

Updated Privacy Policy »

Wednesday, September 28, 2011 As of 12:00 AM New York 74° | 67°

News, Quotes, Companies, Videos

SEARCH

GET 2 WEEKS FREE SUBSCRIBE NOW

▶ THE PRINT JOURNAL

▶ THE ONLINE JOURNAL

Subscribe Log In

U.S. Edition Home Today's Paper Video Blogs Journal Community

World U.S. New York Business Markets Tech Personal Finance Life & Culture Opinion Careers Real Estate Small Business

LETTERS | SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

# Westchester Is Not at All a Victim of Federal Bullying

Article

Comments (6)

Email

Print

Save

Like

0

0

Regarding your editorial "Social Engineering in Suburbia" (Sept. 19): When it applied for Community Development Block Grant funding from the federal government, Westchester County certified that it would administer the funds in compliance with the Fair Housing Act and in a manner that would not further residential segregation. The settlement committed the county to live up to that existing obligation. The mandates of the Fair Housing Act are not "social engineering," but instead prohibit using federal dollars to exacerbate existing residential segregation. That prohibition is not just constitutionally required, it is imperative to prevent the disparities that segregation causes. Research documents the real, tangible negative impacts that segregation has on families: Blacks who live in highly segregated places are more likely to experience unemployment, have poorer educational outcomes and have poorer health outcomes than black households living in less segregated places.

Despite the diversity described by the author, Westchester is a segregated county. Neighborhoods in inner-ring suburbs just north of the Bronx are over 80% black and Hispanic, while communities in a significant portion of the county are less than 3% black and 7% Hispanic. Creating 750 new homes in predominantly white suburbs will not reverse those patterns. But the low- and moderate-income households (black, white, Hispanic or other races and ethnicities) who move into this new housing will gain access to significant economic and educational opportunities.

Eighty-six percent of the Westchester neighborhoods where new housing could be built under the settlement offer opportunities above the county median, according to an Opportunity Index developed by NYU's Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy in partnership with the Urban Institute. This index, which ranks neighborhoods according to the social and economic opportunities they provide, based on education, crime, jobs and environmental quality, finds that only 28% of ineligible tracts—where most low-income housing already exists—offer opportunities above the county median.

**Vicki Been**

**Ingrid Gould Ellen**

*NYU Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy*

*New York*

Peer-reviewed research shows that African-Americans and Latinos would prefer to live in integrated communities with good schools, safe streets, reliable transportation and access to jobs that will let them support their families. That often means living in communities where they are numerical minorities. Ironically, it is more often whites who express a desire to "live among their own." As an individual choice such decisions may be understandable, but as an expression of municipal policy (imposed by zoning, land use and building codes that may be constructed to perpetuate segregation) it is illegal.

Westchester chose to apply for and accept tens of millions of dollars of federal money knowing that it was required to dismantle racial segregation as a precondition of getting the money. A federal judge found that every one of the county's certifications of compliance was false.

**Michael Allen**

*Washington*

## Available to WSJ.com Subscribers



Syria Opposition Seeks No-Fly Zone



Fund Goes Down Blind Alley



Contractor Tries to Shed Blackwater Past



Germans Reconsider Ties to Europe

Get your two-week risk free trial »

Subscribe Now

## The Wall Street Journal on your iPad.

Subscribe to WSJ digital for \$3.99/week and get 4 weeks free

Includes unlimited access to WSJ.com and WSJ Mobile

Get 4 Weeks FREE



## Most Popular Video

Email Print Order Reprints

**Hottest Stock Picks Today**

Don't Miss Out On The Hottest Stock Opportunities On the Market Today!  
www.BeaconEquity.com

**Penny stocks soaring 900%**

Come experience penny stock gains with our free & accurate newsletter  
www.PennyStocksUniverse.com

**Full Color Business Cards**

14 -16pt Glossy, Matte, Recycled or Uncoated. Satisfaction Guaranteed!  
www.gotprint.com

**DAILY Penny Stock Picks**

My email alerts may cause Insane gains for active traders!  
www.PennyStockAlerts.com

**South Africa's New  
Combat Plane**  
2:09

**Amazon Kindle  
Fire vs Apple iPad:  
Who's on Top?**  
5:20

**Iraq Completes  
Deal to Buy F-16s**  
3:15

**Most Popular**

Read Emailed Video Commented

1. **Mexico Fears Rise of Vigilante Justice**
2. **Opinion: Henninger: Taking Cain Seriously**
3. **BofA to Charge Fee for Use of Debit Card**
4. **The Blow-Dry Bar Scene**
5. **Fund Goes Down Blind Alley**

Most Read Articles Feed

**Add a Comment**

JOURNAL COMMUNITY

We welcome your thoughtful comments. Please comply with our **Community rules**. All comments will display your real name.

Want to participate in the discussion?

REGISTER FOR FREE

Or log in or become a subscriber now for complete Journal access.

Track replies to my comment

Go to Comments tab

CLEAR POST

Share articles and post your comments on Facebook | What's this?

Login with Facebook

Subscribe Now for Full Access to WSJ.com and Get

**2 WEEKS FREE**

SUBSCRIBE NOW

WSJ Subscriber's content provides:

- **Personalized** tracking of industries
- **Heard on the Street:** up-to-the-minute news and analysis that affects the markets and industries
- **Core business news:** "What's News" and new "Management" section

**Editors' Picks**



**Kabul to Drop Trilateral Peace Effort**



**Chávez Denies Health Setback Rumors**



**In China, Rising Wages Erode Low-Cost Image**



**Encyclopedia on the Go**

GET UNLIMITED ACCESS AND 4 WEEKS FREE!

SUBSCRIBE NOW

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

[BACK TO TOP](#)**WSJ.com Account:**

[My Account](#)  
[Subscriber Billing Info](#)

**Create an Account:**

[Register for Free](#)  
[Subscribe to WSJ.com](#)  
[Sign up for WSJ Professional](#)

**Help & Information Center:**

[Help](#)  
[Customer Service](#)  
[Contact Us](#)  
[Global Support](#)  
[New on WSJ.com](#)  
[Take a Tour](#)  
[Print Subscriber Services](#)

**About:**

[News Licensing](#)  
[Reprints](#)  
[Advertising](#)  
[Classifieds](#)  
[Advertise Locally](#)  
[Conferences](#)  
[About Dow Jones](#)  
[Privacy Policy - UPDATED 9/27/2011](#)  
[Your Ad Choices](#)  
[Subscriber Agreement & Terms of Use - Updated](#)  
[Copyright Policy](#)  
[Jobs at WSJ.com](#)

**WSJ.com:**

[Site Map](#)  
[Home](#)  
[World](#)  
[U.S.](#)  
[New York](#)  
[Business](#)  
[Markets](#)  
[Market Data](#)  
[Tech](#)  
[Personal Finance](#)  
[Life & Culture](#)  
[Opinion](#)  
[Autos](#)  
[Careers](#)  
[Real Estate](#)  
[Small Business](#)  
[Student Journal](#)  
[Corrections](#)  
[SafeHouse - Send Us Information](#)

**Tools & Formats:**

[Today's Paper](#)  
[Video Center](#)  
[Graphics](#)  
[Columns](#)  
[Blogs](#)  
[Topics](#)  
[Guides](#)  
[Alerts](#)  
[Newsletters](#)  
[Mobile](#)  
[Tablet Edition](#)  
[Podcasts](#)  
[RSS Feeds](#)  
[Journal Community](#)  
[WSJ on Twitter](#)  
[WSJ on Facebook](#)  
[WSJ on Foursquare](#)  
[My Journal](#)  
[Portfolio](#)  
[WSJ Digital Downloads](#)

**Digital Network**

[WSJ.com](#)  
[Marketwatch.com](#)  
[Barrons.com](#)  
[SmartMoney.com](#)  
[AllThingsD.com](#)  
[FINS: Finance, IT jobs, Sales jobs](#)  
[BigCharts.com](#)  
[Virtual Stock Exchange](#)  
[WSJ Radio](#)  
[Professor Journal](#)  
[WSJ U.S. Edition](#)  
[WSJ Asia Edition](#)  
[WSJ Europe Edition](#)  
[WSJ India Page](#)  
**Foreign Language Editions:**  
[WSJ Chinese](#)  
[WSJ Japanese](#)  
[WSJ Portuguese](#)  
[WSJ Spanish](#)