



METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION

P.O. Box 4533 • Louisville, KY • 40204

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Greetings!

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Continuing MHC's 30th Anniversary Celebration...

...we have included a column by former MHC Executive Director Jane Walsh who led MHC for three years. It was her inspiration to have an annual report with nine measures

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 Tony Curtis at
tony@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:
Metropolitan Housing Coalition

P.O. Box 4533
Louisville, KY 40204-4533

Metropolitan Housing Coalition is a

we could track for fair and for affordable housing, as well as a focus topic. The *State of Metropolitan Housing Report* is now a reliable and much used source of data on housing. And, yes, MHC did foreshadow the housing market collapse with the data the report showed in 2003 and 2004. Jane also produced targeted reports linking housing to health, education and well-being, making MHC a thought leader as well.

Suzy Post created the base of MHC, but Jane then solidified our funding, our membership and MHC's indispensable role in housing advocacy. An Exacta of talent at in the evolution of MHC.

Jane Walsh Remembers Her Time as MHC Executive Director



In 2002, I joined the Metropolitan Housing Coalition as its second Executive Director. Suzy Post's great vision was aligning people and organizations around an agenda of fair and affordable housing. She built a strong coalition with broad representation - an amazing feat. At the time I joined the staff, MHC's Board of Directors decided that MHC should take on the work of producing an annual housing score card as a way to both increase our value to member organization and to ensure continued focus on fair and affordable housing.

Our goal was to provide members with the data they needed to make decisions, apply for grants, influence

Community Calendar

Fair Housing Coalition meets at 2:00 P.M. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at New Directions, 1000 E. Liberty

Louisville Vacant Property Campaign meets at 5:30 P.M. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Western Library 604 South Tenth Street

PUBLIC HEARING FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPING THE 2019 ACTION PLAN

**Monday, February 25th
6:30PM
Newburg Center Library
4800 Exeter Ave
Louisville, KY. 40218**

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Louisville Housing Needs Assessment Public Meetings

**Tuesday, February 26th
6:00-7:00PM
Memorial Auditorium
970 S. 4th St.**

**Wednesday, February 27th
9:30-10:30AM
Bon Air Library Branch
2816 Del Rio Place**

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

policy, and advocate for change. The first *State of Metropolitan Housing Report* was published in 2003 and examined nine indicators of housing well-being. The community response was immediate and enthusiastic. We followed our "big" report with quarterly white papers on things like the relationship between asthma and housing, the impact of CDBG funds, and homelessness in Jefferson County Public Schools. These publications influenced what the community talked about, how funding decision were made, and informed our advocacy agenda.

In 2004, we added an examination of foreclosure rates in the region to the annual State of Metropolitan Housing. Four years before the financial collapse of 2008, MHC showed clearly the looming crisis and enlisted our members in calling attention to the issue again and again. Having compelling and clear data didn't stop the foreclosure crisis in Louisville, but I think it did allow us to prepare for it better than some areas of the country. We certainly couldn't claim that we didn't see it coming. I left MHC in 2005 to spend more time with my young children and Cathy Hinko stepped into the role. I am so grateful to have been the part of transitioning MHC from one powerful leader to another. The State of Metropolitan Housing Report is now in its 15th year and has become both a resource for MHC members and a way for this community to hold itself accountable. Without a doubt, the combined power of a broad-based coalition and a compelling scorecard continues to keep us focused on our work to ensure fair and affordable housing in our community.

Louisville Housing Needs Assessment Released!

The Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund (LAHTF) and Develop Louisville's Office of Housing & Community Development released the Louisville Housing Needs Assessment.

Click [HERE](#) to access the full report, executive summary, appendix, and Jefferson County profile.

Public meetings to highlight major findings and a series of

recommendations are scheduled for **Tuesday, February 26th** at the Memorial Auditorium @ 6PM and **Wednesday, February 27th** at the Bon Air Library Branch @ 9:30AM.

Click the flyer below for more information!



The **HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT** has been completed and we're ready to hear **YOUR** comments on it.

Tuesday, February 26
6:00 pm-7:00 pm
Memorial Auditorium
970 South 4th Street

WEDNESDAY, February 27
9:30 am-10:30 am
Bon Air Library
2816 Del Rio Place

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Louisville's Office of Housing & Community Development and the Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund have completed the Housing Needs Assessment. Presentations will be made at these meetings to highlight major findings and a series of recommendations.

Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund



A Celebration of the Life and Legacy of Suzy Post

Sunday, March 10th

2:30 - 4PM

Muhammad Ali Center

144 North 6th Street

Louisville, KY 40202

A Celebration of the Life and Legacy of **Suzy Post !**

Sunday, March 10, 2019



Please join family and friends as we share memories and celebrate the life of Suzy Post. All are welcome. Note that Daylight Savings Time will change on the morning of March 10th, the date of this celebration.

Click [HERE](#) to view the ACLU of Kentucky Facebook Event.

City Budget Crisis Will Set Back Housing Improvements

Louisville was hit hard by the 2007 housing crisis and recession and we were finally crawling our way back to a feeling of some prosperity. The role of government in stimulating that comeback has been strategic and successful, but now, with one chop, could cease to exist.

There is a crisis in the city budget because of dramatic increased contributions to the pension plan and an increase in health insurance costs. The pension contribution formula over the next few years will require steep and cumulative increases each year which means that the contributions will outstrip increased revenues. As things start to fall apart, we can expect revenues to stagnate, although contribution to the pension will increase.

In housing, what will happen?

Reduction in vacant lot maintenance which will increase

deterioration of neighborhoods and lessen the power of the city to gain control of land through liens.

Reduction in code enforcement which will severely impact renters in lower cost rent areas. Renters are already afraid to call in code violations because it is such a tight market, but if they cannot get a code inspector out quickly and have consistent follow-up, renters will be discouraged from reporting code violations. This can lead to unhealthy consequences for the residents and the neighborhood.

Elimination of funding for many non-profits that provide emergency relief, training for leadership, and advocacy for fair and affordable housing. The External Agency funding will be gone as well as funding for the Center for Neighborhoods and for the Metropolitan Housing Coalition, including the annual report. The Ministries would receive half the usual funding.

The funding for the Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund would be severely impacted. Just as we are achieving an expectation of more affordable housing in Louisville, the main incentives and necessary gap financing will be eviscerated.

Louisville was hit hard by the 2007 housing crisis and recession and we were finally crawling our way back to a feeling of some prosperity. The role of government in stimulating that comeback has been strategic and successful, but now, with one chop, will cease to exist.

MHC cannot stress enough that the future prosperity of Louisville is on the line. Please consider all options to avoid the draconian cuts that will impede our economic growth.

The Community Speaks Out About the Proposed LG&E Rate Hike

Thursday night saw a great turn out for the public comment hearing held by the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC). There were people from all parts of our community unified in opposing rate hikes that primarily go into the fixed meter charge. Most people talked about how any

rate hike would be harmful. Certainly the community was very alarmed at the level of "profit" LG&E asked for-and has received in the past-around 10%!!!

KFTC, the Sierra Club, and MHC worked together and our allies at the NAACP, AARP, and the housing committee of the Kentucky League of Women Voter spoke out. Very impressive!

Many spoke about the impact of raising the fixed rate, but the most moving visual message was the bag of baby food - the horrible choice a parent with low-wages would make to either pay this increase or be able to buy food for their child.



You can send comments to the PSC until March 5th. E-mail the PSC at psc.info@ky.gov, and tell them that you are an LG&E customer and are concerned with the proposed rate increase in [Case No. 2018-00295](#) (Click to see the complete case file and current public comments).

Let them know your concerns!

Click [HERE](#) to see WDRB's Coverage of the event.

Did you know that 2019 is the 30th Anniversary of the Metropolitan

Housing Coalition (MHC)?

STAY TUNED FOR UPCOMING
EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS



MHC Executive Director Cathy Hinko Interviewed on WFPL's "In Conversation"

MHC's Executive Director Cathy Hinko recently appeared on WFPL's "In Conversation" with TARC Interim Executive Director Ferdinand Risco, Jr. and Louisville Metro's Jeff O'Brien, to talk about the state of transportation in Louisville with Rick Howlett.

Click [HERE](#) to Listen

Save the Date



2019 West Louisville Economic Development Forum

*Strategies for Revitalizing West Louisville: Arts, Culture & Tourism
Past, Present & Future*

March 7, 2019

Uof L Fine Arts Institute, 1606 Rowan Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40212

Arts and culture play a key role in urban revitalization and community renewal strategies. Additionally, they are consistent sources of economic growth, during both good and difficult economic times. Specifically, arts and culture policies and programs increase economic development in states by attracting businesses, creating new jobs, increasing tax revenues and promoting tourism. The Forum will explore the concept of using Arts, Culture & Tourism to stimulate economic development in West Louisville.

Sessions

From the "Chitlin Circuit to the Harlem of the South"
Arts, Culture & Tourism as Economic Catalysts!

12:00p.m.

Luncheon Speaker: Honorable Greg Fischer, Mayor
Luncheon Panel Discussion: Investment without Displacement

Stimulating the Economy Through the Arts
Artistry In Action!

REGISTRATION: uofl.me/wledf-2019

Information: Contact Clest Lanier, (502)852-3042, cylan01@louisville.edu



Sponsors: Brown Forman, LDG Development, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, UofL Commonwealth Center for the Humanities, UofL Anthropology Department, Uof L Fine Arts Department, OneWest, Office of the Mayor, Louisville Metro Council, Louisville Metro Housing Authority, Louisville Metro Office for Economic Development, Louisville Forward



CAN YOU AFFORD TO RENT THIS UNIT?



With grant funding from the [Louisville Bar Foundation](#) and the [Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund \(LAHTF\)](#), the Metropolitan Housing Coalition (MHC) is partnering with the [Louisville Urban League](#), [Legal Aid Society Louisville](#), and the [Lexington Fair Housing Council](#) to create [Renter Center](#), a rental readiness program designed to educate renters about their rights and responsibilities and how to have a successful tenure as a renter.



Earn money for MHC just by shopping Kroger

Have a Kroger card in your wallet or keychain?

Then you're *almost* ready to help support MHC!

If you don't yet have a Kroger Plus card, just ask a cashier for one.

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 tony@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.