ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM INTERSECTS WITH FAIR HOUSING IN MANY WAYS:

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM?

- A phenomenon where communities of color are disproportionately burdened by environment-related harms because centuries of systemic oppression mean they live near environmental pollutants and have less resources to ensure they live in a clean environment.

How Did We Get Here?

This question requires a much longer answer, but, essentially, environmental racism is a by-product of the redlining practices that were instituted in the 1930s (see Introduction).

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HEAT ISLANDS...

... are urban areas that experience higher temperatures than their surrounding areas because they lack natural cooling resources like trees and bodies of water.

LEAD EXPOSURE...

... from paint and plumbing is a health hazard, especially when children are exposed to it. (In NYC, landlords may be responsible for addressing lead poisoning concerns).

SUPERFUND SITES...

... are abandoned toxic waste sites. Spending prolonged periods of time near one has been linked to negative health effects.

ASTHMA...

... and other health issues are disproportionately higher in formerly redlined areas.

Furthermore, natural disasters disproportionately harm historically redlined communities, who also face greater systemic challenges in mitigating the damage caused.

TAKING ACTION

YOUR GENERATION CAN PLAY A KEY ROLE IN MAKING FAIR HOUSING A LIVING REALITY FOR EVERYONE

If you think you are experiencing any form of housing discrimination, contact the FHJC. We will help sort out the facts and provide you with information about your rights and options under fair housing laws. Our counseling and investigative services are provided for free, regardless of income. fairhousingjustice.org

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