

# KNOW YOUR Rights...

It is the goal of the Human Rights Commission to ensure that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect, and that all people in Suffolk County are afforded an equal and fair opportunity to enjoy a full and productive life.

## SUFFOLK COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

100 Veterans Memorial Highway  
P.O. Box 6100  
Hauppauge, NY 11788

PHONE: (631) 853-5480  
FAX: (631) 853-5478  
[www.SuffolkHumanRights.org](http://www.SuffolkHumanRights.org)



Steven Bellone  
County Executive

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## THE SUFFOLK COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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Jennifer Blaske, Esq., Executive Director  
Rabbi Dr. Steven Moss, Chairperson

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS...



## HUMAN RIGHTS and HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

In January 2007, a new Human Rights law went into effect in Suffolk County that strengthens the power of the Human Rights Commission to respond to discrimination in HOUSING. Local Law No. 51-2006, which is very similar to the federal Fair Housing Act and New York State's Human Rights Law, makes it illegal to discriminate in the sale, purchase, financing, renting or leasing of housing accommodations. It provides an administrative hearing process which can compel the discriminator to cease the discrimination and/or pay civil penalties. Individuals who believe they have been treated unfairly because of their actual or perceived race, creed, color, sex, disability, religion, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, age, or national origin now have the option of filing a complaint directly with the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission, and can proceed to court if not satisfied with the administrative result. The Commission also continues to process complaints alleging discrimination in the areas of EMPLOYMENT and PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION.

# Know Your Rights!



## EMPLOYMENT

You may not be discriminated against when looking for employment or during the course of your employment. If you believe that you did not get a job, or were terminated or treated differently at work because of your group identity, you may want to file a complaint. All Suffolk County businesses that employ four or more people are covered by N.Y. State Law. Employers with 15 or more employees are covered under Federal Law, as well.

## HOUSING

The new local law prohibits discrimination in the rental or sale of any house, condominium, co-op, apartment, or commercial real estate. (However, the law exempts owner-occupied residences that do not have more than two families living independently, just as the NY State Human Rights Law does.) If you feel you were discriminated against in a housing situation because of your group identity, call us! We can meet with you in either Hauppauge or Riverhead to discuss your case.

## PUBLIC

### ACCOMMODATION

You may not be discriminated against in the use of public facilities. For example, restaurants, theaters, stores, and other places of public accommodation may not treat you differently or unfairly due to your group identity. If you feel you have been denied access to a public facility because of discrimination, or that you have been denied services, you may want to file a complaint with the Commission.

SUFFOLK COUNTY  
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## What is the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission?

The SCHRC is an investigatory agency established to enforce the law. There are seven paid staff members working at the offices of the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission: an Executive Director, two Clerical staff, and an Investigative staff of four.

The SCHRC itself is made up of fifteen members of the community, representing a broad spectrum of our diverse county. Commission members are appointed by the County Executive and approved by the Suffolk County Legislature, and volunteer their time to work for equality for all Suffolk residents. The Commission holds public meetings monthly (except during the summer months—see our website for schedule).

*You must file a formal complaint within ONE YEAR of the alleged discrimination. . Please call the Commission office to schedule a consultation to discuss your case and the remedies that may be available.. There is no charge for our services.*