



Metropolitan Housing Coalition NEWSLETTER

JAN 2010

MHC gears up for the Kentucky General Assembly

It is 6:30 a.m. on a cold winter morning, and instead of sleeping peacefully in your bed, you are wiping the sleep out of your eyes and reaching for your copy of the Legislative Record. Once you put on your power suit, brush up on your talking points, and scrape the ice off your windshield, you are off to speak your mind to the legislators at your state capitol, Frankfort, KY.

Many of you know this story well, having made this trek countless times and for others this process is totally foreign. But for all Kentuckians, what happens in Frankfort during every General Assembly determines the path of our city and state for years to come.

As an advocacy organization, MHC is invested in advocating for sound housing policies that are safe, fair and affordable. Every year MHC works in coalition with its partners to bring such policies and laws to fruition through the Kentucky General Assembly. This year, please support these efforts by coming to lobby in Frankfort, contacting your legislators and inspiring others to do the same. Though there are many bills and issues that MHC will weigh in on over the session, in the right column of this page is the list of our key pieces of legislation. 

Who's My Legislator?

If you don't know who your legislator is, the best way to find out is by going to www.votesmart.org. There is a box at the top left of that page to enter your address and find out who all your elected officials are.

Now I Know... What's Next?

Call **1-800-372-7181** to leave a message for your legislator. When leaving a message made sure to let them know you are a constituent and 1-2 sentences about your issue.

If you want to lobby in Frankfort, give us a call at the MHC office and we'll plug you in to the various lobby days and rallies that will spring up over the session.

MHC Legislative Priorities for 2010 General Assembly

Pay Day Lending

Did you know that Kentuckians lost \$158 million in payday loan fees just in 2008! To combat this predatory practice that strips people of personal capital, MHC is one of 60 organizations that make up the Kentucky Coalition for Responsible Lending. For several years, this coalition has worked on passing legislation that ends predatory, payday lending by limiting the interest on payday loans to 36% APR. Check out www.kyresponsiblelending.wordpress.com for more information.

Sustainable Energy Solutions

Inspired by data uncovered in our *2008 State of Metropolitan Housing Report*, MHC has worked with 15+ partner organizations to form the Kentucky Sustainable Energy Alliance (KySEA) throughout 2009. Together we have developed a new energy strategy to promote clean, sustainable and affordable energy solutions for Kentucky. Visit www.kysea.org for more information. The bill is not yet filed, but we will give you more concrete action steps you can take once legislation is introduced.

Statewide Fairness

For many years MHC has been a supporter of extending the rights of all Kentuckians based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, employment and public accommodations. We currently have these protections in Louisville, Lexington and Covington, and simply want to expand coverage to the entire Commonwealth. Please visit www.fairness.org for up-to-date news and action steps you can take throughout the session.

Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board Nominees

Thank you to everyone who worked – both times- to have the Affordable Housing Trust Fund ordinance passed! With this outstanding list of Nominees for the Board of Directors, it is close to a reality!

The Mayor submitted a list of nominees for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board at the December 17, 2009 Council meeting for first reading. Now the nominations will be sent to the Metro Council Contracts and Appointments Committee for review. The full Council should have the second reading on January 28 and be able to vote in the board.

Here is a list of the nominees and some information about them.

Cathy Hinko- Executive Director of MHC, formerly the director of the Housing Authority of Jefferson County.

Christie McCravy – heading the Rebound housing program of the Louisville Urban League, Christie is on the board of MHC.

Michael Gardner- a Housing Development Specialist with New Directions Housing Corp, Michael is on the board of MHC

Kevin Dunlap- a consultant on community development, Kevin is a past chair of the MHC board. He has been the program director for housing with the Louisville Urban League and has worked with Fannie Mae and with NeighborWorks

John Rippy- a banker with Republic Bank, John has been involved with Habitat for Humanity

Ben Cook- retired from the Community Planning and Development Department of HUD and from being Executive Director of the Kentucky Housing Corporation

Alethea Spearman- a para-educator with JCPS, Alethea has been involved with Habitat for Humanity

Jim Mims- the Director of Louisville Metro Department of Codes and Regulations

Ken Thieneman- a developer, builder and realtor, Ken was on the Planning Commission and has been chair of the board of the Coalition for the Homeless

Marlene Gordon- Executive Director of the Coalition for the Homeless

Chris Dischinger- is in real estate development with LDG Development, LLC which has both home ownership and rental development, including affordable housing

Darryl Defler- is a broker/owner of Southwest Realtors Inc.



Come watch the board get voted
in by the Metro Council!

Metro Council Meeting
January 28, 2010
City Hall, 601 Jefferson
4:00 p.m.



Schedule of Events

Various Dates this Fall and Winter - Energy Management Workshops offered by Project Warm. Attendees will receive weatherization materials for their homes along with "how to" training. For the dates and times of these upcoming training opportunities, please contact Project Warm, 502-636-9276, www.projectwarm.org, Frank@projectwarm.org

January 12 – Fair Housing Coalition meeting. New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

January 19 – Louisville Vacant Properties Campaign Meeting. Presbyterian Community Center, 701 Hancock, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

January 21 – Nonprofit Housing Alliance Meeting. New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

January 28 - *The People's Forum*, a mayoral candidate forum to be held the evening of Thursday, January 28, 6-8 p.m. on the second floor of the Metro United Way Building, 334 E. Broadway. (Parking is located in the gated lot a block behind the building.)

January 28 – Annual Street Count. 6:00-8:00 p.m. Every year the Coalition for the Homeless conducts a "street count" to compile a census of people who are living on the street. We need people to help on the streets, to be inside to distribute clothing and sleeping bags, people to "direct traffic" inside the shelter, etc. Please reply to Susanne Binford, Seven Counties Project Coordinator, Mental Health Outreach at sbinford@sevencounties.org to sign up or for further information.

January 28 - Metro Council Meeting. Come watch the Affordable Housing Trust Fund board get voted in by the Metro Council! City Hall, 601 Jefferson 4:00 p.m.

February 24 – Statewide Fairness Lobby Day. 9:00 a.m. Lobby training in the Capital Annex and 1:00 p.m. Rally in Capital Rotunda. For more information about the lobby day and traveling to Frankfort, call the Fairness Campaign at 893-0788.

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

The People's Forum

This fall, it seemed like every other day there was another person entering Louisville's mayoral race. With eight names in the hat and excitement brewing, MHC and nine partner organizations are presenting a chance for you to meet them all.

The People's Forum, a mayoral candidate forum to be held the evening of **Thursday, January 28, 6-8 p.m.** on the second floor of the Metro United Way Building, 334 E. Broadway. (Parking is located in the gated lot a block behind the building.)

All mayoral candidates, regardless of party, have been invited to participate. Candidates will share their views on a variety of issues by answering questions posed by the partnering organizations.

Dependent on time constraints, audience members may have the opportunity to ask questions of their own based upon the forum topics. Admission to *The People's Forum* will be free and granted on a first come, first served basis.

The People's Forum

Thursday, January 28, 6-8 p.m.
Metro United Way Building, 334 E. Broadway
Community Room, Second Floor
(Parking is located in the gated lot a block behind the building.)

Partnering organizations of *The People's Forum* are: **ACLU of Kentucky, Community Farm Alliance, Fairness Campaign, Hispanic/Latino Coalition, Kentuckians For The Commonwealth, Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, Kentucky Jobs with Justice, Making Connections Network, Metropolitan Housing Coalition, Women In Transition.**



Remember MHC in the New Year!

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 150 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.metroshousing.org



Metropolitan
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Coalition

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