



Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission Summer-Fall Newsletter 2014

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From the Desk of the Director...

The Human Relations Commission has been very busy this past spring and summer of 2014. During the winter, the *20-Year Fair Housing Action Plan* was released as part of our Race & Relations Conference. This *Action Plan* was commissioned by the Human Relations Commission and created by the Anne Braden Institute and the Metropolitan Housing Coalition. The costs of producing this publication were incurred by a Fair Housing Assistance Program grant from the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). This *Plan* has been touted as a national model. We look forward to changing our housing patterns over the course of the next 20 years and providing national leadership in housing.

August 28, 2013 was the anniversary of the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington. On March 5, 2014, we marked the 50th Anniversary of the March on Frankfort, KY. Sadly, in August 2014, we watched as events unfolded in Ferguson, MO. There are varying views as to what the real problem is: lack of economic opportunities, need for voter empowerment and educational attainment, combined with concentrations of poverty and violence; the list goes on. We cannot continue as a nation like this and, in saying “we,” everyone plays a role in pushing change forward. Here in our community, we are focusing on not having such a tragedy. As we focused on avoiding such, we tragically lost Ne’Riah Miller. Our goal of ending violence takes the entire community. So, I challenge you to be informed and be involved: what have you done to foster positive, productive outcomes in your corner? — **Carolyn Miller-Cooper, Executive Director**

We are pleased to announce Louisville Metro Government’s new **Contract Compliance & Certification System (CCCS)**! This web-based software system is accessible to all Louisville Metro Government departments, prime contractors, and the public. The system is paperless, and once you have created an account in the new system, you will be able to do the following with Louisville Metro Government:

- Register as a vendor
- Prequalify a company to do business with Louisville Metro Government
- Certify a minority-owned, female-owned, or handicapped-owned company
- Update a Company Profile
- Participate in online training & events
- Add additional company users & profiles



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by **Bobbi Selmon, Compliance Analyst**



Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

by **Linda Holland, Compliance Officer**

In Louisville Metro government’s continuous effort to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing, a mandate under federal fair housing law, the Human Relations Commission regularly participates in the Fair Housing Coalition’s monthly meetings. The Fair Housing Coalition discusses and advocates for issues

relating to fair housing and anti-discrimination efforts in housing and lending. Fair Housing Coalition Members include concerned citizens and activists, as well as representatives of state and local government and non-profit service organizations. Participating agencies include the Center for Accessible Living, the Human Relations Commission, and the Lexington Fair Housing Council. The Fair Housing Coalition organizes an annual forum every April during National Fair Housing Month. Action steps to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing in Louisville Metro are divided by five categories of action: 1) Government

commitment, 2) Community education and engagement, 3) Creating a built environment, 4) Funding opportunities and economic development opportunities, and 5) Legislative changes. The Action Steps are drawn to comply with SMART principles: specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-based goals.

As Louisville and other U. S. cities grew at the turn of the 20th century, political leaders created systems of laws and policies for how land could be used. Simply put, zoning laws define where people are allowed to live and how they are allowed to use land in a given area. Hence, we have a Land Development Code (LDC), created as a regulatory document to implement goals and objectives within the Cornerstone 2020 Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted in 2003 with major revisions in 2004 and 2006. The LDC has several requirements regarding zoning, from districts, land use, building and site design, and transportation. The plan is Louisville Metro Government’s vision brought into focus by hundreds of citizens who labored seven years (1993-2000) for a more livable, attractive, mobile, efficient, and environmentally-sensitive community.

The HRC is also involved with the Kentucky Fair Housing Task Force. The Task Force’s purpose is to collectively and affirmatively further fair housing in all areas and populations in Kentucky, with a major focus on the analysis of impediments to housing choice across Kentucky. Some of the impediments identified to date are issues with overall fair housing processes, inclusion of the elderly, those with disabilities, and residential appraisal. Solutions for such issues are hoped to be reached over the next five years. Regarding proposed solutions for correcting impediments to Fair Housing, the Task Force will be narrowing them down to three issues to be prioritized over the next year.

Only by coming to terms with how our history shapes our present, and by making a long-term commitment to fairer housing policies and practices, as suggested by the Action Steps to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing, can we move forward to a future where opportunity is afforded to all.

Citizen Advocate

by Stella Dorsey, Ombudsman

The Citizens Advocate is a position that was established to ensure citizens have a voice regarding an undesirable encounter and/or mistreatment with the Louisville Metro Police. This process allows the citizen to formally express their displeasure with an officer’s alleged misconduct while performing their duty.

Citizens who experience conduct unbecoming an officer have an avenue to address their concerns about officers’ conduct and/or mistreatment, and are urged to contact Stella Dorsey at 574-4357 or 574-3631 for assistance with making a complaint.

Citizens should be prepared to provide the following: a drivers license and location, date and time of incident. They also need to provide the officer’s name and/or badge number and names and contact information of any witnesses.

The process takes approximately 30 to 45 days to thoroughly investigate. After the investigation, the Police Chief issues a finding and a letter is sent to the citizen notifying them of the determination.

If the citizen is still aggrieved, they may appeal the finding by sending correspondence to Stella Dorsey within 30 days of the letter. Please contact Stella Dorsey at (502) 574-4357.

Recent Commissioner Complaint Settlements

Case Name	Basis	Terms
<i>Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission— Enforcement v. BB & S LLC</i>	Familial Status	Cease advertising dwellings as “no kids” permitted to occupy a dwelling
<i>Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission— Enforcement v. Fey</i>	Disability	Cease advertising dwellings as “no disability income without cosigner,” provide equal housing opportunity info in future advertising
<i>Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission— Enforcement v. Ray and Ray & Co. LLC</i>	Familial Status	Cease advertising dwellings as “[b]est suited for single person or couple,” provide equal housing opportunity statement or symbol in future advertising