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METROPOLITAN
HOUSING COALITION

Newsletter

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Please Join MHC for Our 2017 Annual Meeting



*Louisville Moves Forward in
Fair & Affordable Housing*

Tuesday, May 30th

5:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

The Olmsted

3701 Frankfort Avenue

Louisville, KY 40206

2017 MHC Annual Meeting

Please join the Metropolitan Housing Coalition for our 2017 Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 30th from 5:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. at the Olmsted, 3701 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, KY 40206. This year's keynote speaker is Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer. MHC wants to highlight and honor Mayor Fischer's work in fair and affordable housing (more on this later in the article).

Like last year, this event will include a cash bar, dinner, 50/50 Raffle, and introduction of a new slate of Board Members.

Individual tickets for the event cost \$70 and can be purchased in advance with:

- Check made out to MHC and sent to P.O. Box 4533 Louisville, KY 40204 (in subject please put Annual Meeting ticket and note if you want any vegan meals).
- Credit Card via the donation portal on MHC's website (metropolitanhousing.org). Simply note Annual Meeting in the comments and the names of those attending and how many vegan meals are required.

A variety of sponsorship opportunities are also available for the event starting at \$500 for a half table. Each sponsorship level comes with a specific amount of tickets, ad space, and further recognition. For information on becoming a sponsor or if you would like a sponsorship form, please call (502) 584-6858 or email michael@metropolitanhousing.org. The deadline to become a sponsor is Tuesday, May 16th.

We also have scholarship tickets available for low income attendees, so if you anyone who would like to attend but cannot afford to buy a ticket please email michael@metropolitanhousing.org.



Louisville Mayor, Greg Fischer

This year our keynote speaker is Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer. Over his tenure, Mayor Greg Fischer has a long and impressive list of fair and affordable housing accomplishments which include:

- Louisville receiving a \$29.5 million HUD CHOICE grant to transform Beecher Terrace and the Russell Neighborhood;
- 20-Year Action Plan for Fair Housing;
- An inclusive Comprehensive Plan process which includes fair housing, affordable housing, health, and sustainability despite not being mandatory;
- Creation of Louisville CARES;
- Funding program work for the Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund;
- Research and development of the Redlining interactive map;
- And the work in west Louisville covering the gap between cost of building new single-family homes in a small area and the initial appraised value of those homes.

Local action is imperative, and Mayor Fischer has shown the steady determination to address the issues of fair and affordable housing.

Download all of our State of Metropolitan Housing Reports and other reports for FREE at our Website:
www.metropolitanhousing.org/resources/mhc-reports

Settlement in LG&E/KU Rate Cases Protects Vulnerable Residential Customers & Moderates the Amount & Impact of Rate Increases

By Tom Fitzgerald, Kentucky Resources Council

Legal Council for MHC

Significant Public Turnout At Hearings And Letters To Commission Helps Create Context For Settlement



Tom Fitzgerald, Legal Council for MHC

A proposed settlement agreement in the Louisville Gas and Electric and Kentucky Utilities Rate Cases, filed with the Public Service Commission on April 17, 2017, includes a number of positive outcomes for residential customers in the LG&E and KU service areas, over what had been requested by the utilities.

The numerous intervenors in one or more of the cases, including the Office of the Attorney General, Metropolitan Housing Coalition (represented by KRC), Association of Community Ministries, JBS Swift, Sierra Club, Louisville Metro (represented by County Attorney Mike O’Connell), Lexington, Kentucky Industrial Utility Customers, and the Community Action Council, negotiated together in seeking to moderate the rate increases sought by LG&E and KU.

LG&E sought \$94.1 million in new revenue for electricity and \$13.4 million for gas operations, and KU sought a revenue increase of \$103.1 million for electricity. Both sought to increase by more than double the basic customer charge, and to marginally reduce the volumetric rates for electricity.

LG&E and KU also sought to fully roll-out advanced (“smart”) meters. Among the highlights of the settlement for LG&E and KU customers:

- LG&E and KU withdrew the request to roll out advanced meters on a mandatory basis, and will instead work in a collaborative with interested parties to review and make recommendations on how and when to deploy advanced meters and to protect customers from intrusive practices.
- The overall revenue increases for LG&E would drop to \$59.4 million for electricity and for KU, \$54.9 million, and to \$7.5 million for gas services, and the allocation of what classes of customers will pay what percentage of the increased revenue was made more fair than some proposals under consideration.
- The return on equity was reduced to single digits, at 9.75%.

You can read Cathy’s testimony on behalf of MHC on the case:
<http://www.metropolitanhousing.org/resources/policy-library/>

LG&E Settlement Continued...



Tom Fitzgerald, Legal Council for MHC

Among the highlights of the settlement for LG&E and KU customers (continued):

- The customer charge will rise from \$10.25 per month to \$11.50 in July 2017 and to \$12.25 in July 2018, instead of the \$22.00 requested by LG&E and KU. For gas customers in the LG&E service area, the meter charge will rise to \$16.35 for the next two years.
- The residential service charges will not be split into three components, which renewable advocates were concerned was a step towards decoupling and demand charges that would adversely affect distributed solar generators.
- LG&E and KU have agreed to fund a study on deployment of electric buses in Louisville.

- LG&E will increase low-income customer support from shareholder contributions by an additional \$200,000 per year for utility assistance through the Association of Community Ministries until June 30, 2021, for a total shareholder contribution to 880,000 overall for utility and home energy assistance. KU will increase their shareholder contribution by \$100,000, and an increase in the service charge of 5 cents (to .30) will help reduce the number of folks on the waiting list for heating assistance in the CAC service area. The total low-income assistance will rise from \$1,150,000 to \$1,450,000 and remain at least at that level until 2021.

KRC appreciates the support of other intervenors, and particularly of JBS Swift, for the concerns of Metro Housing Coalition and low-income customer advocates. KRC also appreciates LG&E and KU's willingness to take a step back on the advanced meter issue and to work collaboratively on it. And thanks to each of you who attended one of the public meetings or wrote comments to the PSC on

MHC cannot thank the Kentucky Resources Council enough for once again representing MHC in an LG&E case before the Public Service Commission. They are our heroes!!!

To view all case filings related to this rate case visit:
http://psc.ky.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?case=2016-00371

Southern Indiana Governments to Low-Income Workers “Don’t Go Away Mad, Just Go Away.”

By Cathy Hinko

What is the new trend in Southern Indiana? Southern Indiana governments are kicking out low-wage workers, the elderly, and people with disabilities. In both New Albany and Charlestown, the Mayors are making it impossible for low-wage workers to remain. In both instances, the government wants to tear down housing occupied by lower-income persons and in both instances, the government expresses little or no support for decades-long residents being exiled. In fact, in both instances the officials’ statements basically say “don’t go way mad, just go away.”

New Albany is planning to tear down 635 units of public housing capable of being rehabilitated, without guaranteeing any replacement units. In a city where 45% of residents rent and where there is only a 4% vacancy rate in rental housing, tearing down 600 units is a de facto diaspora. As for the Charlestown neighborhood of Pleasant Ridge, the Mayor apparently considered the people living there to be an inconvenience and is working to raze a whole neighborhood (not public housing, privately owned).

So who do they despise? In the Louisville Metropolitan Statistical Area, 269,170 jobs do not pay a wage that would allow a person to rent a two-bedroom unit in the lower 40% of the market. That is 43% of the workforce. And in the next 20 years the number and percent of people over the age of 65 will double from the current 14%. These are the people that are inconvenient to these policy makers. Um... most of us.

This affects all of us in the region, and we will bear the fallout of these callous maneuvers. Speak up!

Congratulations to Louisville Metro Government on the new Fair Housing Assessment:

Now we must act to make sure it becomes an important part of decisions.

By Cathy Hinko

Enacting the 20-year Action Plan for Fair Housing, Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission completed the Fair Housing Assessment (FHA), a lens for ALL Louisville Metro government. This legacy of Carolyn Miller-Cooper is real and is now being taught to metro departments, but it is up to us to make the FHA an important part of decision-making.

Write the Mayor to congratulate him on implementing the FHA. Bring the FHA up in all your comments to Metro government. Always ask , “What is the FHA’s take on this decision?”. Make it a part of all our discussions- in the Comprehensive Plan, or as we comment on the budget or as we look at the plans to spend federal funds. *WE ARE THE ONES WHO WILL ENSURE THAT FAIR HOUSING IS A NORMAL PART OF DECISION-MAKING.*

Like MHC on Facebook and Twitter!
<https://www.facebook.com/mhclouisville/>
<https://twitter.com/mhclouisville>

The Comprehensive Plan: Stay Vigilant and Ensure Your Voice is Heard!

By Michael Kolodziej

The Comprehensive Plan work groups continue to meet monthly and have made great progress as groups have progressed to working on policies. As a reminder, the work groups are:

- Mobility
- Community Form
- Community Facilities
- Livability & Environment
- Housing
- Marketplace

You can still join a work group and download all previous agendas, meeting summaries, and presentations/activities/resources by visiting: <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/planning-design/mobility-work-group>

Throughout the process, the Advisory Committee continues to hold meetings approximately once a month. As a reminder, the Advisory Committee acts as a “guide” for the Comprehensive Plan and is made up of 36 individuals from “neighborhood and community organizations as well as development and business interests.” (For a list of the Advisory Committee Members, visit: https://louisvilleky.gov/sites/default/files/planning_design/advisory_committee_members_revised_012017_website_list.pdf).

All Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public and take place at 6 pm at the Department of Health and Wellness at 400 E. Gray Street. Here are the dates for the next Advisory Committee meetings:

- Tuesday, May 23rd
- Tuesday, June 27th
- Tuesday, July 25h
- Tuesday, August 22nd
- Tuesday, September 26th

You can also find previous meetings’ agendas, presentations, and minutes by visiting: <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/planning-design/advisory-committee>

When the work groups are finished, it is not the end of the process. The Advisory Committee will continue to “guide” the Comprehensive Plan which will then go to the Planning Commission and then go to Metro Council. If we want to ensure the Comprehensive Plan reflects a diverse community’s vision of the twenty year environment and not just the vision of a select few, we must remain vigilant by showing up to the Advisory Committee meetings and in the future, to the Planning and Metro Council meetings. Holding them accountable is paramount!

Subscribe to our newsletter electronically and read it on your phone or tablet!

<http://www.metropolitanhousing.org/resources/newsletters>

You can also read all of our previous newsletters dating back to 2004 by visiting:

<http://www.metropolitanhousing.org/resources/newsletters/newsletter-archive/>

Community Calendar

Louisville Fair Housing Coalition

Meets each 2nd Tuesday at 2pm at New Directions 1000 E. Liberty

Louisville Vacant Property Campaign

Meets each 3rd Tuesday at 5:30pm at the Shelby Park Community Center, 600 E. Oak St

2017 Worksite Wellness Council of Louisville Annual Conference and Awards

The awards are open to all local employers that have a worksite wellness program. Awards will be presented at the Annual Worksite Wellness Council of Louisville conference.

Thursday, May 18

3:30 pm

Gheens Foundation Lodge in Beckley Creek Park in Louisville part of the Parklands at Floyd Fork
1411 Beckley Creek Parkway

*Early Bird Registration is \$75
After April 30, the price is \$90.*

*For more information & registration, visit:
www.louisvilleworksitewellness.org/2017-conference-awards/*

*Sponsorships and Vendor booths are available! Contact Wendy Hall:
wendy.hall@bhsi.com*

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 2 locations for the workshops
Louisville Urban League hosts the workshop from 5:30-7:30 pm on the following dates:

Thursday, May 11th;
Thursday, August 10th;
Thursday, November 9th

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

Tuesday, June 13th;
Tuesday, July 11th;
Tuesday, September 12th;
Tuesday, October 10th;
Tuesday, December 12th

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

DONATE TODAY!

Strengthen the United Voice for Fair & Affordable Housing!

Make your donation online at www.metropolitanhousing.org or mail this form to MHC, P.O. Box 4533, Louisville, KY 40204-4533.

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



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