
LONG ISLAND

Lawyer: Let's talk about housing

BY SID CASSESE

sid.cascese@newsday.com

Hempstead lawyer Frederick Brewington and others said at a news conference that they are offering an olive branch to Garden City and Nassau County to sit and discuss affordable housing issues.

Their comments came in the wake of a federal appeals court's decision Wednesday affirming that the village has been discriminatory in its housing codes and the county complicit in racial steering.

County spokesman Brian Nevin reiterated a statement from Wednesday, where County Attorney Carnell Foskey said the courts will eventually find that the county "did not engage in any dis-

criminatory conduct or practice."

At the news conference, Brewington said: "We're offering them the opportunity to make affordable housing a reality in Garden City and Nassau County. Let's iron this thing out."

Garden City Mayor Nicholas Episcopia said in a statement yesterday that the village was disappointed with the ruling, and he added: "Garden City will continue to assure that its laws and practices offer equal opportunities to all."

Diane Goins, 73, of Hempstead, who is a member of one of the organizations — New York Communities for Change — that brought the federal lawsuit, said she is happy with the decision.

"It means the door is open all around, and for me the fear is gone," she said.