

Metropolitan Housing Coalition

March 2021 Newsletter



2021 Metropolitan Housing Coalition Virtual Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 10, 2021 | 6PM | Louisville, Ky
Via Zoom Webinar



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. MATTHEW DESMOND

Pulitzer Prize Winning
Author of *Evicted:
Poverty and Profit in the
American City*

Maurice P. Daring
Professor of Sociology at
Princeton University

Principal Investigator of
Princeton's Eviction Lab

2021 MHC Virtual Annual Meeting Thursday, June 10, 2021 6:00 P.M. Via Zoom

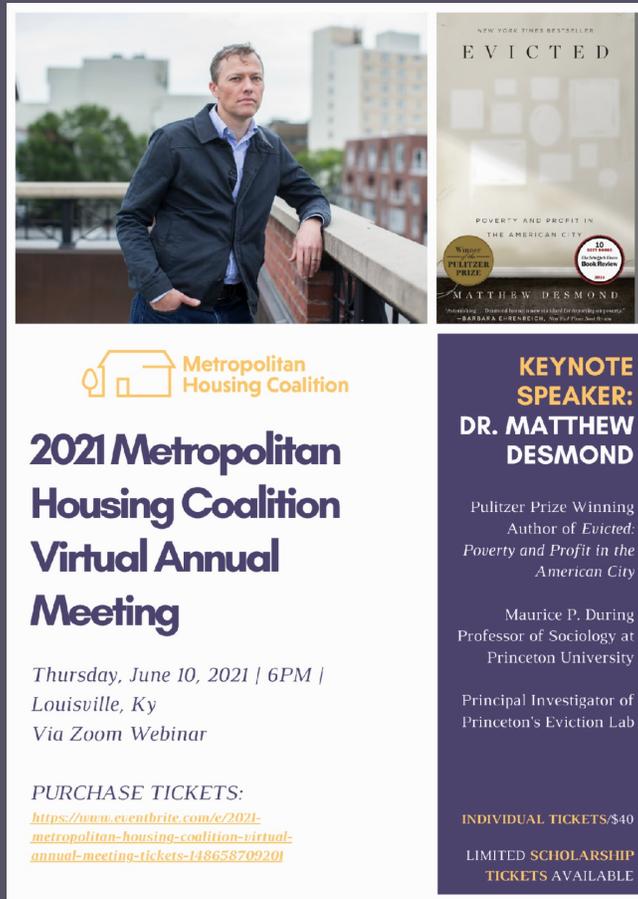
Tickets: \$40/person
Limited Scholarship Tickets Available



Registration Process (2 Steps):

- (1) Click [HERE](#) to purchase tickets via Eventbrite.
- (2) You will receive an 'Eventbrite Confirmation Email', click the 'Zoom Webinar Registration Link' to complete registration and receive your event link and password.

Click the Event Flyer below for more information on the event and on Matthew Desmond.



The flyer is divided into two main sections. The top left features a photograph of Dr. Matthew Desmond, a man in a dark jacket leaning on a railing. To his right is the cover of his book 'EVICTED: POVERTY AND PROFIT IN THE AMERICAN CITY', which is a New York Times Bestseller and a Pulitzer Prize winner. The bottom left section contains the event details: '2021 Metropolitan Housing Coalition Virtual Annual Meeting' on Thursday, June 10, 2021, at 6 PM in Louisville, Ky, via Zoom Webinar. It includes a link to purchase tickets and mentions that limited scholarship tickets are available. The bottom right section, on a dark purple background, identifies Dr. Matthew Desmond as the keynote speaker, highlighting his Pulitzer Prize win and his role as a professor at Princeton University and principal investigator of Princeton's Eviction Lab.

 **Metropolitan Housing Coalition**

2021 Metropolitan Housing Coalition Virtual Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 10, 2021 | 6PM |
Louisville, Ky
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PURCHASE TICKETS:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-metropolitan-housing-coalition-virtual-annual-meeting-tickets-148658709201>

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INDIVIDUAL TICKETS \$40
LIMITED SCHOLARSHIP TICKETS AVAILABLE

KNOW
HOMELESSNESS

THANK YOU to the
KNOW Homelessness Campaign
for joining the 2021 MHC Virtual
Annual Meeting as a Speaker
Sponsor!

Are You Interested in Sponsorship Opportunities?

Click the flyer below and contact Tony for more information!

Tony Curtis
MHC Director of Development & Communications
tony@metropolitanhousing.org

**2021 Metropolitan Housing Coalition
Virtual Annual Meeting**

Thursday, June 10, 2021 | 6PM | Louisville, Ky
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SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Event Naming Sponsor (\$10,000)

- Recognition as the **ONLY** event naming sponsor, referred to as “2021 MHC Virtual Annual Meeting, made possible by [Your Org Name]”
- Opportunity to introduce the keynote speaker Matthew Desmond
- Recognition as a ‘Event Naming Sponsor’ and ‘Speaker Sponsor’ in Press Releases, Advisories, MHC Newsletter (w/ logo), MHC Social Media, and on the MHC Website (w/ logo)
- Recognition in the next State of Metropolitan Housing Report (w/ logo)
- A verbal ‘Thank You’ with your logo on screen during the virtual event (at the beginning and end of the event broadcast)
- Virtual Tickers: 48 (Links sent to your organizational contact you identify and invite attendees)
- Scholarship Tickets: 25 tickets for low-income community members to attend

Speaker Sponsor (\$5,000)

- Recognition as a ‘Speaker Sponsor’ in Press Releases, Advisories, MHC Newsletter (w/ logo), MHC Social Media, and on the MHC Website (w/ logo)
- Brief speaking opportunity during the event
- Recognition in the next State of Metropolitan Housing Report (w/ logo)
- A verbal ‘Thank You’ with your logo on screen during the virtual event (at the beginning and end of the event broadcast)
- Virtual Tickers: 36 (Links sent to your organizational contact you identify and invite attendees)
- Scholarship Tickets: 10 tickets for low-income community members to attend

Foundation Sponsor (\$2,500)

- Recognition as a ‘Foundation Sponsor’ in Press Releases, Advisories, MHC Newsletter (w/ logo), MHC Social Media, and on the MHC Website (w/ logo)
- Recognition in the next State of Metropolitan Housing Report (w/ logo)
- A verbal ‘Thank You’ with your logo on screen during the virtual event (at the beginning and end of the event broadcast)
- Virtual Tickers: 24 (Links sent to your organizational contact you identify and invite attendees)

(continued on next page)

Contact: Tony Curtis, Director of Development & Communications
Email: tony@metropolitanhousing.org



**KEYNOTE
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DR. MATTHEW
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Councilmember Cassie Chambers Armstrong Proposes a Right to Counsel Ordinance for Low-income Households with Children in Eviction Court

Megan Metcalf

Office of Councilmember Cassie Chambers Armstrong

You cannot be “Healthy at Home” if you do not have a home. And for too many of our neighbors, the risk of eviction during this pandemic grows each day. While rental assistance from the federal and local government is slowly distributed and much of our landlord-renter law governed by state law, our city needs to think creatively to keep our neighbors housed and healthy. That is why Metro Council Member Cassie Chambers Armstrong has introduced an ordinance that would provide Metro funding for attorneys in eviction court for all families earning less than 125% of the federal poverty level with at least one child in the home.

I know just how detrimental eviction and homelessness can be for a child, as research shows that 75 percent of children experiencing homelessness have at least one major developmental delay, and 43 percent of children have two or more delays.

I also witnessed how housing insecurity harms children from birth as a lawyer working at a non-profit medical-legal partnership. Essentially, we addressed legal root causes to health problems, including education issues, child custody, but most of all housing. Over 40% of our referrals were because our children lacked safe, stable, affordable housing. We saw children with lead exposure, severe and chronic respiratory issues, and overcrowding because they lacked adequate, affordable housing. With only one fulltime and one part-time

attorney, we could not serve every family who needed our help. A right-to-counsel ordinance for eviction court would ensure many of those families wouldn't have to face eviction alone again.

While access to an attorney may seem abstract compared to direct rent assistance, other cities have shown Right to Counsel is one of the most cost-effective measures to keep our neighbors housed and to prevent child homelessness. One analysis for the City of Baltimore shows the city would save \$6.24 in direct costs including shelter and emergency services for every \$1 spent on legal services to avoid displacement and homelessness. And I can speak from experience to what difference can an attorney make in eviction cases.

My clients are smart, they are savvy, they are resourceful. But most didn't know is the inner workings of the eviction court system, while their landlords employed attorneys who were at the Hall of Justice five days a week. My clients didn't know who they could negotiate with or what they could ask for. A renter's attorney can prepare clients for court, tell them where to go, where to sit, when to stand, when to speak. An attorney can identify possible legal defenses including retaliation for raising health or safety concerns, can negotiate a continuance, or payment plan. An attorney can negotiate to avoid the final eviction judgment being entered into the record, which is not expungable, and can save the client's credit, making it easier to find new housing. An attorney can work to save their client's housing voucher so they can afford their next place.

Most of all, having an attorney can give some power back to renters and make it worth it to show up to court. Many of my clients who had personal experience with eviction court told me how useless it felt to go to court alone, knowing it didn't make a difference, knowing the judge would not listen to them about their caving ceiling or broken hot water heater. It was not worth losing half a day's pay, maybe even their job, when they would need that money even more next week when the setout came.

For many of my clients, eviction was not the start of the crisis, it was part of a cascade of problems, leading to this moment. A child with serious health issues, a pregnancy without paid leave, a wage earner who became ill, or injured, or was incarcerated meant they couldn't make rent. They often had to go through those troubles alone and with little support.

Having an attorney means they don't have to go through eviction alone, too.

45.6% OF RENTERS IN LOUISVILLE ARE COST-BURDENED

These households spend 30% of income on housing costs, thereby having less income for nutritious food, healthcare, and education.

LOUISVILLE'S EVICTION RATE IS TWICE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

Even prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic, 4.82% of renters in Louisville faced eviction in 2016 which is twice the national average.

RIGHT TO COUNSEL IN EVICTION COURT

A **Right to Counsel Ordinance** would provide tenants whose income is not in excess of 125% of the federal poverty line and have at least one (1) child in the home with **full legal representation** in an eviction proceeding.

Providing full legal representation to a tenant facing an eviction makes it **twice** as likely for them to stay in their home.

Data shows providing legal representation is **cost effective**. In Baltimore, the city saved \$6.24 for every dollar spent on the program.

RACIAL INEQUALITY IN COST-BURDENED HOUSEHOLDS

41.1% of African American households are cost-burdened in Louisville & Jefferson County, compared to only 24% of white households.

EVICTIONS RESULT IN HOMELESSNESS

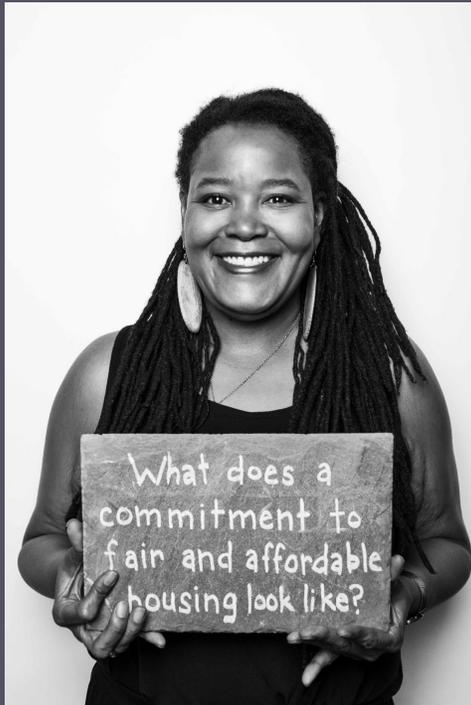
Eviictions are the **leading cause for homeless** for families with children.

NEGATIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES RESULT FROM EVICTION

Eviction threats contribute to negative mental and physical health outcomes, including suicidal ideation, high blood pressure, and child maltreatment.

EVICTIONS HAVE A LASTING NEGATIVE IMPACT ON STUDENTS

Students experiencing homelessness are 87% more likely to not graduate and 4.5 times more likely to be homeless as adults.



DONATE TODAY

to become a member and strengthen the voice of MHC in the community!



2021 Fair Housing Month Events

Thursday, April 8th

"The Critical Connection Between Housing Security and Environmental Justice"

6:00 PM

Presenter: Dr. Cathy Kuhn

Uof L Department of Sociology
Jon H. Rieger Speakers Series

Registration:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ypKyZhtwRUuN9EjVVXOAdw

More Information:

<http://louisville.edu/sustainability/events/the-critical-connection-between-housing-security-and-environmental-justice>

Monday, April 12th

**Our Children Are In Jeopardy: The Long Shadow of Housing Insecurity
5:30-7:00 PM**

Sponsored by:

Metropolitan Housing Coalition
League of Women Voters
LMG Human Relations Commission
AARP Kentucky

Registration:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/7016165313087/WN_gili9ileSFIX47iJygArQQ

OUR CHILDREN ARE IN JEOPARDY: THE LONG SHADOW OF HOUSING INSECURITY

MODERATOR

Tara Bassett, Host of TAKE IT FROM TARA!

OPENING SPEAKER

Senator Gerald Neal (District 33)

PANELISTS

Sarah Ehresman, KentuckianaWorks

Terry Brooks, Kentucky Youth Advocates

Rachel Anger, LMG Human Relations Commission

Rev. Jamesetta Ferguson, St. Peters UCC Louisville

Shameka Shaw, Impacted Resident and Founder of Broken Hearted Home Renters Association

Margie Charasika, LWV of Louisville

Please join us for a discussion regarding the long-term impacts of housing insecurity on child and family wellbeing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021

5:30-7:00 P.M. ~ VIA ZOOM

REGISTRATION LINK:

[HTTPS://ZOOM.US/WEBINAR/REGISTER/7016165313087/WN_GIL19ILESFIX471JYGARQQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/7016165313087/WN_GIL19ILESFIX471JYGARQQ)



Tuesday, April 20th

Session 2

2021 Vacant and Abandoned Properties Virtual Learning Series

5:30-6:30PM

"How do we improve compliance rates with city codes? What resources exist to help homeowners remain in compliance?"

Registration:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MnYS23ftT0yUJiBZVs6rtA



Metropolitan
Housing Coalition

UNDERSTANDING VACANT AND ABANDONED PROPERTIES 2021 VIRTUAL LEARNING SERIES

A FREE, BI-MONTHLY FORUM FOCUSED ON FINDING SOLUTIONS TO VACANT AND ABANDONED PROPERTIES IN LOUISVILLE PRESENTED BY THE LOUISVILLE VACANT PROPERTIES CAMPAIGN

SESSION 1

February 16, 2021
5:30-6:30 PM

What is the Role of Metro Government in Alleviating Vacant and Abandoned Properties?

SESSION 2

April 20, 2021
5:30-6:30 PM

How Do We Improve Compliance Rates with City Codes? What Resources Exist to Help Homeowners Remain in Compliance?

SESSION 3

June 15, 2021
5:30-6:30 PM

How Does the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Community Land Trust Prevent and Address Vacant and Abandoned Properties in Louisville?

SESSION 4

August 14, 2021
5:30-6:30 PM

What Strategies Exist to Help People Age in Place and Prevent Properties from Becoming Vacant and Abandoned?

SESSION 5

October 19, 2021
5:30-6:30 PM

What are Other Cities Successfully Doing in Regard to Vacant and Abandoned Property Resolution? How can Kentucky Mirror Those Practices?

SESSION 6

December 21, 2021
5:30-6:30 PM

Lessons Learned, Policy Recommendations and Next Steps

ZOOM REGISTRATION AND SPEAKER DETAILS COMING SOON!

Tuesday, April 27th

**Unfair Housing in Louisville: A Community Listening Session
5:30-7:00 PM**

We invite you to share your personal and family experience with barriers to accessing housing in Louisville.

Facilitator:
Riece Hamilton

University of Louisville
Interim Program Manager, Health Promotion Office
VP of the Black Faculty & Staff Association

Registration:
<https://tinyurl.com/Unfair21>

UNFAIR HOUSING IN LOUISVILLE: A COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION

We invite you to share your personal and family experience
with barriers to accessing housing in Louisville

Facilitator: Riece Hamilton

Interim Program Manager, Health Promotion Office & VP of the Black Faculty & Staff Association
University of Louisville

Hamilton is a native of Louisville, Kentucky, specifically the West End. She received her B.S. in health education from Western Kentucky University in 2011. She received her M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy from Valdosta State University in 2014. She is currently working towards a P.H.D. in Public Health, concentration in health promotion and behavior.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27TH
5:30-7:00 P.M.

REGISTER HERE:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/UNFAIR21](https://tinyurl.com/unfair21)

Photo Credit: Photographic Archives University of Louisville

Project Grant Funding from the Kentucky Oral History Commission



Upcoming Virtual Public Hearings

Tuesday, April 20th
Planning Commission Night Hearing

Attend this meeting to stay engaged on Land Development Code Reform.

Webex meeting information:

Event Number: 160 970 9579

Event Password: PC042021

To join this online event

-
1. Go to <https://louisvilleky.webex.com/louisvilleky/j.php?MTID=e3887e9de7425932fd1f1d208578e260f>
 2. Enter the event password: PC042021
 3. Click "Join Now".
 4. Follow the instructions that appear on your screen to join the teleconference.

To only join the audio conference

US Toll: +1-415-655-0001

Global call-in numbers:

<https://louisvilleky.webex.com/louisvilleky/globalcallin.php?MTID=e4621432db0d6bf559c55db6259e17e66>

Access code: 160 970 9579

Monday, April 26th
Kentucky Public Service Commission
LG&E Rate Case (2020-00350)
9:00 AM

The Kentucky Public Service Commission has scheduled hearings on the request for large (11.81% for electricity and 9.37% for gas) LG&E rate increases. The hearings start on Monday, April 26, at 9:00 am, when public comments will be taken.

The hearings will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, <https://psc.ky.gov/>. Public comments may be made at the beginning of the hearing. Those wishing to make oral public comments may do so by following the instructions listed on the PSC website.

Members of the public can also make comments to the PSC for inclusion into the official record. Include the case number (2020-00350) within the subject line of your email to the Public Information Officer at psc.info@ky.gov, and provide your full name and place of residence in the body of the e-mail. Please let them know that a rate increase of this magnitude, at a time when so many are suffering the economic fallout associated with a global pandemic, will undoubtedly lead to greater housing insecurity and homelessness in Louisville.

Due to COVID-19, meetings are being held virtually. Virtual meeting links will be sent out monthly to each groups email list.

Fair Housing Coalition

meets at 2:00 P.M.

on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at New Directions,
1615 Maple St.

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

Do you have an event for the Community Calendar?

Email Tony Curtis at

tony@metropolitanhousing.org



- (1) Go to www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com.
- (2) Look for "I'm a Customer" and click "View Details."
- (3) Sign in with your existing Kroger account, or create a new account.
- (4) Enter the code BA764 in the "Find an Organization" search box - click "Search."
- (5) When Metropolitan Housing Coalition pops up, simply click "Enroll."



- (1) Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
- (2) From your desktop, go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to Change your Charity. Or, from your mobile browser, select Change your Charity from the options at the bottom of the page.
- (3) Search "Metropolitan Housing Coalition" and click "Select" to support.



Both our printed newsletter and our eNewsletter 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.