2012 State of Metropolitan Housing Report- A Public Forum

November 29, 12:00 p.m.
Mayor’s Gallery, 527 W. Jefferson Street

MHC releases the 2012 State of Metropolitan Housing Report (SMHR), at a press conference and forum on Thursday, November 29th at noon at the Mayor’s Gallery, 4th floor of Metro Hall, 527 West Jefferson Street, Louisville. It is free and open to the public.

The SMHR examines nine housing indicators that MHC tracks to assess annual progress on affordable housing opportunities in the 13-county metropolitan area including foreclosures, rate of homeownership, homelessness, and renters with excessive cost burden, among other topics. The report clearly demonstrates Metropolitan Louisville’s growing need for safe, fair, and affordable housing.

For the first time, the SMHR includes data on the number of children experiencing homelessness in the MSA’s public school systems; before MHC reported only on Jefferson County Public Schools.

The focus topic of this year’s report is vacant properties and their impact on the community as well as current efforts and best practices that will address this issue. MHC drills down into the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, a federal program designed to address the issue of vacant properties, and how it was used in Louisville.

The report is made possible by the generous support of: Louisville Metro Department of Community Services and Revitalization; Louisville Metro Council Neighborhood Development Fund- with thanks to Metro Councilmembers Marianne Butler, Attica Woodson Scott, Tina Ward Pugh, Glen Stuckel, Stuart Benson, Robin Engel, Jon Ackerson, Cheri Bryant Hamilton, Attica Woodson Scott, Tom Owen, David Yates, Kelly Downard, David Tandy, and Mary Woolridge ; PNC Bank; Fifth Third Bank; and the Gannett Foundation.

Community-Wide Conversation on Economic Justice Held October 20

200 people attended the Conversation and they were ready for action! The event started with song and an inspiring invocation by Rev. Ron Robinson. This was followed by a panel with State Representative Joni Jenkins, Louisville Metro Councilmember Attica Scott and community organizer Anthony Smith of the Network Center for Community Change. Cathy Hinko was the moderator. Each panel member talked about the importance of action and even gave out the telephone numbers to call elected officials. (Call 800-372-7181 for the Kentucky Legislature for 574-1100 for Louisville Metro Council.)

The Conversation then broke out into nine groups: Housing & Homelessness; Workers’ Rights; Environmental Justice; Access to Capital/Loss of Wealth; Health Care; Food Justice; Immigration Rights; Voting Rights and Restorative Justice. Every group recommended actions, and the Housing/Homelessness options included sending a letter to Metro Council supporting the ordinance to register the address and responsible person for upkeep for vacant properties that are in foreclosure.

To learn more about the Community Wide Conversation on Economic Justice, go to http://SowersofJusticeNetwork.org.

A Second Chance for Kentucky Homeowners Who Lost Their Homes to Foreclosure

This week, Attorney General Jack Conway launched a public service announcement to help make Kentucky homeowners who were wrongfully foreclosed upon aware of $36 million in assistance that is available under the National Mortgage Foreclosure Settlement.

Homeowners who faced foreclosure between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2011 and had a loan with Bank of America, Citi Bank, JP Morgan Chase, Ally/GMAC or Wells Fargo, may be eligible for a cash payment. Additionally, those in danger of losing their home or who owe more than their home is worth may also qualify for a loan modification or other assistance.

The deadline to make a claim for the cash payment is January 18, 2013. Please take a look at the public service announcement link below and feel free to share it with your contacts throughout the Commonwealth. This is an opportunity for a second chance for many Kentucky homeowners.

See the public service announcement at http://youtu.be/l_pFnoKDf4. For more information, go to www.nationalmortgagesettlement.com or call the Attorney General’s office at 502-696-5300.

LAHTF Needs Assessment Release

November 20, 10:30 a.m.
Mayor’s Gallery, 527 W. Jefferson Street

The Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund (LAHTF) will release its 2012 Needs Assessment at a Mayoral press conference on Tuesday, November 20. The report will demonstrate that our community’s need for housing relief is clear and immediate. The Needs Assessment indicates about half of all Louisville renters live in housing they cannot afford and that 91,999 Louisville families can’t afford their rent or mortgage, amongst other important findings.
Join Us for a Community Conversation on Fair Housing!

January 8, 5:30 p.m.
Centennial Room, Louisville Free Public Library
301 York Street

Join MHC, the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research, and the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission for a Community Conversation on Fair Housing! The 2010 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in Louisville Metro, KY found that our community remains highly segregated by race, income and family status. Civil rights and equal protection laws of the 1960s created a basis for greater fairness, yet their passage could not undo the longstanding separations and inequalities in residential patterns that have been present since Louisville’s earliest days.

The Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission, in partnership with MHC and the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research, is developing a new project - Making Louisville Home for Us All- A 20-Year Action Plan for Fair Housing. This Fair Housing Action Plan, funded by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), aims to offer a fuller understanding of how our current housing problems came to be, and develop clear action steps that take that history into account. We will outline a concrete vision with action steps for Louisville to become a fair, welcoming, and diverse home to all of its people. We want you to participate in a conversation about fair housing and help us develop those action steps, in addition to the larger policy goals below.

We appeal to elected officials, policymakers, social service providers, educators, housing advocates and ordinary Louisvillians in every walk of life to work together toward greater housing opportunities for all.

Here are some preliminary action steps we propose:

- Conduct a city-wide education campaign about what fair housing is, and why it is important.
- Change the Land Development Code for Louisville Metro and all other cities in Jefferson County to permit multi-family housing to occur in areas that are now single-family only areas, including incentives in land use to make the housing financially feasible.
- Prepare for, welcome and work with our growing number of immigrant and International neighbors.
- INSERT YOUR IDEA HERE! Yes, we want to hear from YOU on January 8! What are your ideas for meeting the housing needs of all Louisville residents over the next 20 years?

Take Action to Increase Fair Housing Choice in Louisville Metro

MHC has been highlighting the ongoing Louisville Metro Land Development Code Review over the past few months because a rule is that zoning tells us where we allow people to live-segregation is no accident. When over 60% of land, in concentrated areas, automatically rules out people with modest wages by restricting types of housing that facilitates affordability, every decision on zoning is a fair housing decision.

We’re asking you to send a postcard to your Metro Councilperson to support changes to the Land Development Code that increase opportunities for multi-family housing and smaller lot sizes and that allow increased density in residential use of land. The changes can help increase housing choice!

Download and print the postcard at http://www.metropolitanhousing.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/LDC-Postcard-to-Metro-Council.pdf or email info@metropolitanhousing.org to get a copy. Ask your friends and neighbors to submit cards too!

Kentucky Alliance Will Honor MHC’s Cathy Hinko at 2012 Unity Dinner

December 1, 6:00 p.m.
Hotel Louisville, 120 W. Broadway

The Kentucky Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression hosts its annual dinner on December 1. The event will feature keynote speaker Jasiri X, MC and hip-hop activist, as part of the Alliance’s continued focus on building a movement against the prison-industrial complex. They will also present the Carl and Anne Braden Lifetime Achievement Award for Social Justice and honor other community activists- including MHC Executive Director Cathy Hinko. For more information, go to http://www.facebook.com/events/395719743826437 or email kyall@insightbb.com

LG&E We Care Program

As we are entering the winter months, residents may consider participating in the WeCare program offered by LGE/KU Energy Efficiency Department for income-eligible customers. Call the Energy Efficiency Program information line at 800-356-5467 or visit their website at www.lge-ku.com/savingenergy.

If a LG&E customer qualifies for the WeCare program they could receive possible measures including: attic and wall insulation; air and duct sealing and insulation; heating and central air conditioning tune-ups; energy-efficient refrigerator replacements; energy-efficient window air conditioner replacements; programmable thermostats; water heater insulating jackets; energy-efficient water aerators; and CFL bulbs.
November 29 - Public Forum to release 2012 State of Metropolitan Housing Report. Mayor’s Gallery, 4th Floor Metro Hall, 527 W. Jefferson Street, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

December 11 - Fair Housing Coalition Meeting. New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty Street, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

December 18 - Louisville Vacant Properties Campaign. Presbyterian Community Center, 701 S. Hancock Street, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

January 8 - Community Conversation on Fair Housing. Help the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission, the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research, and MHC develop action steps for Making Louisville Home for Us All: A 20-Year Action Plan for Fair Housing. Centennial Room, Louisville Free Public Library Main Branch, 301 York Street, 5:30 p.m.

November 17 - Preservation Louisville “Save Our Shotguns (SOS)” Event. The event will include a presentation about the Preservation SOS shotgun home project, as well as the history of shotgun homes and their impact on Louisville. Following the presentation, there will be a walking tour that will feature elements such as the Main Street corridor, Louisville’s first Olmstead park, and will highlight how development has impacted the Portland neighborhood. The event will begin at 2:00 p.m. at Habitat for Humanity, 1620 Bank Street, and continue with a walking tour that stops for another presentation at 3:00 p.m. at the Preservation S.O.S. project site at 2741 W. Main Street. For more information or to register, call 540-5146 or email info@preservationlouisville.org.

November 19 - League of Women Voters Meeting. The topic is "Preview of Upcoming Legislature" as a "meet and greet" with state representatives and senators. For more information, contact Pat Murrell at 895-5218 or pmcmu@aol.com. Lang House, 115 S. Ewing, 6:00 p.m.

November 20 - Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund (LAHTF) 2012 Needs Assessment Release. This will also be a joint press conference with Mayor Greg Fischer to award the $100,000 in matching funds. For more information, Rachel Hurst at rachelmhurst@gmail.com or 637-5372. Mayor’s Gallery, Metro Hall-4th Floor, 527 W. Jefferson Street, 10:30 a.m.

November 26-30 - Coat, Hat & Glove Drive to Benefit Families in Need Served by Cane Run Neighborhood Place. Gently used items can be dropped off at Cane Run Neighborhood Place, 3410 Lees Lane or Fernsley Community Middle School, 3400 Lees Lane, during regular business hours. Call 485-6810 or 448-9799 for more information.

November 27 - Neighborhood Place Energy Management Workshop. Participants will receive free supplies and learn “do-it-yourself” weatherization tips. Call 634-6050 to register or for more information. Bridges of Hope Neighborhood Place, 1411 Algonquin Parkway, 1:00 p.m.

November 29 - Jewish Family and Career Services (JFCS) Fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen. Bring in an event flyer, present it to your server and get 20% off your meal while raising money for JFCS. To get a flyer, email Judy Tiell at JFTiell@jfcslouisville.org. California Pizza Kitchen, Oxmoor Mall, 7900 Shelbyville Road (Next to Dick’s Sporting Goods). The discount voucher is good all day.

November 29 - Center for Non-Profit Excellence Measuring Program Outcomes Jam Session. A one-day Jam Session on the program outcomes model. We’ll cover the full range, from developing logic models, outcomes, and indicators to collecting and using data. This is a hands-on course and comfortable clothing is required. Limited slots available. To register or for more information, go to www.cnpe.org. CNPE, 323 W. Broadway 2nd Floor, Bank of Louisville Community Room, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

November 29 – Network Center for Community Change (NC3) Smoketown Community Engagement Mapping Meeting. A meeting to discuss the maps created by the efforts of NC3, Network Members, Habitat homeowners, and community members showing property conditions in the neighborhood. For more information contact Pam Newman at 618-5892 or pam.newman@makechangetogether.org. Presbyterian Community Center, 701 S. Hancock Street, 5:30 p.m.

December 1 - Producing Art in Neighborhoods Together (PAINT) Open Call for Artists Workshop. PAINT is a new neighborhood-based public art program in Louisville. For artists to participate, they must attend this workshop. RSVP by November 29th. To RSVP or for more information, contact Lisa Dettlinger at 589-0343 or lisad@centerforneighborhoods.org or Elm Baptist Church, 3114 Greenwood Road, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

December 7 – Louisville Urban League 2012 Annual Report Luncheon. Features Governor Steve Beshear as keynote speaker. Please make a reservation by December 3. For more information or to get tickets, go to www.lul.org or contact Tim Tomes at ttomes@lul.org or 566-3417. Medallion Ballroom, Seelbach Hilton, 500 S. Fourth Street, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

December 8 - Bank On Louisville Start Fresh Class. Completion of this free course provides a Start Fresh Certificate. Present your Start Fresh Certificate to a Bank On participating banks or credit unions. This will get you on your way to establishing a bank account and on a pathway of improved financial success. Please RSVP to attend by calling 458-8840 x1384 or emailing sarah.gant@apprisen.com. NIA Center, 2900 W. Broadway, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

December 20 – Give-A-Jam to End Homelessness. An event featuring performances by local musicians and artists and soups and stews from Louisville restaurant that benefit the Rx: Housing campaign. Its goal is to house the most vulnerable homeless persons on the streets of Metro Louisville. For more information and tickets, go to www.cliftoncenter.org/giveajam. Clifton Center, 2117 Payne Street, 7:00 p.m.

December 20 - Network Center for Community Change Network Nite. Enjoy a family dinner while networking with your community and learning about events and opportunities. For more information, call 583-1426 or email jpotish@makechangetogether.org. Presbyterian Community Center, 701 S. Hancock Street, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Strengthen the United Voice for Fair and Affordable Housing!

Join MHC or Renew Your Membership Today!

- Every new member and every donation makes MHC’s important research and advocacy work in support affordable housing possible.

- Consider giving MHC Membership as a holiday present this year. You can make our coalition bigger by donating in honor of a friend or family member. Contact Curtis Stauffer at curtisstauffer@metropolitanhousing.org or (502) 584-6858 about such a gift, and we will send a card to the recipient to notify them of your present.

- Make a donation before the New Year to receive a deduction on your 2012 taxes.

To make an online donation, visit us on the web at www.metropolitanhousing.org.

Mail your donation to:
Metropolitan Housing Coalition
P.O. Box 4533
Louisville, KY 40204-4533

Since Metropolitan Housing Coalition is a 501 (c)(3) organization, your contribution is tax deductible within IRS regulations.