill Teague Bill Teague, AVP Business Development, Aubrey Nurse, Renovation Mortgage Specialist M&T Bank, and Paul Hurley, CRA Loan Officer M&T Bank, Mortgage Division, three SONYMA experts, were with the committee to discuss SONYMA products and how they are preparing potential buyers. They presented “Give Us Credit”... a new SONYMA approval designed to address some of the most common barriers to homeownership in historically under-served markets, including minority communities. It has expanded approval guidelines to be more inclusive of households with nontraditional credit, income and asset profiles and to provide new opportunities for those overcoming past financial hardships.

Housing Opportunities Foundation President Sarah Stansbury gave an update on the First-time homebuyer grant program. It is up and running and awards two \$2,000 grants each month to first-time homebuyers working with a Realtor. The Foundation has distributed roughly 650 thousand dollars to first-time buyers in the last decade.

Members were also encouraged to participate in the Champagne and Diamonds fundraiser on the evening of Tuesday, February 7th onsite at the business meetings. It is \$75 per ticket, and everyone has a chance to win a real 1 carat diamond.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.