Greetings!

April's Fair Housing Month forum is a great success!

*The forum on Revitalization & Gentrification had over 100 people in attendance*

On April 18th at the Louisville Urban League, MHC and 19 other organizations held the forum on how to bring prosperity to a neighborhood and protect current residents, homeowners and renters, and retain neighborhood character; Approximately 120 people were in attendance.

We started with a tool for measuring impact on a community when a significant investment takes place. It is still being formed and applies right now to Brownfields investments, but the point is that we can get a baseline and measure, so we know what is happening to us.

The panel talked about the importance of bringing economic opportunity and prosperity - especially through home ownership and through being a business owner. We need investments in people as well as properties.

The attendees had suggestions on what to encourage, what to be aware of and of tools to accomplish the goals.

There was agreement that this needs to go on and the Center for Neighborhoods will team with MHC to figure out how to set up for meaningful input and then a plan of action. It is clear that now is the time to act if we want to intentionally guide how the impacts of development will affect neighborhoods.

MHC wants to thank everyone on the panel, Louisville Urban League for hosting the forum, for all of the sponsors of the event, and to everyone that attended!

MHC needs YOU!
Your membership advances safe, fair, and affordable housing for our community!

*Join MHC or Renew Your Membership Today!*

Each new member and every donation makes possible MHC’s critical work for our community.

Become a recurring monthly donor for as little as $1 per month to provide ongoing support of MHC’s work or consider gift to MHC in the name of a loved one.

Contact Michael Kolodziej at tony@metropolitanhousing.org or 502 584-6858 regarding donations & gifts.

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

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

Metropolitan Housing Coalition is a...
2018 Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 31
5:15 pm - 7:15 pm
The Olmsted
3701 Frankfort Ave
Louisville, KY 40206

Keynote Speaker: Richard Rothstein, author of The Color of Law

Guest of Honor: Jim Wayne, Kentucky Representative

Individual Tickets: $80
For more information, contact: tony@metropolitanhousing.org or call 502.584.6858

Download and share our Annual Meeting flier below

Community Calendar
Fair Housing Coalition meets 2pm each 2nd TUE at New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty
Louisville Vacant Property Campaign meets 5:30pm each 3rd Tuesday at Shelby Park Community Center 600 E. Oak St.

Spalding University School of Social Work Information Sessions
Spalding University is holding information sessions for their BSW and MSW programs.

Tuesday, May 29
All sessions are 5:00-6:00 pm
Republic Academic Center 4th Floor 981 S. 3rd St.

Louisville Cooperative Grocery
The Louisville Cooperative Grocery group meets May 8 (and every second Tuesday of the month) from 5:30-7:30 at Joshua Tabernacle Church, 15th & Ali St. Child care is available. Bring a dish to share if you are able.

First hour is a full group meeting about the community-owned cooperative grocery store; Second hour is to get involved on teams working on community outreach, fundraising, market research, or membership.

Tuesday, May 8 (and every 2nd Tuesday of the month) 5:30 - 7:30
Sponsorship opportunities available starting at $500.
Full table sponsorship starting at $1,000

Click the form below for more information on being an Annual Meeting sponsor. Deadline is May 11th!

If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a sponsor please contact Tony Curtis.

**TONY@METROPOLITANHOUSING.ORG**

**III VOLUNTEERS NEEDED III**

Want to volunteer for the 2018 Annual Meeting? Please email

**TONY@METROPOLITANHOUSING.ORG**
Meet Tony Curtis, MHC's new Development Director!

Hello MHC supporters! My name is Tony Curtis and I joined the Metropolitan Housing Coalition (MHC) team as the new Development Director on April 23, 2018. Prior to joining the MHC, I worked for eleven-years at the Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort, Ky., where I worked as a public historian and documentary editor—most recently working on the Civil War Governors of Kentucky Digital Documentary Edition—where I was a seasoned researcher and technical administrator. I was active professionally in the Association for Documentary Editing and many other historical professional organizations.

I moved to Louisville in 2013 and have been actively involved in the community. I served as a member of the Board of Directors of Louisville Grows—a nonprofit organization committed to urban agriculture, urban forestry, and environmental education—from 2014 to 2017. And I served as chair of the Board from 2016 to 2017. Another rewarding experience was actively working with a team as a co-sponsor with Kentucky Refugee Ministries to successfully resettle a Syrian refugee family in Louisville in 2016, where a beautiful friendship continues to this day.

I live in the Southside neighborhood of Louisville with my wife Beth and our lovingly, independent husky, Sasha.

I look forward to meeting each and everyone of you!

Eviction data for Louisville in 2016 is cause for concern and should be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan
Hannah Arendt talked about the banality of evil. Nothing could be more banal than our Comprehensive Plan - and, in the past, more evil. Even today renters are referred to as "nuisances that must be abated". That means the current Comprehensive Plan considers 62% of African Americans and Lantinx in Louisville to be nuisances. Will it change in the upcoming Comprehensive Plan? The jury is out.

I am going to link the new data on eviction to the need for real advocacy to see the Comprehensive Plan guarantee more change, not just idly wish it would happen.

Eviction Lab is a national study out of Princeton University led by Matthew Desmond, the author of *Evicted* and a MacArthur Award recipient. The study is drilled down to the neighborhood level. In 2016, there were 5,094 evictions in Louisville/Jefferson County which is a rate of 4.82 out of 100 renter homes. Within Jefferson County, Shively which has a poverty rate of almost 20%, has an eviction rate of 5.45%; Watterson Park has an eviction rate of 11.52%.

Horror Show: You can look up the eviction rate by block group, not just by census tract. West Muhammad Ali Block Group 24.1 has an eviction rate of 24.9% - meaning one in four renter homes in one year were served with an eviction. The rate of judgments of evictions was 8.43%, almost twice the rate for the county. This census block is bound by Market, 18th, Muhammad Ali, and 24th. It is 92.24% African American and has a poverty rate of over 30%. This block group is 59.18% renters out of its 696 residents.

When we can find out what is happening at this level, it is an indictment of our racial and economic segregation. It shows how families with children are made to be refugees in our own country.

The Comprehensive Plan is set to go to the Council, but as nice (though not mandated) are the strategies of the Housing Chapter, the Community Form Chapter concretizes our reluctance for change.

The first objective of Housing Goal 1 is "flexible zoning/design regulations to encourage diverse housing options" (p. 100) with associated policy that describes "single family, multi-family, mixed use, zero lot line, average lot, cluster, and cohousing" (p. 101). Another associated policy is "Develop a variety of housing types that meet the needs of all residents including an adequate supply of affordable housing and physically accessible housing" (p. 101).

But in the Community Form chapter, there are no major form district/zoning district related changes being proposed. For example, the Neighborhood Form is the VAST majority of the county, and the language related to this form district explicitly states: "High-density uses will be limited in scope to minor or major arterials and to areas that have limited impact on the low to moderate density residential areas." (MHC note: steering multi-family to only be on major roads, not embedded in communities).

"New neighborhoods are encouraged to incorporate these different housing types within a neighborhood as long as the different types are designed to be compatible with nearby land uses." (MHC note: land
USES, such as single family and large tracts of land, AKA, keeping it white and exclusive. When you say land USE and not form, you are redlining).

"These types may include, but not be limited to, large lot single family developments with cul-de-sacs, traditional neighborhoods with short blocks or walkways in the middle of long blocks to connect with other streets, villages and zero-lot line neighborhoods with open space, and high density multi-family housing." First, WHY does it need to be compatible with nearby land uses in the FORM district guidelines? The whole point here is supposed to be to move beyond use to building form/design.

While it is great that high density Multi-family housing and zero lot line neighborhoods are listed among the types, if new developments need to "be compatible with nearby land uses" and all nearby existing land uses are Single Family suburban, it seems that all development will then follow the existing patterns. And, high-density uses are specifically limited to minor/major arterials. The point being: neighborhood form is the vast majority of the county.

Housing objectives include both "flexible zoning/design regulations to encourage diverse housing options" (p. 100) and "varieties of housing types and densities are promoted" (p. 100), but it seems very unlikely these could be accomplished in the Neighborhood Form areas, which, again, are clearly the largest area on map.

What you can do!

I deliberately gave you a concrete example of how language can perpetuate segregation in the new Comprehensive Plan.

Advocate that the goals of the Housing Chapter prevail over the Community Form Chapter when it comes to housing. We should seek abolition of the exclusionary language that entrenches segregation for the next 20 years. Talk to your Councilmember. Make sure our plan for the next 20 years ensures meaningful rules to create housing choice everywhere for all.

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3) At the bottom of the Kroger Community Rewards page, you will see a box for "ENROLL NOW". Click on the box.

4) On the next page, you can find MHC by typing our name, "Metropolitan Housing Coalition", in the search box.

5) When Metropolitan Housing Coalition appears on the list, select us by clicking the circle next to our name. Then click "Save".

6) Confirm that MHC is selected as your Community Rewards organization by checking your account profile.

That's it! Now every time you shop and use your Kroger Plus card, you'll be earning rewards for MHC.

If you DO NOT have a Kroger.com account, click the "Register" button at the top right of Kroger.com. Simply follow the instructions on the website to set up your account & then follow the above instructions.

Want to get involved but need more knowledge on the issues?

MHC will come to you! We're happy to present on the issues and our work to your group, whatever the size and wherever the location.

Contact MHC at (502) 584-6858 or tony@metropolitanhousing.org to find out how you and your organization can learn more and get active.