Greetings!

In This Issue:

- Mayor Fischer Responds to Your Letters!
- 2020 Legislative Update!
- Fair Housing Events
- 2020 Fair Housing Survey (Complete by 3/15)
- BECOME A MEMBER OF MHC!
- Public Meetings on Louisville's Consolidated Plan
- Download the 2019 State of Metropolitan Housing Report
- Community Calendar

Mayor Fischer Responds to Your Letters!

MHC submitted your advocacy letters for affordable housing to Mayor Fischer and he sent the following letter to MHC acknowledging your letters. Read Mayor Fischer's response below:

(Click the image to read the letter)

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 Tony Curtis at tony@metropolitanhousing.org
February 17, 2020

Dear City:

Thank you for your interest and support of affordable housing. As you know, this is a critical issue for our city, when we are facing both opportunities and challenges. Our local economy is strong, as we have substantial economic growth and billions invested in our city since 2015. However, we also face new challenges in the coming years as we face the state-mandated pension obligation, and must balance multiple priorities.

Safe and decent housing is a basic right. During this period of rapid growth, my administration has invested more than $4 billion to ensure Louisville's CARES and the Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund. That's a much smaller investment than we want to make, and that we need to make. That's why, in order to continue investing in affordable housing and maintain key services, we must find new revenue sources.

As a member of our community, the Housing Trust Agreement and Metropolitan Housing Coalition's great work, we are working to partner with developers and businesses to revitalize areas and use those dollars to build more affordable units in our community. We also are consulting with the Metro Planning Board to help ensure that we meet the need for affordable housing and make that public dollars are supporting housing options for our lowest income residents.

I urge you to join me in supporting our community and ask them to vote on our city's needs and express your support for affordable housing funding. It will help partners from the local, state and national levels to make the challenge. Thank you for your support and allegiance.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Greg Fischer
Mayor


OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

February 17, 2020

Cathy Ends
Metropolitan Housing Coalition
2021 Frankfort Way
Louisville, KY 40213

Dear Cathy:

Thank you for your interest and support of affordable housing. We are facing both opportunities and challenges. Our local economy is strong, as we have substantial economic growth and billions invested in our city since 2015. However, we also face new challenges in the coming years as we face the state-mandated pension obligation, and must balance multiple priorities.

Safe and decent housing is a basic right. During this period of rapid growth, my administration has invested more than $4 billion to ensure Louisville's CARES and the Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund. That's a much smaller investment than we want to make, and that we need to make. That's why, in order to continue investing in affordable housing and maintain key services, we must find new revenue sources.

As a member of our community, the Housing Trust Agreement and Metropolitan Housing Coalition's great work, we are working to partner with developers and businesses to revitalize areas and use those dollars to build more affordable units in our community. We also are consulting with the Metro Planning Board to help ensure that we meet the need for affordable housing and make that public dollars are supporting housing options for our lowest income residents.

I urge you to join me in supporting our community and ask them to vote on our city's needs and express your support for affordable housing funding. It will help partners from the local, state and national levels to make the challenge. Thank you for your support and allegiance.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Cathy Ends
Metropolitan Housing Coalition

Community Calendar

Fair Housing Coalition
meets at 2:00 P.M. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at New Directions, 1615 Maple St.

Louisville Vacant Property Campaign
meets at 5:30 P.M. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Western Library, 604 South Tenth Street

2020 Legislative Update!

Kentucky General Assembly

MHC is watching several Kentucky Legislative bills affecting fair and affordable housing. To act, you can call (800) 372-7181 to leave messages for Kentucky legislators. It is really easy as you can say "I want to leave a message for all legislators" or any combination. You can leave a message for all committee members and you do not need to know their names, just identifying the committee is enough. (SB = Senate Bill; HB = House Bill)

SB1

An act relating to federal immigration cooperation-MHC is very concerned about the impact of this bill if it is enacted. It will make
Concerned about the impact of this bill if it is enacted. It will make people fearful of calling in code violations in housing and our rental housing is deteriorating. There is no reporting exemption for day shelters so people who are homeless will have no safe place to go during the day. Nor are services to homeless people exempt from reporting, so services that help stabilize homeless people will feel unsafe. Stereotyping may affect the ability of a citizen to get an apartment.

This bill has passed the Senate, now it is in the House Judiciary Committee. Please call and tell members of the Committee that you oppose this bill. You may also want to tell all members of the legislature your opinion.

**SB11**

Criminalizes tenants who damage a unit even though excessive damages can now be processed criminally. This bill will be used to threaten renters into keeping security deposits and more. Renters cannot afford attorneys to fight bogus claims. This has the potential for enormous abuse.

This bill has passed the Senate and is now in the House Judiciary Committee. Please call and tell members of the Committee that you oppose this bill. You may also want to tell all members of the legislature your opinion.

**HB1**

Limits access to public assistance programs. It is in the House Family Health and Services Committee. Please call and tell members of the Committee that you oppose this bill.

**HB 213**

Allows those over 16 year olds to seek mental health care without a parent. This bill passed the House and is now in the Senate Health and Wellness Committee. Please call and tell members of the Committee that you support this bill. You may also want to tell all members of the legislature your opinion.

**HB371**

Creates a state Affordable Housing Tax Credit program for development/rehab - like federal tax credits. This bill is in the House Appropriations Committee. Please call and tell members of the Committee that you support this bill. You may also want to tell all members of the legislature your opinion.

*Louisville Metro Council*
Louisville Metro Council

Metro Ordinance 0-395-19

This ordinance that expands Fair Housing has been assigned to the Community Affairs, Health and Education Committee. The Committee meeting of February 12th with this on the agenda was cancelled. But it meets February 26th - we do not know if this will be on the agenda.

Call your Council Member to support this ordinance. The number is (502) 574-11(council district number). For instance, Council District 1 is (502) 574-1101 and Council District 26 is (502) 574-1126.

The new ordinance proposes prohibiting discrimination in housing based on:

- **Source of Income** - Allowing people using Section 8 to use their voucher anywhere as well as those on fixed incomes having their source of income counted.

- **Arrest history** not resulting in a conviction

- **Conviction history** provided that the conviction is one for which the person has been placed on probation, fined, imprisoned and/or paroled. There are exceptions to this protection for felonies the state defines as violent offenses, arson, felony criminal mischief, registered sex offenders and offenses that would make the person ineligible for public housing.

- **Homeless status**

- **Lawful source of income** - such as using a voucher to pay rent or getting social security or disability benefits

- **Prior military service**

Let your Council Member know you support this ordinance!

---

**Fair Housing Events**

**2020 Race Relations Conference**
U of L ShelbyHurst Campus
Thursday, April 9th

Legal Aid Society
Free Legal Clinic Schedule

Click [HERE](#) for a complete list of upcoming free legal clinics.
Thursday, April 9th
Doors Open: 8:00 A.M.
Program Begins: 9:00 A.M.

The Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission is hosting the 2020 Race Relations Conference and MHC will be presenting on renter issues in the morning and it will be one of several tracks available to attendees. This conference will be held on the U of L ShelbyHurst Campus located at 9001 Shelbyville Rd, Louisville, KY 40222. Registration for the event is $50 (Continental Breakfast and Lunch provided with registration). Doors open at 8:00 A.M. and the program begins at 9:00 A.M.

For more information contact: Erin.Smith@louisvilleky.gov.

Click HERE to view the event flyer.

Rental Issues Forum
Shawnee Library
Tuesday, May 19th
5:15 P.M.

MHC, in partnership with the Presbyterian Committee on Self-Development of People, The Fair Housing Coalition, and many more organizations, will host a Rental Issues Forum. How slanted is the law for landlords? What should we do about that? The forum will take place on May 19th at 5:15 P.M. at Shawnee Library located at 3912 West Broadway.

Stay tuned for more forum details!

2020 Fair Housing Survey

The Metropolitan Housing Coalition (MHC) is writing the 2020 Analysis to Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice for Louisville/Jefferson County and your survey answers will help us create a more holistic report and a more aggressive action plan. This report is produced every five years.

The AI will be available to the general public and will be open to public comment alongside the Draft of the Consolidated Plan and 2020-2021 Action Plan. The Analysis will also be utilized by Louisville Metro Government to inform decisions for the five-year Consolidated Plan, and successive Action Plans and City housing
Consolidated Plan, and successive Action Plans and City housing goals.

Click the link below to take the 2020 Fair Housing Survey:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FairHousingSurvey2020

Click below to read the 2015 Analysis of Impediment to Fair Housing for Louisville/Jefferson County:

Click Here to Become a Member Today!

Support Fair and Affordable Housing Advocacy!

Did you know that 40% of all Louisville workers are not paid a high enough wage to afford a two-bedroom unit at Fair Market Rent?

Public Meetings on Louisville's Consolidated Plan

Louisville Metro Government is in the process of developing our Consolidated Plan. This 5-year plan guides the investment of Louisville's federal entitlement grants from the U.S. Department of

___
Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These grants - CDBG, HOME, ESG & HOPWA - address the needs of our community through affordable housing, community development, public services and other community needs.

Develop Louisville is reaching out to the community for your input on the priorities of these funds. There will be several opportunities for public participation, and for you to share your ideas about priorities for our community. Develop Louisville will host 4 public meetings over the next two months, two meetings remain:

**Wednesday, March 25th** at 10:00am - Bon Air Library, In partnership with the Seneca Vista Neighborhood Association

**Thursday, March 26th** at 6:00pm -Ujima Neighborhood Place, In partnership with the Ujima Neighborhood Place Council

These meetings are free and open to the public, so please feel free to share this information within your communities.

For more on the Consolidated Plan, including up-to-date participation opportunities, contact information, and other resources, please visit: [https://louisvilleky.gov/government/develop-louisville/consolidated-plan](https://louisvilleky.gov/government/develop-louisville/consolidated-plan)

Click Below to Download an Electronic Copy of the 2019 State of Metropolitan Housing Report
Support MHC Through Kroger Community Rewards and Amazon Smile!

(2) Look for "I'm a Customer" and click "View Details."
(3) Sign in with your existing Kroger account, or create a new account.
(4) Enter the code BA764 in the "Find an Organization" search box - click "Search."
(5) When Metropolitan Housing Coalition pops up, simply click "Enroll."

(1) Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone.
(2) Choose Seattle Metropolitan Housing Coalition in the "Select a Charity" drop-down menu.
(3) Start shopping, and Amazon will donate a percentage of the price of eligible purchases to our program.

Support MHC without it costing you a thing!
(1) Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
(2) From your desktop, go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to Change your Charity. Or, from your mobile browser, select Change your Charity from the options at the bottom of the page.
(3) Search "Metropolitan Housing Coalition" and click "Select" to support.