

# Long Island Business NEWS

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## BLACK EYE

Lawsuits, settlements spotlight  
Long Island's racial real-estate divide

By DAVID WINZELBERG

A landmark court ruling and a recent settlement in another longstanding lawsuit are stark reminders that housing discrimination still festers on Long Island.

Since African Americans were restricted from buying homes in Levittown — America's first suburb — in the late 1940s, planned segregation has been the rule rather than the exception in many area

neighborhoods.

Fair-housing advocates say it's been the region's dirty little secret for decades: racial steering by some real estate brokers and exclusionary zoning by certain municipalities, successfully denying minorities the full range of housing opportunities afforded everyone else.

See HOUSING, 55A

