

Rai\$ing hell in CUNY protest



City University faculty march Monday from CUNY Graduate Center in Midtown to Baruch College in Gramercy Park to protest tuition hikes and call for higher pay.

ANGUS MORDANT



A new shape for housing in 'Triangle'

A YEARS-LONG battle over charges of racial discrimination at Brooklyn's Broadway Triangle was settled Monday, after the city agreed to overhaul its plan to develop the area.

A lawsuit by community groups had halted development on the stretch of land on the border of Williamsburg and Bedford-Stuyvesant, which the city voted to rezone in 2009.

The groups charged housing slated to be built there would favor Hasidic families over blacks and Latinos looking for apartments in the area.

Under the settlement filed Monday, a new plan will provide for 375 affordable apartments on city-owned land, more than double the original plan. The city will redo the bidding process for the project, nixing awards to the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council and the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg.

Under the deal, half the apartments will have a preference for people from both Williamsburg, where the site is located, and Bed-Stuy, which it borders. The original plan favored only Williamsburg, which is mostly white.

Rabbi David Niederman, United Jewish Organizations president, slammed the deal as a "travesty of justice" that "will result in discrimination against the Jewish community." **Erin Durkin**

\$625G bias slap

B'klyn construction firm payout to 6 black workers

BY GREG B. SMITH
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

AT ONE Brooklyn construction site, the white foreman openly berated African-American workers with racial slurs. At a Midtown site, workplace bathrooms were segregated by race.

All of that will result in a \$625,000 payment to the workers in a settlement between the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and one of the city's biggest contractors, the Brooklyn-based Laquila Group, it was announced Monday.

The EEOC had charged in a lawsuit filed against Laquila that six African-American workers

racial slurs on nearly a daily basis.

He called Franks "Green Mile" after a slow-witted fictional character in a movie, and called another worker with dreadlocks "mop-head," according to the EEOC.

After Franks and other workers reported Sicchio's behavior to his supervisor, Jeff Glennon, Sicchio continued the harassment, according to the EEOC.

The increasing friction ended in February 2014 when Laquila terminated Franks, a move Franks said was retaliation for

notice of its behavior, they allowed for this disrespect to continue."

At another Laquila job site, the construction of a new Museum of Modern Art building on W. 53rd St., ironworker Nathan Darby, 49, said Sicchio made his racial animus evident in a different way while he was on the job in 2015.

"He was making a real uncomfortable situation for all the minorities working on the job," Darby said, recalling that somebody put a stuffed monkey in the

rooms used by my people."

Darby said Sicchio was very open about his racial bias, openly using the N-word to refer to African-American workers.

"I feel I was treated like s---t. It was a really bad, hostile environment," he said. "It shows racism is still around."

After Franks brought his complaints to the EEOC, the agency did an investigation and found the five other workers who'd experienced race bias at the two job sites.

The EEOC attempted to mediate a settlement through its conciliation process, but wound up filing suit in September 2016. The settle-

Big crackdown on wage-cheat bosses

A GROUP OF prosecutors unveiled Monday an areawide crackdown on crooked contractors who rip off workers, announcing charges against 10 companies and 11 owners.

Included was a Long Island contractor, Vickram Mangru, caught stealing from workers four years ago, who reopened his business under a different name and proceeded to underpay workers by an additional \$281,000, prosecutors charged.

Another Long Island firm, Sky Materials Corp., was convicted of manslaughter last year in the death of a worker buried alive at a job site in the Meatpacking District.

All told, the targeted companies stole a total of \$2.5 million in wages from workers, many of whom are undocumented and afraid to file complaints, prosecutors said.

The
LAQUILA
Group Inc