

NEWSletter

METROPOLITAN
HOUSING
COALITION
LOUISVILLE KY
April '05

May 17: MHC honors Leonard Watkins at the 16th Annual Meeting!

MHC's 16th Annual Meeting will be held on May 17 at the new Downtown Marriott. We are honoring Leonard Watkins who has served Louisville in a variety of capacities for over twenty years.

Leonard recently retired from PNC bank after 18 years with the bank as a Senior Vice President and a Community Consultant. He served on the MHC Board of Directors for several terms and was instrumental in growing MHC's racially and geographically diverse base.

While an officer at PNC Bank, Leonard served on numerous non-profit boards, including **New Directions, Housing Partnership Inc., Zion Community Development Foundation**, and a subsidiary board of the **Louisville Urban League**.

Leonard's commitment to Louisville, particularly to inner city neighborhoods is manifest in all of his actions. He is a beloved son of a wide cross section of our community and MHC wants to thank him for his unstinting and generous work.

Our keynote speaker for the Annual Meeting is James Carr of the Fannie Mae Foundation. Mayor Jerry

Abramson will also speak. There will be music, food and lots of fun! Be sure to arrive at 5pm for drinks and networking. Dinner will be served at 6pm.

Plan to attend on May 17. Fill out the order form on the back of this newsletter and get your tickets *now*. They do go fast and space is limited. ■

April 13: MHC hosts Fair Housing Forum

April is designated national Fair Housing Month to celebrate the national legislation that prohibits discrimination in housing based upon race, religion, national origin, gender, disability or age.

For 14 years, MHC has hosted a Fair Housing Month Forum to bring the issue of housing justice into focus.

On Wednesday, April 13, Corinne Carey will be in Louisville to talk about her work on the recent *Human Rights Watch Report No Second Chance*. She will explore the topic of housing discrimination against people with criminal records. Dr. Blaine Hudson from the University of Louisville will offer a response.

U.S. HUD prohibits people with criminal records to live in public housing. As prisoners are disproportionately

African American males, the exclusion from public housing following release is a serious problem for African American families and this community as a whole.

The event is co-sponsored by the **Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission**. Please plan to attend this compelling discussion on **April 13 at 11:30am at the Louisville Urban League**. Lunch will be provided. RSVP by calling 584-6858. ■

April '05 meetings

Advocacy and Education Committee

Please call 584-6858 for date and time

Fair Housing Month General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 11:30am
Louisville Urban League, 1535 Broadway
Lunch will be provided

MHC Board of Directors

Wednesday, April 27, at 12pm
New Directions Housing Corporation
1000 E. Liberty Street



NEW Annual Meeting location this year — the NEW Downtown Marriott! Tell your friends!



CONTACT US:
Metropolitan Housing Coalition

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Louisville, KY 40204-4533
PH (502) 584-6858
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MHC MEMBER News

Here is what some of MHC's member organizations are doing

KIPDA AREA AGENCY ON AGING

will offer *Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness for Seniors* on Thursday, April 21, from 8:30am until 1:30pm. Interested parties will need to register since space is limited to 50-60 people. Presenters include: Betty Sheils from University of Louisville OVAR-GEC, Arleen Johnson from University of Kentucky OVAR-GEC, Bill Wetter from Kentucky Public Health, and Donna Collins from the Division of Aging Services. For more information call 266-6084. ■

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY will have a garage sale on Saturday, April 16, 8:30am until 3pm, sponsored by Women for Habitat. It will raise money for the eighth house built in Louisville by women. The sale will be located at 12002 Hudson View Court. If you would like to help frame and build the house or for more information, please call Habitat at 583-6599 ext. 23. The "Raise the Roof" will be May 12, 13 & 14. ■

The **LOUISVILLE METRO COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP** is accepting Summer Lunch Program letters of intent for any non-profit, community based organization, church, or neighborhood council that is interested in becoming a 2005 Summer Lunch Program site through Friday, May 6, 2005. Sites will be

selected based on staffing and refrigeration capacity, and all sites must provide two adults to attend site certification training. For more information, contact Rhonda Wooten at (502) 574-1157, ext. 340. ■

The **LOUISVILLE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION** will host a brown bag lunch at our agency, 410 W. Chestnut Street, Suite #300, on April 15 from noon until 2pm. The proposed speaker is a local Sudanese refugee and he will discuss his life and housing experiences in Africa and America. ■

The City of New Albany is hosting the 2005 Southern Indiana Affordable Housing Fair on June 4, from 11am until 3pm, at the Salvation Army building in New Albany. As many as 200 prospective first time homebuyers will attend the and gather information from lenders, social service providers, realtors, insurance representatives, budget counselors, title companies, etc. Exhibitor space and booklet advertising space is currently being offered at very low rates for the 8th Annual Fair. For more information, contact Sharon Becht, **NEW ALBANY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**, at 948-5333, or John Miller, **NEW ALBANY COMMUNITY HOUSING**, at 945-1866. ■

MHC Board offers slate of nominees

In July of 2005, MHC will say goodbye to two very strong board members — **DONNA PETERSON** of **The Community Builders**, and **HEIDI SAUNDERS** of **River Fields**. The Board of Directors and staff are very grateful to them for their contributions to MHC in this time of rapid growth.

At the Annual Meeting on May 17 at pm at the new Downtown Marriott, MHC's Board of Directors will offer the following slate of nominees to the Board: **CARMEN TISDALE**, **New Zion Community Development Foundation** (first 3-year term); **KENNY LANHAM**, **Lanham and Associates** (first 3-year term); **SUZY POST**, civil rights activist (2nd three year term); **DAN FORBIS**, **IN-KY Regional Council of Carpenters** (2nd three year term); **BILL SCHRECK**, Louisville Metro Department of Permits, Inspections & Licenses (2nd three year term).

Nominees may be nominated in writing to the MHC office 30 days before the Annual Meeting on May 17. MHC members will have the opportunity to respond to these nominations at the Annual Meeting. Be sure to be there! ■

THIS



THAT

Urge members of Congress to **REJECT** the President's FY06 budget proposal

Be sure to call your representatives in Congress *before* the deadline for the FY06 Budget Resolution — April 15. The implications of this budget proposal for the poor, disabled, elderly and homeless in Louisville are immediately severe. The long term implications for our community are also dire. The proposal abandons Metro Louisville and our real and pressing housing needs.

Already the second smallest department of the federal government — U.S. HUD — faces a cut of nearly 11.5% of its total budget — from \$32.3 billion in FY 2005 to a proposed \$28.5 billion in FY 2006. Since the mid 1970's the budget of HUD has decreased by 48%, even while the nation's housing has aged and as working people have faced decreased incomes and increased housing costs.

We must stand together to demand adequate funding for *all* HUD programs. Voice your objections about the FY2006 proposal by calling your elected officials before April 15, 2005.

The Administration proposes removal of funding for 18 federal community development programs currently funded by seven federal agencies — including the Community Development Block Grant Program. They are 'reassigned' to the Commerce Department with a 35% cut in funding under the *Strengthening America's Community Initiative*. This initiative, administered as an economic development block grant, eliminates Louisville's entitlement to a pro rata share of funds for infrastructure and is a draconian cut to available funds and allowable uses.

In addition to cutting or eliminating key programs serving low income households, the President proposes five-year spending caps that would freeze funding for low income programs at the grossly inadequate FY06 funding levels.

Please call 1-888-818-6641 by April 15 to voice your opposition to the proposed FY2006 budget.

Visit www.metropolitanhousing.org for talking points, representative phone numbers and sample letters. If you would like to receive this information via mail, call us at 584-6858. ■

Update on the Kentucky Affordable Housing Trust Fund

The Kentucky Affordable Housing Trust Fund was maintained at the \$2.5 million level for both FY 2005 and FY 2006. The retroactive legislation for the AHTF indicated the Kentucky Housing Corporation may add additional funding to the pool.

Thus, counting the additional \$500,000 given to the Kentucky AHTF by the Kentucky Housing Corporation, total program funding for FY 2005 will equal \$3 million.

For FY 2006, the KY AHTF legislation language was changed. The new legislation mandates that the Kentucky Housing Corporation supplement the fund with an additional \$500,000.

While this maintains the current funding level for the trust fund, advocates are concerned about KHC money being diverted away from other critical housing needs. Instead, advocates want to see an overall increase in state funding to the trust fund without supplementation by the Kentucky Housing Corporation funds.

Governor Fletcher reviews the budget in mid-March and legislators will meet in Frankfort near the end of March to finalize the plan. Governor Fletcher will likely approve the Kentucky Affordable Housing Trust Fund at the \$2.5 million level.

Advocates will work in the future towards an increase in this amount, as the current AHTF pool is insufficient to address many of Kentucky's affordable housing needs. ■

Want to receive MHC's newsletter by email?



If you would like to receive MHC's newsletter by email only, contact Nancy at (502) 584-6858 or email her at nancy@metropolitanhousing.org.



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HIGHLIGHTS FOR APRIL ... MHC honors Leonard Watkins at the 16th Annual Meeting on May 17/MHC hosts Fair Housing Forum on April 13/April 2005 meetings/MHC Member News/MHC Board offers slate of nominees/Urge members of Congress to reject the President's FY06 budget proposal/Update on the Kentucky Affordable Housing Trust Fund/16th Annual Meeting ticket order form

MHC's monthly newsletter is underwritten by a grant from

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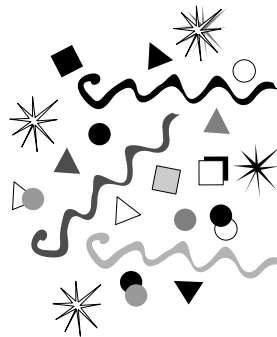
16th Annual Meeting ticket order form

Name _____

Address _____

City/state/zip _____

Phone # _____



Make your reservations today!

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS
_____ x \$35 = _____
individual ticket(s)
\$ _____ TOTAL

TABLE(S) OF 8
_____ x \$300 = _____
table(s) of 8
\$ _____ TOTAL

**PLEASE MAKE CHECK OUT TO:
METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION**

**Enclose your check for the appropriate amount & mail this form to:
Metropolitan Housing Coalition
P.O. Box 4533
Louisville, KY 40204-4533**

*Sign up today for
MHC's May 17th
Annual Meeting.
For sponsorship
opportunities of for
more info, call
MHC today at
(502) 584-6858.*