

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

*A court approved this notice. This is not an advertisement from a lawyer.*

**If you are black or Hispanic and took a written exam to become a NYC firefighter between 1999 and 2006, you must act now to protect your rights in a lawsuit.**

You may be eligible for money, a firefighter job, and seniority, but you must act now to be considered.

- In a lawsuit filed by the United States, a federal court has ruled that the City of New York discriminated against blacks and Hispanics who took written exams for firefighter jobs between 1999 and 2006.
- The Vulcan Society and seven black applicants who took the 1999 or 2002 firefighter tests filed class action claims on behalf of black applicants as part of the lawsuit.
- **Please read this notice carefully**, as City records show that you may have taken one of the discriminatory written exams between 1999 and 2006. Your rights and options are explained in this notice.

**IMPORTANT DEADLINE**

**All Applicants**

By **JUNE 18, 2012:**

- ✓ You must mail in the **Claim Form** to be considered for money, a firefighter job, or seniority.
- X If you **do not mail** in the Claim Form by **June 18, 2012**, you **may not** be considered for money or any other award.

**Black Applicants Only**

*If you are black, please read the document named "Additional Information for All Black Applicants."*

*Any questions? Read the following notice and visit [www.justice.gov/fdnycase](http://www.justice.gov/fdnycase)*

## INFORMATION FOR ALL BLACK AND HISPANIC APPLICANTS

### 1. What is this lawsuit about?

This lawsuit claims that the City of New York discriminated against black and Hispanic applicants for entry-level firefighter jobs.

The Court has ruled that the City's use of two written exams (No. 7029 and No. 2043) given between 1999 and 2006 for entry-level firefighter jobs discriminated against black and Hispanic applicants. The Court has ordered the City to pay up to \$128 million in backpay damages to black and Hispanic victims of the City's discrimination. The Court will ultimately decide what individual award must be provided to each victim. You can read the Court's decisions and get more information by going to [www.justice.gov/fdnycase](http://www.justice.gov/fdnycase).

### 2. Why did I get this notice?

The City's records show that you may have taken Written Exam No. 7029 and/or Written Exam No. 2043 to be a NYC firefighter between 1999 and 2006. You may have been harmed by the City's discrimination, and you may be eligible for money, a firefighter job, and seniority. This notice explains the steps you must now take to be considered for an individual award.

### 3. What individual awards are available to black and Hispanic victims of the City's discrimination?

Eligible black and Hispanic victims of the City's discrimination may be entitled to:

- ❖ **Cash awards of backpay** to make up for wages and benefits lost due to discrimination.
- ❖ **Consideration for a job offer** to become an FDNY firefighter (you must meet all current minimum job qualifications, except the age requirement).
- ❖ **Seniority** to current FDNY firefighters and those hired as a result of this lawsuit.
- ❖ Black applicants may also receive **compensatory damages** (which are separate from backpay) for the lost enjoyment and job satisfaction of working as an FDNY firefighter.

### 4. What should I do to be considered for an individual award?

You must complete and mail in the enclosed Claim Form **no later than June 18, 2012**. Read the Claim Form instructions carefully. Sending in the Claim Form does not guarantee that you will receive any individual award. But if you do not complete and mail in the Claim Form by **June 18, 2012**, you may not get anything because you missed the deadline.

*Please visit [www.justice.gov/fdnycase](http://www.justice.gov/fdnycase) for more information about this lawsuit.*

5. How will I know if I am eligible for backpay, a firefighter job, or seniority?

An initial decision on your eligibility will be made based on the Claim Form you submit. You will be informed of an initial decision, and you will have the opportunity to object to the decision. You also may be asked to provide additional information. The Court will make the final decision about whether you are eligible to receive an individual award.

6. If I complete and mail the Claim Form on time, will I be hearing more about this case in the future?

Yes. If you would like confirmation that we received your Claim Form, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope when you mail in your claim form. Later in the process, we will contact you at the address, telephone number, or email address that you provide on the Claim Form to inform you of next steps. If your address, telephone number, or email address changes after you mail in your Claim Form, you must let us know. To update your address, telephone number, or email address:

- ❖ You can visit [www.justice.gov/fdnycase](http://www.justice.gov/fdnycase), or
- ❖ You can call 1-800-556-1950 (select mailbox option 7). If you call, please leave a message with your name, your updated contact information, telephone number, and a time at which we can reach you.

7. Do I need to read the ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR BLACK APPLICANTS ONLY?

- ❖ **If you are black, you should also read the document named “Additional Information for Black Applicants Only.”** This document explains the class action part of this lawsuit. Because you may be a member of the class of black applicants, you may be eligible for an additional monetary award and you must act now to protect your rights as a class member. **NOTE:** You may need to mail in another form in addition to the Claim Form.
- ❖ **If you are not black,** you do not need to read the document named “Additional Information for Black Applicants Only.”

*Please visit [www.justice.gov/fdnycase](http://www.justice.gov/fdnycase) for more information about this lawsuit.*

GETTING MORE INFORMATION

<p><b>If you are black or Hispanic...</b></p>	<p>You may visit <a href="http://www.justice.gov/fdnycase">www.justice.gov/fdnycase</a>.</p> <p>You may call the Department of Justice at 1-800-556-1950 (mail box 7):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Leave a message with your full name,</li> <li>▪ Telephone number(s), and</li> <li>▪ Time when you can be reached.</li> </ul>
<p><b>If you are black and you were not hired by the FDNY....</b></p>	<p>You may also call the Levy Ratner, P.C. law firm at 1-212-627-8397 ext. 269 to speak with an attorney representing black claimants who were not hired as firefighters.</p> <p>Leave a message and you will be called back.</p> <p>You may visit <a href="http://www.fdnycase.com">www.fdnycase.com</a></p>
<p><b>If you are black and you were hired by the FDNY...</b></p>	<p>You may also call the Center for Constitutional Rights at 1-212-614-6494 to speak with an attorney representing black claimants who were hired as firefighters.</p> <p>Leave a message and you will be called back.</p> <p>You may visit <a href="http://www.fdnycase.com">www.fdnycase.com</a></p>
<p><b><i>Do <u>not</u> contact the court for information about this lawsuit.</i></b></p>	

Please visit [www.justice.gov/fdnycase](http://www.justice.gov/fdnycase) for more information about this lawsuit.