

Twitter Thread by [Anti-Discrimination Center \(Craig Gurian, ED\)](#)



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[@antibiaslaw](#)



How come the mayoral candidates haven't been asked whether they agree with the de Blasio administration's separate-but-equal defense to the Fair Housing Act lawsuit challenging NYC's discriminatory "community preference" policy, <https://t.co/oEP4CxHgyp> target="_blank">@JeffCMays?

<https://t.co/oEP4CxHgyp> (1/10)

The candidates, [@ShantRS](#), have been falling all over themselves claiming their civil rights bona fides. But, on this issue, they've been silent. (2/10)

There have been more than a MILLION households in NYC that have participated in affordable housing lotteries, [@sallygold](#), so that system's denial of a level playing field is a critical issue that any mayoral candidate genuinely interested in civil rights needs to speak to. (3/10)

Contrary to what you hear from those professionally invested in maintaining the status quo, [@JCColtin](#), TONS of applicants are interested in applying outside of their community districts. (4/10)

In fact, [@RossBarkan](#), about 85 percent of housing lottery applicants apply outside of their CD at least 75 percent of the time. True for all races. (5/10)

The data are clear, [@tweetbenmax](#), that Black New Yorkers are disadvantaged when applying to lotteries in majority-White CDs. <https://t.co/CbZVWBI7Ra>

So what is the City's answer to this clearly illegal disparate impact? (6/10)

That the disadvantage to Black New Yorkers when applying to lotteries in majority-White CDs is "offset" by the advantage Black New Yorkers get if applying to stay in majority-Black CDs.

Separate-but-equal in a nutshell, [@harrysiegel](#). (7/10)

Under the Fair Housing Act, [@ndhapple](#), you're supposed to be able to have a level playing field to compete for affordable housing regardless of where in the city you are coming from and regardless of where you choose to move. (8/10)

The City's defenses — including separate-but-equal — are so appalling, [@errollouis](#), that [@lawyerscomm](#), a leading national civil rights organization, has filed an amicus brief in which it writes that the defenses are dangerous to fair housing enforcement everywhere. (9/10)

*“Amicus curiae respectfully submits this brief in order to highlight the important ways in which the positions urged on this Court by Defendant City of New York (the ‘City’) would not only **deprive the Plaintiffs (and hundreds of thousands of other New York City households) of their fair housing rights, but would, if accepted, also deal devastating blows to the ability of anyone in the United States to vindicate the rights guaranteed them by the FHA.**”*

And don't forget, [@SquarePegDem](#), that the policy greatly stymies pro-integrative moves that lottery applicants want to make. This illegal perpetuation of segregation occurs as between all racial/ethnic pairings (White/Black, Black/Hispanic, etc.). <https://t.co/fx8oCUqKBp> (10/10)