



OCTOBER '09

MHC NEWSLETTER

Mark Your Calendars: 2009 State of Metropolitan Housing Report Release

Wednesday, October 28th
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Louisville Urban League
1535 West Broadway

The 2009 State of Metropolitan Housing Report will be released on October 28 at noon at the Louisville Urban League, 1535 West Broadway. This will be MHC's seventh annually published State of Metropolitan Housing Report, which is an ongoing report card of the affordable housing challenges and successes in the Louisville metropolitan region. In it, MHC looks at nine measures of housing conditions including subsidized housing, production and rehabilitation of housing and homelessness. This year, because of the extraordinary change in housing affordability, due to our housing and economic crises, MHC focused on expanding the indicators in the nine measures of fair and affordable housing. As Louisville drafts the Consolidated Plan covering how to spend federal housing resources over the next five years, the information of the 2009 State of Metropolitan Housing Report will show how imperative it is that we expand affordable housing opportunities for low wage working families. The impact of housing instability on children is profound and, unfortunately, the number and percentage of children who do not have stable affordable housing is growing.

Information on vacancy rates, high-cost mortgages and foreclosure rates for the MSA will be available. MHC will look at health outcomes resulting from segregation, changing family demographics, housing development and a variety of other indicators.

You are invited as MHC presents the information, findings and recommendations of the report.

Thank you to our sponsors: BB&T Bank and Janet Dakan and to our researchers: Carol Norton and John Vick at the Center for Environmental Policy & Management, UofL.

Affordable Housing Trust Fund Passes 21-1! We Did It!



On Tuesday September 22, the Louisville Metro Council overwhelmingly passed changes to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) ordinance. Many of our MHC members and readers will remember that this trust fund was originally established by Metro Council in May 2008, but has been stalled because Mayor Abramson has yet to appoint a board. One of the changes to the ordinance that was just passed gives Abramson 90 days to appoint a board.

If he fails to do so, the Metro Council president will make the appointments.

This ensures that we will continue to see forward movement in setting up our local AHTF, but the main change in the ordinance is that it will be run by a nonprofit rather than the Department of Housing. Advocates welcome this change as it was what the special task force originally suggested nearly 3 years ago.

The eventual goal of the trust fund is to raise \$10 million annually. In order to do that, it will likely need a change in state law that would allow a percentage of fees or fines paid in Jefferson County to funnel directly into the fund. Finding a dedicated public revenue stream, soliciting corporate and individual donations and grant writing will be the primary job of the future board and its executive director. And now that a board will be appointed by the end of the year, our community is that much closer to reaching these long-term goals.

Thank you to all of the people who have diligently worked, some over many years, to bring this victory. It has been supporters like you, holding our signature yellow signs and showing visible support, who did it! A special thanks goes out to Councilwoman Tina Ward-Pugh and Councilwoman Mary Wooldridge for your tireless efforts. 

Check out page 2 to see photos!

Sheppard Square Planning Meeting

Tuesday, October 13th
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
New Directions
1000 E. Liberty Street

The Louisville Metro Housing Authority (LMHA) is once again targeting public housing that serves our community's lowest income families, to make way for housing that will serve more economically stable families. Sheppard Square, located in Smoketown between Hancock and Jackson Streets, is on the chopping block and the families that make their home in the current complex will be relocated with little hope of coming back to their neighborhood. LMHA has had a campaign to disinvest in fragile families and only serve more economically stable families. Over the last decade, LMHA has flipped over 30% of its family units to serve this more successful range of families, turning their back on some of our community's most vulnerable families.

By focusing on the inequities of a poorly timed demolition of Sheppard Square, MHC is raising the larger question: **What is the vision of LMHA for family units?** Sheppard Square does not exist in a vacuum. The impact of destroying this community has implications for the whole of Louisville Metro. At a time of 10% unemployment, is this the moment to take another 800 units off line? MHC says 800 because although Sheppard Square is about 326 units, LMHA must keep other units (including Section 8 slots) unused to accommodate current Sheppard Square residents, further backing up the 15,000+ waiting list. LMHA has already destroyed most of Iroquois Homes with VERY few replacement units, so Louisvillians are already feeling the pinch of an affordable housing decline. This shows up in increased numbers of homeless children. If you haven't yet had the chance, find our latest report, *Where Do You Live?: Louisville's Homeless Children and the Affordable Housing Crisis*, at www.MetropolitanHousing.org.

Are homeless children the sacrifice we are willing to make? There are already plans for a federal program to revitalize public housing that will be better than the HOPE IV program that is currently available. Are we willing to tie up significant amounts of our future Community Development Block Grant dollars for Sheppard Square just when our community is facing it's largest affordable housing challenge?

These are the questions we need to ask of LMHA and ourselves, so through the Fair Housing Coalition, MHC is inviting all individuals and organizations who have a stake in this matter to a planning session on October 13. This will be a chance to organize next steps and discuss how we can most effectively channel our outrage to make lasting change. Please join your neighbors and colleagues to work on this critical issue. 

Affordable Housing Trust Fund Vote

September 22, 2009, Metro Council Chambers, City Hall



FYI: Through Louisville Metro Human Services, the **Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program** began on September 1, 2009. Under this program, low-income people can get assistance with paying rent, utilities, security deposits, moving costs and financial counseling if they meet income criteria and are homeless or in immediate danger of being homeless.

For more information check out
www.louisvilleky.gov/HumanServices

Schedule of Events

October 13 – Sheppard Square Planning Meeting, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty Street. MHC is inviting all individuals and organizations who are concerned about the Housing Authorities' proposal to demolish Sheppard Square to attend this planning session.

October 13 – “Universal Design: Home for the Next 50 Years,” to be held 8:00 am to noon, at Spalding's Egan Leadership Center, 4th and Breckinridge. Sponsored by Metro Louisville Aging in Place Council, national speaker John Salmen, AIA, Universal Designers and Consultants, Takoma Park, MD, will talk about application of UD principles from community to kitchen. Cost: \$25; students free. Visit www.mlaipc.org/news.html or contact John O'Callaghan at 548-1239.

October 18 - Dare to Care Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 18 at Waterfront Park, Festival Plaza. Festivities start at noon; the walk starts at 2:15pm. For more information about this event, please go to www.thehungerwalk.org.

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

October 23 – Benefit Concert for St. John Center for Homeless Men. Political singer/songwriters Anne Feeney and David Rovics will perform. "Anne Feeney is the best labor singer in North America" - Utah Phillips. "David Rovics is the musical version of Democracy Now" - Amy Goodman. 7:30 pm at St. John Center, 700 East Muhammad Ali. Ticket info: Ask for Ron or Keith 568-6758/583-5147.

October 24 – Louisville Community Planning Workshop, 9:00am – 1:00 pm, Memorial Auditorium, 970 S. Fourth Street. Participants will have the opportunity to attend two break-out sessions to help identify needs and priority activities for Louisville's next five years of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funding.

October 24 – Fairness X-plosion Community Celebration and Dance Party, 10 p.m. – 2 a.m., Monkey Wrench, 1025 Barret Ave. Come to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the local Fairness Ordinance.

October 28 – 2009 *State of Metropolitan Housing Report* Release, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., Louisville Urban League, 1535 West Broadway. This will be MHC's seventh annually published State of Metropolitan Housing Report, which is an ongoing report card of the affordable housing challenges and successes in the Louisville metropolitan region. Come to get the most up-to-date housing information and recommendations.

October 28-29 – Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC) presents 2009 Kentucky Affordable Housing Conference on October 28-29 at the Hyatt Regency and Lexington Convention Center. For sponsorship opportunities or for more information about this conference, contact Mary Kay Meagher at 614-224-8446 or email mmeagher@occh.org.

November 10 – The 3rd Annual Anne Braden Memorial Lecture. Tuesday, November 10, 5:30 pm, Chao Auditorium, Speaker Michael Honey: “From Civil Rights to Economic Justice: The Freedom's Movement's Unfinished Business” Scholar-activist Mike Honey is a distinguished historian and professor at U-Washington/Tacoma with 3 award-winning books linking the civil rights and labor movements.

December 1-3 – 11th Annual Ending Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Conference on December 1-3 at the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort in Lexington. Sponsored by Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs (KASAP), Kentucky Domestic Violence Association (KDVA), Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, Division of Violence Prevention Resources, and others. Call Tana at 502-226-2704 x 300

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

Consolidated Plan

In last month's edition of this newsletter, you will remember an article about the importance of community input on HUD's Consolidated Plan, which sets housing priorities for the next five years. Attending this Community Planning Workshop, held by Metro Louisville Housing and Family Services, will give you the opportunity to influence the prioritizing and spending of roughly \$85 million.

Service providers and the general public are invited to attend a *free* Louisville Community Planning Workshop. Participants will have the opportunity to attend two break-out sessions to help identify needs and priority activities for Louisville's next five years of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funding, totaling approximately \$85 million. Please RSVP online or by mail prior to October 16.

Date: October 24, 2009

Time: 9:00am – 1:00pm

Location: Memorial Auditorium, 970 S. Fourth Street

Contact: Brandi Scott

Phone: 502.574.3401

brandi.scott@louisvilleky.gov

What you get with your MHC Membership

If your friends and neighbors aren't members, tell 'em what they're missing!

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.metropolitanhousing.org



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