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GOVERNOR PATERSON ANNOUNCES MONTH-LONG FAIR HOUSING PUBLIC SERVICE CAMPAIGN

*New York State Division of Human Rights, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Coordinated
“For Sale/For Rent, Unless...” Campaign*

Governor David A. Paterson, New York State Division of Human Rights Commissioner Galen D. Kirkland, and United State Department of Housing and Urban Development Assistant Secretary Kim Kendrick today announced a month-long fair housing and housing discrimination public service campaign, targeting all regions of the State. The campaign was made possible through a grant from HUD, and will begin on November 3 and run through November 30. The campaign includes 4,000 subway and 300 bus advertisements in New York City, 195 bus advertisements in Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse, 26 billboard ads throughout upstate New York, advertisements in numerous weekly publications around the State, and a statewide webcast to be broadcast on November 17. The theme of the campaign is “For Rent/For Sale, Unless...” The advertisements list numerous protected categories under the law, including race, ethnicity, creed, religion, familial status, and disability, among others.

“Equal access to housing is a fundamental right to which all New Yorkers are entitled,” said Governor Paterson. “This type of federal/state partnership is critical during difficult budget times to protect New Yorker’s against the scourge of discrimination.”

Commissioner Kirkland said: “The Division is very proud of its relationship with HUD to process housing discrimination complaints on behalf of all New Yorkers. We hope this campaign is only the first of many to come which benefit the citizens of our great State.”

Assistant HUD Secretary Kim Kendrick said: “HUD is very pleased to join our State partners, Governor Paterson, Commissioner Kirkland, and the Division in an effort to combat housing discrimination in these trying economic times.”

On November, 17, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., a live webcast will be broadcast from the Division of Human Rights’ Headquarters on Fordham Road in the Bronx to attorneys, activists, tenants, landlords, and the public. The webcast is sponsored by the Division, HUD, and the New York State Bar Association. The program will include: “An Update on Federal and State Fair Housing Laws,” featuring Commissioner Kirkland and Assistant Secretary Kim Kendrick; “After the Bailout, An Update on Predatory Lending,” featuring Josh Zinner, Co-Director, Neighborhood Development Advocacy Project, and Mike Hudson, Senior Investigator, Center for Responsible Lending and Author, Merchants of Misery; “Housing and the Rights of People with Disabilities,” featuring John Herrion, Director of Disability Rights, Division of Human Rights, Caroline Downey, General Counsel, Division of Human Rights, and Simeon Goldman, Senior Staff Attorney, Disability Advocates, Inc. For information on how to participate in the webcast, visit the Division’s website.

The Division of Human Rights and HUD have a contract for the Division to serve as HUD’s lead enforcement agency in New York State to investigate and adjudicate complaints of housing discrimination. The agencies have collaborated for more almost a decade as partners in the effort to eradicate housing discrimination from the State of New York.

More information on the campaign and webcast is available on the Division’s or HUD’s websites, www.dhr.state.ny.us and www.hud.gov.

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Additional news available at www.ny.gov/governor/press

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