



Metropolitan Housing Coalition NEWSLETTER

April 2010

Consolidated Plan Comment Period Has Begun!

Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government's Consolidated Plan for federal funding allocations over the next five years (2010-2014) is ready for public comment. This plan outlines Louisville Metro priorities and activities for the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funding allocations. The funding may be used for housing, community development, public facilities, public services and economic development. Aside from the Consolidated Plan, a one year Action Plan is implemented to outline the first year priorities.

Louisville residents may view the Consolidated Plan, the Action Plan, and the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice of Louisville Metro, KY (written by MHC) online at <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/Housing/Consolidated+Plan.htm>. Hard copies are at all library branches, all Neighborhood Places, Housing and Family Services, 810 Barret Avenue, and the MHC office. The 30-day public comment period will be held from March 26, 2010 through April 25, 2010.

Comments may be submitted online at <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/Housing/Consolidated+Plan.htm>

The three public hearings are as follows:

Overall Consolidated Plan/ Action Plan Public Hearing
April 13, 2010

6:00PM—8:00PM
Mayor's Gallery, Metro
Hall, 527 W. Jefferson Street
4th Floor Louisville, KY 40202

Smoketown/ Shelby Park
Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area Public Hearing
April 12, 2010

6:00PM—8:00PM
Presbyterian Community Center
701 South Hancock Street
Louisville, KY 40203

Portland
Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area Public Hearing
April 19, 2010

6:00PM—8:00PM
Neighborhood House
201 North 25th Street
Louisville, KY 40212



Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund Update: Good News!

The Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) board of directors met for the first time on March 3. Though the board is waiting to hear who the Metro Council representative will be, it is moving forward with the formation of the AHTF.

The AHTF board will become a non-profit corporation, so there are by-laws to pass and filings to be done in the weeks ahead. The AHTF board will start work to create a strategic plan to launch the AHTF.

The next meetings of the AHTF board will be as follows: Monday April 12, at 8:00 a.m. and Tuesday, May 11 at 8:00 a.m. Both meetings are open to the public and at New Directions Housing Corporation, 1000 East Liberty Street. A regular meeting day and time will soon be announced.

Black History Month Honoree, Gabe Fritz



On Thursday, February 25th the Community Affairs Committee held the 8th Annual Black History Month Program, "Reaffirming Our Diverse Culture". The Ninth District honoree was Gabe Fritz, President of the MHC Board of Directors and a resident of the Clifton Heights neighborhood.

Congratulations Gabe!

The Survey Results Are In!

As you may remember from our last newsletter, MHC conducted the “Test Your Fair Housing IQ” survey in February and March to inform the *2010 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in Louisville Metro, KY*. This internet based survey is not intended to be viewed as a scientific study, but rather it is a tool to gauge general public awareness about fair housing laws and issues. We understand the limitations that internet surveys have in terms of access and privilege, and also see the benefits of polling those who we can reach in an easy and quick manner.

The survey resulted in the need for more public education on who is in a protected class. There are nine protected classes under the combined federal, state and local housing laws: race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation and gender identity, yet over 45% of the respondents are unaware sexual orientation and gender identities are locally covered classes. Almost 93% of respondents think Louisville residents do not understand what fair housing means.

17.3% of the respondents correctly identified disability as the most reported housing discrimination in Louisville. Race is a close second and was the popular choice in respondents. There needs to be more public education on the impediments faced by people with disabilities in finding housing and what constitutes reasonable modifications/accommodations.

Although most people knew that a landlord could not deny housing to a family with a child, 27.7% of the respondents were unaware familial status is a protected class.

Over 70% of the respondents think that NIMBYism (Not In My Back Yard) is the largest impediment to fair housing. Three other impediments were also significantly recognized by respondents: 53.9% of the respondents thought the lack of residents’ knowledge of their housing rights was a major impediment to fair housing choice, 45.5% of respondents cited racism and 42.7% point to impediments in planning and zoning of public housing and affordable housing.

Almost 60% of respondents thought that fair housing discrimination has not changed; 17.7% thought that it was getting better in Louisville and 22.9% thought that it had worsened. The results demonstrate the need for public education on fair housing choice in our community.

Only 35.2% of respondents identified the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission as the agency to call if they feel they have been a victim of housing discrimination, although 57.5% of respondents did identify a fair housing enforcement agency. Interestingly, 20% would call the Louisville Metro Housing Authority, which operates assisted housing programs based on income. The low awareness of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission highlights the need to provide more public awareness concerning housing discrimination complaints. Only 1% of respondents answered that they would not call any agency, suggesting that public apathy is not as prevalent of an issue when addressing fair housing complaints as a lack of awareness.

Further proving the need for public education, over one-third of respondents answered that Fair Housing laws have existed only since 1985, rather than the correct answer of 1968.

The overall scores were evenly disturbed around an overall 50% correct-answer average. 56.3% of respondents fell within 40% to 70% range, and 44.2% fell within the 60% to 90% range. Only 6% scored above 90%, and only 1.8% scored below 10%. Since 52 people skipped this question, the actual results could be somewhat skewed. Please note that 52 respondents skipped this question.

If you would like the raw data, please contact Phoenix at MHC.

Thanks to those who participated
in this important work by taking
the survey!



Schedule of Events

April 12- East Urban Neighborhood Mayoral Forum
6:30 – 8:30 PM, Refuge in Kentucky Church
207 S. Hancock St., Louisville, KY 40202
Moderator: Jack Trawick, Executive Director, Center
For Neighborhoods. For more info contact Lisa at
ddettli210@gmail.com.

April 12 - Smoketown/ Shelby Park Consolidated Plan
Public Hearing, 6:00PM—8:00PM, Presbyterian
Community Center, 701 South Hancock Street

April 13 – Celebrating 50 Years of the KY Human
Relations Commission! Memorial Auditorium, Corner of
4th Street and Kentucky Street, Doors open at 4:45
p.m., Program is from 5:00-6:00 p.m., Free and open to
the public, light refreshments provided. Keynote speaker
is Dr. Blaine Hudson, Dean College of Arts and
Sciences at UofL.

April 13 - Consolidated Plan/ Action Plan Public Hearing
6:00PM—8:00PM, Mayor's Gallery, Metro Hall, 527 W.
Jefferson Street, 4th Floor

April 15 – Nonprofit Housing Alliance Meeting. New
Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

April 19- Portland NRSA Consolidated Plan Public
Hearing, 6:00PM—8:00PM, Neighborhood House, 201
North 25th Street

April 20– Fair Housing Coalition meeting. New
Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

April 20 – Louisville Vacant Properties Campaign
Meeting. Presbyterian Community Center, 701 South
Hancock, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

April 29- Free Fair Housing Training 2010
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Carnegie Center (251 W. Second
Street) in Lexington, Kentucky. The event is being
sponsored by the Lexington Fair Housing Council, the
Kentucky Housing Corporation and the Lexington-
Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission. To
register for the event, please call (859) 971-8067 or e-
mail to crosbylfhc@hotmail.com

October 28 - ACLU Bill of Rights Dinner
Featuring the Executive Director of the National
organization, Anthony Romero. Save the date now,
more details to come.

Renaming 34th Street Debate

The renaming of 34th Street to *Louis Coleman Way* is under recent public debate. This action was proposed by Louisville Metro Council members Judith Green (D-1st District) and Cheri Bryant Hamilton (D-5th District), who represent the areas surrounding 34th Street and want to honor the late civil rights activist, Reverend Louis Coleman

Reverend Louis Coleman was a Louisville community civil rights activist who founded the **Justice Resource Center** and the **Black Chamber of Commerce** while serving as a pastor of **First Congregational Methodist Church**. He fought for equal rights and opportunities for minorities, women, and the poor. His voice was heard throughout the community, and he was often criticized for his outspokenness on issues of justice.

At a recent public hearing, a two-sided argument was presented. Those opposing the renaming of 34th Street argue the change will be costly. Residents will have to purchase a new driver's license and Louisville Metro would pay an estimated \$2, 300 to replace street signs. Those in favor argue that Louis Coleman was an important civil rights activist and deserves to be honored as a Louisvillian who fought for justice for all.

If you want to weigh in on the debate, there will be additional public hearings which have yet to be announced.



To submit your community events, please email
Phoenix at phoenix@metropolitanhousing.org.

Remember MHC in the Spring Season!

As an MHC Member you:

- **Support** the creation of long-term solutions to our community's affordable housing crisis
- **Join** the diverse coalition of 200 individual and 180 organizational members which make up our far-reaching base
- **Receive** our monthly newsletter and published reports on timely housing issues that touch the Metro Louisville region and beyond
- **Advertise** your events in our printed and electronic newsletters and link your website to ours
- **Most important of all**, you will have your voice heard at this historic and critical time!

For membership questions, please call the office at (502) 584-6858 to talk to Phoenix or to make an online donation, visit us on the web at www.metroloshousing.org



Metropolitan
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Coalition

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