



New York State Association of REALTORS®, Inc.

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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT FOR THE RECORD

***Int. 689 (2015)
By Councilman Brad Lander***

The New York State Association of REALTORS® (NYSAR), a not-for-profit trade organization representing more than 50,000 of New York’s real estate professionals, including more than ten thousand REALTORS® living and working in New York City, strongly supports Int. 689 by Councilman Brad Lander. Int. 689 seeks to establish a housing discrimination testing program administered by the Commission on Human Rights.

REALTORS® strongly support the enforcement of all Fair Housing Laws and encourage the Commission to thoroughly test for any discrimination occurring in the real estate market. Beyond their duty to uphold all federal, state and local anti-discrimination laws, by becoming a REALTOR®, our members agree to abide by a Code of Ethics which further prohibits REALTORS® from engaging in any discriminatory behavior or participate in any transaction where their client seeks to discriminate against someone seeking housing. Article 10 of the REALTOR® Code of Ethics states that “REALTORS® shall not deny equal professional services to any person for reasons of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity. REALTORS® shall not be parties to any plan or agreement to discriminate against a person or persons on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity.”

Conducting a thorough investigation into discrimination in housing accommodation services will provide the New York City Council, real estate licensees and the public with solid information and statistics on where real or perceived discrimination is occurring in the marketplace. Equal opportunity in housing is a fundamental right, and NYSAR fully supports a public policy agenda that seeks to guarantee that discrimination will not interfere with equal housing rights and supports the ability of consumers to exercise their rights and become homeowners and full participants in the real estate market. A responsible study into housing discrimination by the Commission on Human Rights is a responsible and equitable way to ensure fair housing laws are being upheld by owners, lessors, landlords, property managers, relevant real estate boards such as condominium and cooperative boards, and the real estate professionals involved in the transaction.

For the above stated reasons, the New York State Association of REALTORS® supports Int. 689 by Councilman Brad Lander to establish a housing discrimination testing program administered by the Commission on Human Rights.

The New York State Association of REALTORS® is a not-for-profit trade organization representing more than 50,000 of New York State’s real estate professionals. The term REALTOR® is a registered trademark, which identifies real estate professionals who subscribe to a strict code of ethics as members of the National Association of REALTORS®. These REALTORS® are also members of the New York State Association of REALTORS® as well as their local board or association of REALTORS®

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