



METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION

P.O. Box 4533 • Louisville, KY • 40204
(502) 584-6858 • www.metropolitanhousing.org



Greetings!

Another Great Annual Meeting!

by **Cathy Hinko**



Mayor Fischer delivered a rousing speech committing to a future with fair and affordable housing to a packed audience of supporters from all parts and professions of Louisville (read his speech in the following article). MHC asked Mayor Fischer to speak because of all that his administration has done for both fair housing and affordable housing, including it in the Comprehensive Plan (read below), implementing the Redlining Project, completing the Fair Housing Assessment (read more below) to be used by government, and funding both the Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Louisville CARES.

The Mayor informally met with the Teen Leadership Council students who had helped produce the first of several Public Service Announcements on fair housing through an MHC program funded by a HUD grant that was secured by the late Carolyn Miller-Cooper. We all paused to honor Carolyn, who is sorely missed.

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
michael@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:
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P.O. Box 4533**



The Comprehensive Plan

We are in the final phases of the Comprehensive Plan- although it will still be a year before this is completed, so plenty of time to get involved. The Comprehensive Plan is the 20 Year Plan for all aspects of our built environment, from transportation and community facilities to trees and clean air, water and soil. MHC has been focused on fair and affordable housing, but there may be some aspect of our future that you may want to protect or improve.

The Plan is being written and will be out for comment and be put before the Planning Commission for approval and then the Metro Council. Roll up your advocates' sleeves and get involved in this process.

Fair Housing Assessment

The Fair Housing Assessment is an instrument to keep Metro government cognizant of how major decisions can affect the availability of fair housing opportunities. This instrument is part of the 20-year Action Steps for Fair Housing of Louisville Metro Government. Imagine this being used by thousands of people over several years- to a point where people automatically think about the impact of a decision on fair housing.

This is the kind of action that brings long-term permanent change. It is a wonderful response to the legacy of segregation that we see still evident from redlining in the 1930's through the 1980's. How can you help? Support the use of the Fair Housing Assessment. Congratulate Metro government, including the Mayor. Ask about the results of the FHA when discussing development in Louisville.

Louisville, KY 40204-4533

Metropolitan Housing Coalition is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Your contribution is tax deductible within IRS regulations.

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.

Free Tax Preparation

Free tax preparation May 15 - October 13, 2017. By Appointment only: Call LABC 502.814.2715

Tuesdays: Louisville Asset Building Coalition
1126 Berry Blvd

Wednesdays: Louisville Urban League
1535 W Broadway

Thursdays (every other week 10 am - 2 pm):
Sun Valley Community Center
6505 Bethany Lane
United Crescent Hill Ministries
150 State St.

Thursday evenings (5 - 8pm)
Americana Community Center
4801 Southside Dr.

*For taxpayers with Household Income of \$65,000 or less
Visit <https://www.labcservices.org/> for more information and on what info to bring*



Mayor Fischer's Speech by Mayor Greg Fischer



Fifty years ago this month, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. came to Louisville. He came to help brave, compassionate people in our city fight for justice, for equality, and for fair and open housing. That was tense time in our community and in America. And while many welcomed Dr. King, some people did not.

According to a newspaper account, he pulled his car up to a curb and told a group of about 75 white citizens, "We're all brothers, and we want a neighborhood where everyone can live together as brothers."

"God," Dr. King said, "has given us an opportunity." Before he could continue, someone threw a rock at Dr. King. A big one, the size of a fist or even bigger. It missed, hitting the car instead. That night, he stood behind the podium at a church in west Louisville. He'd kept the rock that had been thrown at his car. And that night, he held it up and told the crowd, "Upon this rock, we are going to build an open city."

Later that year, Louisville passed the South's first open housing law. That

River City Housing Needs Help!

River City needs help, and not in the usual way. In the "we're hiring" way. We have a reputation for good work because we have good workers doing the work. Things are hopping. We're adding a crew leader and a laborer in the near future.

If you have builder skills, send your contact information to info@RiverCityHousing.org. And pass the word along to any really great subcontractors you know.

We've got work for them, too.

Financially In Tune for Life

A comprehensive, classroom based consumer education curriculum that in only two hours provides the building blocks to sound financial management. F.I.T. is a required class to participate in Louisville Urban League's Center Housing & Financial Empowerment series, including Home Ownership Counseling.

Learn about:

- How to take control of your financial resources & planning how to use them*
- S.M.A.R.T. Goal Setting*
- How to analyze your whole financial picture*
- The 4 C's of credit*
- How to understand & maximize credit scores*
- Important Consumer Laws & more*

Upcoming Dates:

Tuesday, June 20, 5:30 pm

Thursday, July 6, 10 am

Tuesday, July 11, 5:30 pm

Tuesday, July 18, 5:30 pm

Tuesday, July 25, 5:30 pm

All classes are held at **Louisville Urban League at 1535 W**

is our legacy in the fight for fair, open and affordable housing in Louisville. And that's one of my sources for inspiration as we continue that fight today.

I am honored to speak to you tonight and to work alongside you to further open up our great city so that more of our citizens can count on what is one of the most basic of human needs: shelter.

Housing is something that as a society, we need to talk about more, because it's critical to everything we're trying to do as a country - and as a city. When I was sworn in as mayor, I said I wanted to make Louisville a city of lifelong learning, a healthier city, and an even more compassionate city.

I believe those three qualities are essential for our city to adapt and thrive in a changing world, to enjoy life to the fullest in our wonderful hometown and to develop the social muscles that will help us stay strong and stay together in challenging times.

And there were people who said I shouldn't focus on those things. We were coming out of the great recession. They thought I should only focus on jobs and the economy. But what my team and I believe is: **You don't solve one challenge by neglecting all the others.** Everything in a city is connected.

And our approach has been to create and strengthen the connections in our city because that's what leads to growth and progress. So let's look at some of the results. In the last the six years:

- 63,000 new jobs have been created;
- 2,600 new businesses have opened;
- We've become a significant tourism destination, welcoming 24 million visits a year.
- We've cut unemployment from 10.4 percent to 4.3.
- Household incomes and median wages are up.
- In 2015 alone, more than 10,000 Louisvillians lifted themselves out of poverty. And, more than 7,000 Louisville families joined the middle class.
- Today, more Louisvillians have a postsecondary degree than at any time in our city's history. In 2011, we were even with the national average; now we're 4 points ahead. 55,000 Degrees and the Cradle to Career framework for lifelong learning are experiencing great results.
- And our progress is visible. In the cranes over downtown and elsewhere. Today alone, more than \$10 billion in capital construction is taking place in our city. And more is on the way.

We've become an international leader in compassion. It's become part of Louisville's global brand through programs like the Mayor's Give A Day Week of Service. It started with a few hundred volunteers in 2011 and this year tallied a record 180,000 volunteers and acts of compassion.

And one of the ways we've done that is by defining compassion on our own terms. Compassion in Louisville is the work we do so that the human potential of every citizen can flourish. And that's why fair, open and affordable housing is so critical. It's critical for our economy, our quality of life and our future.

Broadway, and thanks to our generous sponsors there is no charge for this class.

Just call Louisville Urban League to reserve a seat for an upcoming class:
502. 585.4622

AARP Community Challenge

AARP is spearheading the "AARP Community Challenge" to fund projects structured as "actions to demonstrate community change" and help build momentum in communities to improve livability for all residents. We are currently soliciting applications for project funding.

The program is open to 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) nonprofits as well as Government entities.

Applications are due June 30, 2017 and all projects must be completed by November, 1 2017. Click [here](#) to apply

For more information on the Grant Challenge timeline, what types of projects are accepted, and the selection process. Please visit [here](#).

Start Fresh

Bank on Louisville's Start Fresh is a FREE workshop for people with negative (non-fraud) banking histories, are in ChexSystems, or are banking for the 1st time. It will help you gain new info & tools to use 2nd-chance or new checking accounts. This workshop will help you think about your relationship with money and plan how you will make mainstream financial services work for you. Upon completion, you will get a certificate you can use to open a new account with Bank on Louisville's bank or credit union partners.

There are two locations for the

That's why we established Louisville CARES, a revolving loan program to provide financing to help develop affordable housing options for low- to moderate-income families located near employment centers and transportation corridors. This offers improved connectivity and better access to basic household needs such as grocery stores for working families across our community.

And in the city budget I submitted to Metro Council last month, I proposed investing an additional \$2.5 million in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and an additional \$12 million in Louisville CARES. These funding programs are complementary, and will serve important functions as we work to address the affordable and workforce housing needs of our community.

This represents the highest level of city funding for affordable housing in a single year at any time in the past 50 years. If enacted, it will mean that over the course of three years, we have put an historic \$29 million toward affordable housing.

And I know the need is greater than that. That's why we've been working to bring in millions in competitive grants from state, federal and private sources.

Like the \$29.5 million Choice Neighborhood grant that will help us work with the people of the historic Russell neighborhood to transform Russell and the Beecher Terrace housing complex.

We're using the Choice grant to leverage more than \$200 million in public and private funds to transform Russell into a sustainable, mixed-income community, offering citizens of west Louisville quality services and schools, as well as better transportation and job opportunities.

We want to help create a 21st-century version of the thriving Walnut Street business and cultural corridor that was once known as Louisville's Harlem and drew people from all over the country.

The unjust housing policies of the past led to the urban renewal projects of the 20th century that turned out to be urban betrayal for many of our citizens.

That's a wrong we're doing all we can to make right. Through the work of our Office of Redevelopment Strategies and community partners, we have launched an interactive story map called Redlining Louisville, which illustrates the ways that redlining affected housing development, and investment and lending patterns in Louisville since the 1930's.

We are also convening a year-long community dialogue to engage citizens in a discussion about potential approaches to address decades of disinvestment in "redlined" neighborhoods.

And we're updating our city's Comprehensive Plan, which establishes a framework to guide public and private decisions about future development and growth.

City government adopted the current comprehensive plan, Cornerstone 2020, in June of 2000. The new plan will address the next 20 years of growth and development in a single foundational policy document. Housing

workshops:

Louisville Urban League hosts the workshop from 5:30-7:30 pm on the following Thursdays:

**August 10th
November 9th**

NIA Center hosts the workshop from 10am-12pm on the following Tuesdays:

**July 11th
September 12th
October 10th
December 12th**

To register for any of these workshops or get more info, call Bank on Louisville at 574.5156.

has been added as one of the six focus areas for the plan - along with mobility, community form, community facilities, marketplace, and livability and environment.

So that's some of what we're doing.

Now I know there are those folks, maybe some of you here, who want us to do more, to invest more. And I understand that.

We welcome the perspective and the partnership of the dedicated people in this room, including Councilman Bill Hollander and Councilwoman Barbara Sexton Smith and their colleagues from the Metro Council.

We're working together to strike a critical and delicate balance with our budget, and all our programs and policies, where we address the needs our city and our citizens have today with the ones we anticipate tomorrow.

And we understand that investing in fair, open and affordable housing is investing in our future. We can't expect our citizens to flourish if they can't meet their basic human need of shelter for themselves and their families.

And we also understand that free, fair and affordable housing will help us address other challenges we face as a community.

Like so many cities - too many cities - across America today, we have a few neighborhoods in our city that are seeing awful and unacceptable levels of gun violence.

We're working to address that in a number of ways, both on the public safety side by investing in additional police officers, and by investing in crime prevention strategies through our Office for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods so we can keep violent crimes from happening in the first place.

Fair, open and affordable housing helps contribute to public safety because it's a stabilizing force for individuals, families and communities.

And the truth is we work for fair, open and affordable housing across our community for the same reasons we work to provide safe and healthy neighborhoods for our citizens.

For the same reason we work to make sure our kids are getting the education they need to create a life for themselves. For the same reason we work to ensure there are jobs available so they can provide for themselves and their families.

Because those are the qualities that are essential to the life and future of Louisville.

As Dr. King said, 50 years ago, "God has given us an opportunity" - and that's still true. We have the opportunity to build on:

- our great economic progress,
- on our city's legacy of fighting for justice,
- on the reputation we've developed for compassion, collaboration and innovation.

I thank all of you for your work to bring fair, open and affordable housing to more people throughout our city.

I look forward to continuing the work that Dr. King challenged us to do. And I would say that from my perspective, 50 years later, compassion is the rock on which we will build the open city of Louisville's future.

Thank you.

Thank you Sponsors!

by Michael Kolodziej

This year was our most successful Annual Meeting ever, and MHC wants to thank all of our sponsors and coalition members for all of your support. We could not make a difference in this city without you!

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Groundbreaking Sponsor (\$1,500)

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New Directions	YUM! Brands
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Louisville Affordable Housing Trust	

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**Thank you once again to Mayor Fischer!
Thank you representatives of Louisville
Metro Government, all of our sponsors
and coalition members, attendees, to
our volunteers, and to the Olmsted and
your wonderful staff!**



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Here's how to get started or re-enroll:

For those who DO have a Kroger Plus card, go to www.kroger.com

If you already HAVE a Kroger.com account:

- 1) At the top of the main webpage, find & click on "Community" on the top right of the screen, just below the "Sign In" box.
- 2) On the the Community page, click on "Kroger Community Rewards". This will take you to the Community Rewards page.
- 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 michael@metropolitanhousing.org

to find out how you and your organization can learn more and get active.



Both our printed newsletter and our e-newsletter are made possible by the generous support of PNC Bank.



MHC would like to thank Louisville Metro Government for its continuing support of our outreach efforts.