



MHC Legislative Priorities- An Update

As the 2011 Session of the Kentucky Legislature nears its end, here is the status, as of March 4, of some of the bills on which MHC has taken a stance.

Oppose SB 3- Neighborhood Schools Bill. Bill would remove control of school assignment from local school boards and allow charter schools. Status: passed Senate on Jan. 7, before House Education Committee since Feb. 4. Passage unlikely.

Oppose SB 6- Anti-Immigration Bill. Passed by the Senate on Jan. 7, before House Local Government Committee since Feb. 4. Passage unlikely.

Support SB 26- IDs for Persons Who Are Homeless Bill. Allows people who are homeless better access to state-issued identification. Passed the Senate on Feb. 28 and the House on March 3.

Support HB 47- The Lien Priority Bill. Ensure liens imposed by local governments for nuisance property fines take precedence over all other liens, except state, county, school board, and city taxes. Passed House on Feb. 11, currently before Senate Judiciary Committee. However, the lien hierarchy was incorporated into **SB 135**, which the Senate passed on Feb. 18 and the House passed on March 3.

Support HB 82 & HB 128- Vacant/Foreclosed Property Registration Bills. HB 82 requires a creditor to register vacant residential property with the local government in which the property is located. It remains before the House Local Government Committee with passage unlikely. HB 128 requires mortgage holders to register properties with cities when foreclosure is initiated. Passed House unanimously on Feb. 15. Now before Senate Judiciary Committee.

Support HB 182- Cap on Payday Loan Interest Rate Bill. Defeated in House Banking and Insurance Committee.

Support HB 256- Kentucky Housing Corporation Program Bill. Allows Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) to issue mortgages to households with incomes as high as 175% of median income, creating a new revenue stream for KHC. Passed both the House (Feb. 15) and Senate (March 3) unanimously. Thanks to Rep. Jim Wayne for modifying the bill to clarify the program change.

Support HB 239- Clean Energy Bill. Requires utility companies to gradually achieve cumulative energy efficiency savings of 10.25% of retail sales by 2021. Before House Tourism, Development & Energy Committee since February 2. Passage unlikely.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program

On February 15, the Louisville Vacant Property Campaign (LVPC) hosted Ms. Jeana Dunlap, the Louisville Metro Government Executive Administrator of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). Ms. Dunlap gave a short history of the NSP. These federal funds were authorized by the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA) in July 2008, distributed through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered by the Louisville Metro Department of Housing and Family Services.

HERA requires that NSP funds be distributed to the neighborhoods of greatest need, including those with the greatest percentage of home foreclosures, with the highest percentage of homes financed by a subprime mortgage loan, and those identified by Louisville Metro as likely to face a significant increase in the rate of home foreclosures.

All NSP funds are used to assist individuals or families with incomes at or below 120% of area median income (AMI). In addition, at least 25% of these funds must be used to purchase or redevelop abandoned or foreclosed residential properties that will serve households at or below 50% of AMI.

Under NSP I, our community received a total of \$10.4 million allocated directly to Louisville Metro Government and from the state to the Housing Partnership, Inc. (HPI) The state's NSP III allocation brought an additional \$1 million to Louisville. Neighborhoods targeted for NSP-funded work included parts of Portland, Shawnee, Smoketown/Shelby Park, Newburg, the Bells Lane/Hallmark area, and the Boxelder/Shanks Lane area (where HPI will demolish 200 dilapidated units and construct 38 homes).

River City Housing, New Directions Housing Corporation, and REBOUND were selected to rehabilitate 18 single family homes. River City celebrated the completion and sale of the first NSP-rehabilitated home at an event in Newburg on March 2. Additionally, Habitat for Humanity of Metro Louisville and YouthBuild Louisville will create new headquarters in formerly vacant properties through the public facility portion of NSP.

For more information and to get maps of sites funded by NSP and other stimulus money, go to www.louisvilleky.gov/Housing/Neighborhood+Stabilization+Program.htm.

Brown Bag Lunch on *The State of Fair Housing in Louisville: Impediments and Actions*

On March 29, MHC will host a public forum to present and discuss the findings of our newest paper, *The State of Fair Housing in Louisville*. This brown bag lunch will be held at New Directions (1000 E. Liberty Street) from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

The State of Fair Housing examines where people protected by Fair Housing laws live and explores the barriers that lie at the heart of true fair housing choice, many of which are inherited. The report offers action steps to remove barriers to fair housing choice so that it becomes a reality.

If you would like to review the *State of Fair Housing* before the brown bag lunch, you can download the new report at http://metropolitanhousing.org/pdf/mhcdoc_265.pdf.

The Impacts of Property Tax Lien Sales on Homeowners and Neighborhoods: A Discussion

The Network Center for Community Change (the Making Connections Network), Legal Aid Society, the Kentucky Equal Justice Center, the California Collaborative, and MHC invite you to a public forum on Tuesday, April 12 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at New Directions (1000 E. Liberty). The forum will feature a panel discussion on property tax lien sales and their impacts on our city. The panel will include Tony Lindauer, Jefferson County Property Valuation Administrator.

This coalition of groups believes that Kentucky's statute requiring local governments to sell outstanding tax liens to private investors causes real harm to families and neighborhoods. These private investors—many of whom operate from outside Kentucky and have no interest in the stability of our neighborhoods—file expensive foreclosure suits and charge exorbitant fees and interest to homeowners in their effort to collect enforce liens often worth only a few hundred dollars. This coalition is also examining taxpayer costs and the expansive social costs of tax lien foreclosures on our city, including the link between the tax liens sales and the dramatic rise in vacant and abandoned properties. According to the Making Connections Network, 69 homes were sold at Commissioners Sales from 2008-2010 as a result of tax lien foreclosure. The loss in neighborhood home values as a result is close to \$4 million in home equity. Please join us to learn more about this important issue.

Thanks to Janet Dakan for generously sponsoring the event.

MHC Fair Housing Month Forum

April is Fair Housing Month. This year, the MHC Fair Housing Coalition Fair Housing Month Forum will be held on Thursday, April 14 at the Louisville Free Public Library Main Branch from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The forum will feature presentations and a panel discussion about the fair housing issues facing people with disabilities.

The opening speaker will be Gerry Gordon-Brown, Director of the KY Office on Vocational Rehabilitation Client Assistance Program. Lee Ann Thomas and Keith Hosey of the Center for Accessible Living will discuss issues faced by those with physical disabilities. Perspectives on housing for those with mental health disabilities will be provided by Kathy Dobbins, Executive Director of Wellspring. Todd Dedas of the Veterans Administration will address the housing challenges seen by veterans with disabilities. The unique issues faced by immigrants with disabilities will be discussed by Darko Mihaylovich from Catholic Charities.

After each speaker makes a brief presentation, Art Crosby, Executive Director of the Lexington Fair Housing Council, will facilitate a panel discussion with the speakers that will further address these issues and the fair housing rights of those with disabilities. Cass Irvin, author and disability rights advocate, will be the closing speaker.

MHC wishes to thank Fifth Third Bank and Janet Dakan, the sponsors of the 2011 Fair Housing Month Forum.

In Memory of David Bos

MHC mourns the passing of our founder, David Bos. In 1987, David called people together to address the problem of the lack of affordable and fair housing. From those initial meetings, and with the work of several committed and visionary individuals, MHC came into being. But we all honor David for first putting out the call to action.

But there is so much more that David did as a community minister with a doctorate from San Francisco Theological Seminary, as an author and as a person committed to social justice. He worked at the local level and at the national level to bring about change. David founded the national Interfaith Community Ministry network. He served as co-chair of the Presbyterian Association for Community Transformation. At the time of his death, David was writing about fair housing for the disenfranchised.

MHC's staff and board offer our sincere condolences to David's family. He will be greatly missed.

Schedule of Events

March 8 - Fair Housing Coalition Meeting. New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m

March 15 - Louisville Vacant Properties Campaign Meeting. Presbyterian Community Center, 701 S. Hancock, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

March 29 - Forum to Discuss *The State of Fair Housing in Louisville: Impediments & Improvements*. Come discuss MHC's newest report, which addresses the barriers to fair housing choice in Louisville. New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

April 12 - Forum on Property Tax Lien Sales. Join MHC, the Louisville Vacant Properties Campaign, Making Connections, the KY Equal Justice Center, Legal Aid, and the California Collaborative for a public forum featuring a panel discussion on tax lien sales and their impacts. The panel will include Tony Lindauer, Jefferson County Property Valuation Administrator. New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty, 5:30 p.m.

April 14 - MHC Fair Housing Month Forum. This year, the Forum will feature presentations and a panel discussion about the fair housing issues facing people with disabilities. Free Public Library Main Branch, 301 York Street, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

May 19 - MHC Annual Meeting. Features vacant property and land bank expert Dan Kildee as keynote speaker. For tickets or more information, contact Curtis Stauffer at 584-6858 or curtisstauffer@metropolitanhousing.org. Hyatt Regency Louisville, 320 W. Jefferson. Reception and Registration, 5:00 p.m.; Dinner, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

March 8 – Green Convene Monthly Meeting. Rep. Mary Lou Marzian will discuss the 2011 Clean Energy Opportunity Act (HB239) she filed to help support energy efficiency, renewable energy, and job creation in Kentucky. Clifton Center, Frankfort Room, 2117 Payne St., 6:30 p.m.

March 8- International Women's Day- A 100th Anniversary Celebration. Celebrate the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. For more information contact Amber Duke at 852-6142 or agduke01@louisville.edu U of L Red Barn, 7:00-9:00p.m.

March 9 – Discussion of Proposed Cuts to the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development Budget. Presented by Krista Mills, HUD-KY State Office Field Director. Louisville Urban League, 1535 W. Broadway. 12:00 -1:00 p.m.

March 12 - Preservation Louisville Hands on History Workshop. Topic: Designing Additions for Historic Homes. To register or for more information, call 540-5146. Brennan House, 631 S. 5th St., 1:00- 4:00 p.m.

March 13 – Old Louisville Chamber of Commerce “Dining at the Mansions.” A progressive dinner featuring gourmet dining in Old Louisville homes. For more information, call 637-2922 or go to www.olchamber.com. Hors d'oeuvres, 5:00-6:15 p.m.; Dinner 6:30-8:00 p.m.; Dessert & Silent Auction, 218 W. Oak St., 8:15- 9:00 p.m.

March 14-17, Fuller Center for Housing of Louisville Derby City Build. Over 100 volunteers from outside of Louisville will come to work with local volunteers on 5 homes for low-income families in the Shawnee neighborhood. To volunteer or for more information, call 272-1377 or email info@fullercenterlouisvilleky.com

March 15 - Public Hearing on the Louisville Metro Housing Authority Proposed Fiscal Year 2012 Moving to Work Plan. For further information or to arrange transportation, call 569-3420. Dosker Manor, Building A Nutrition Room, 413 E. Muhammad Ali Blvd., 6:00 p.m.

March 16 - 17th Annual Louisville Career Expo. For more information contact the Louisville Urban League at 566-3371, Kentucky International Convention Center, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

March 19 - PNC Bank Foundation of Money Management Class. This free class covers “Banking 101” and budgeting and is designed for anyone who wants to learn how to use bank products and better manage their money. The purpose of this workshop is to provide them with tools and information to help them gain control over their finances. Classes are also scheduled on the following dates: **April 16; May 21; June 11; July 16; August 20; September 17; October 15; November 19, & December 17.** For reservations or for more information, contact Marita Willis at 581-2576 or marita.willis@pnc.com. 500 W. Jefferson St, 10:30 a.m -12:30 p.m.

March 21 - Affordable Energy Corporation All Seasons Assurance Plan (ASAP) Annual Board Meeting. ASAP is a nonprofit, utility subsidy program helping low-income households. All are welcome to attend the meeting. For more information, call 893-7842 or email affordableenergy@att.net. Urban Government Center, Front Lobby Conference Room, 810 Barret Ave., 10:30 a.m.

April 9 - Wellspring 2nd Annual Red Hot Bash Fundraiser. For tickets or more information, contact Traci Hall at 635-1570 or Traci.Hall@wellspringky.org. Molly Malone's, 933 Baxter Ave., 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

April 26 - Wellspring 13th Annual Derby Preview Party Dinner and Auction. For more information and to make reservations, contact Traci Hall at 635-1570 or Traci.Hall@wellspringky.org. Please also contact Traci if you have an item or service you would like to donate for the auction. Churchill Downs on Millionaires Row, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

June 11- NDHC Southern Indiana Repair Affair

June 18- NDHC Metro Louisville Repair Affair. New Directions' Repair Affair mobilizes community-wide resources and volunteers to support the home repair needs of elderly and disabled homeowners of low income in Louisville and Southern Indiana. Homeowners who need assistance, call 719-7143. To volunteer, call 719-7130 or email pams@ndhc.org.

2011 MHC ANNUAL MEETING - *Saving for Our Future*

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2011

LOUISVILLE HYATT DOWNTOWN

SOCIAL HOUR: 5:00PM PROGRAM & DINNER: 6:00PM

The 22nd MHC Annual meeting features **keynote speaker Dan Kildee**, a nationally-recognized expert on **vacant property** and **land banks**. Mr. Kildee is Co-Founder & President of the Center for Community Progress. Prior to founding the Center, Kildee served as Genesee County (Michigan) Treasurer from 1997-2009 and was President of the Genesee Institute, a research and training institute focused on smart growth, urban land reform, and land banking. Dan has also served on the Executive Committee of the National Vacant Properties Campaign.

There are **7,268 vacant properties in Louisville Metro** as of January 1, 2011. This shows the great scope of our community's vacant property problem and the threat it poses to our neighborhoods. Attend MHC's Annual Meeting and learn from a vacant property expert how Louisville can better address our vacant property crisis. We can work together to save for our future by turning vacant properties into assets – not liabilities.

Tickets: \$55 (before May 13), **\$60** (after May 13).

Table Sponsorships: \$500 (for 8 seats)

Reserve your ticket or table now! Consider sponsoring tickets for low-income attendees.

All proceeds support MHC, the united voice for safe, fair, and affordable housing in Greater Louisville.

Thanks to Fifth Third Bank and Janet Dakan, the first sponsors of the 2011 Annual Meeting.

Please consider becoming a sponsor.

Event Sponsorships and ads in the 2011 Annual Meeting Program are still available!

Call 584-6858 or email curtisstauffer@metropolitanhousing.org for tickets or more information.



Metropolitan
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Coalition

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