



MANY CULTURES - ONE COMMUNITY

SPRING 2011

FAIR HOUSING ISSUE

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Fair Housing Month is celebrated every April to honor the Passage of the 1968 federal Fair Housing Act. The 2011 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development theme is “*Live Free...Without Housing Discrimination.*” Accordingly, this issue is dedicated to Fair Housing. This year’s anniversary comes at a time when nationally the housing market is still in decline. Although Louisville has made strides over the past 40 years, we still have some neighborhoods that have little to no diversity. Our current Jefferson County Public Schools student assignment plan is a reminder to us all that there is still progress to be made in this community.

So my challenge to you is, “What can I do as an individual to help make the above theme a reality?” It may mean assisting a friend, neighbor or even a stranger who is being denied “fair housing,” or, simply becoming more informed about fair housing rights and informing others. Either way, as a member of this community, we are all obligated to contribute to the “Success of Louisville” and I thank you for helping us in making the above theme a reality.



Carolyn Miller-Cooper
Executive Director

April Events

- April 2011, Metro TV, CN2 and KET, *Panel Discussion on Immigration and Fair Housing Issues*
- April 10, 2011 — *Health Equity Dialogue - A candid discussion concerning neighborhood issues and problems and how they contribute to health disparity in this community*— 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM, Peace Presbyterian Church, 4210 East Indian Trail, Louisville
- April 12, 2011 - *National Fair Housing Month discussion*, 1:30 PM to 2:00 PM, La Caliente Radio , 105.7 FM/620 AM, Louisville
- April 14, 2011 - *Housing Issues Faced by People with Disabilities panel discussion*, 1:00 to 4:00 PM, Centennial Room, Louisville Free Public Library, 301 York Street, Louisville
- April 20, 2011 - *Joint Utility Reception*, 5-7 PM, Galt House, 140 N. 4th Street, Louisville
- April 21, 2011 - *Fair Housing Forum-Fair Housing Needs of Immigrants and Refugees*— 6 - 8 PM, Guiding Light Islamic Center, 6500 Six Mile Lane, Louisville
- April 26, 2011 - 1:00 PM, *Landlord Training*, Holiday Inn Hurstbourne, 1325 S. Hurstbourne Pkwy, Louisville

MEET THE NEW COMMISSIONERS!

John Mark Eberhardt



As the founder of The Steward's Staff (Est. 2007), John Mark now serves as the organization's Executive Director. In this role, he develops and manages the facilitation of after-school programs throughout the Jefferson County Public School system, empowering youth to become community leaders. Since its inception, the organization has served hundreds of youth, awarded thousands in scholarships, and escorted hundreds of youth on college tours throughout the Midwest and Southeast.

In 2010, John Mark was honored as 1 of 128 Louisville Connectors. His organization affiliations include the World Affairs Council Association, the Nonprofit Leadership Initiative, and he serves on the board for the Center for Nonprofit Excellence. In addition, he serves on a number of steering committees in Metro Louisville focused on youth development and building cross-cultural relationships.

John Mark received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Kentucky University, where he was honored as Alpha Phi Alpha's 1998 Brother of the Year and established the Amazing Tones of Joy Book Scholarship upon his graduation. A native Louisvillian, John Mark graduated from Jeffersontown High School and is the proud husband of Rayna R. Eberhardt.

~~~~~

## **Rev. William Myers**



***A native of Clarksville, Tennessee, William Myers moved to Louisville in 2004. Since then, he has become passionate about peace and justice issues pertinent to the city. He has worked in social services for Eastern Area Community Ministries as Director of Client Services, and now functions bi-vocationally in real estate as well as serving a local parish.***

***In addition to his ministerial training, he holds his B.S. in Sociology from the University of Louisville and a J.D. from Chase College of Law.***

***\*\*\*We have other new Commissioners who will be featured in the upcoming Fall newsletter: Dr. Thomas Sabetta, Reginald Glass, and Glenda Berry.***

## **Dr. Ibrahim B. Syed**

**Ibrahim B. Syed is a Naturalized United States citizen born in India. He is a founder and the current president of the Islamic Research Foundation International, headquartered in Louisville, and is a past managing editor of its publication, Aalim, and its website, [WWW.IRFI.ORG](http://WWW.IRFI.ORG).**

**Syed has written more than 300 articles on a number of Islamic subjects, particularly on Islam and the [Qur'an](#) as they relate to science (for example, his article on the history of Islamic medicine). He is the author of the 2002 book *Intellectual Achievements of the Muslims* and the 2007 book *Qur'anic Inspirations*. He lectures on Islamic subjects at Islamic centers in the U.S. and abroad. Occasionally he serves as an [imam](#) (a spiritual leader) for [Jumu'ah](#) prayers at mosques in and outside of Louisville, and has volunteered as an imam at the [Veterans Affairs Medical Center](#) and many Kentucky prisons. He is also a [qadi](#) (a judge of religious law) and is licensed to perform Islamic marriages in Kentucky and Indiana. Commissioner Syed is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of *BODY \* MIND \* MEDICINE* located at 1448 Gardiner Lane, Louisville, KY 40213. He is listed in "Who is Who in America," "Who is Who in the World," "American Men and Women of Science," "Who is Who in Religion," and "Who is Who in Education". He is also a board member of several social and religious organizations in Louisville, Ky and other places in the U.S.**



## **Dawn Wilson**

**Dawn Josephine Wilson is a Kentuckian and professional person with extensive accomplishments in the business, sports, and the Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender community. She graduated from Transylvania University in Lexington, KY with a B.A. in Political Science/International Affairs, and a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Kentucky.**

**In addition to her award winning work on issues relevant to the GLBT community, she currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Committee of Fairness and Individual Rights. As C-FAIR's co-chair she works with its constituents, community leaders, the Fairness Campaign, governmental regulatory agencies, and decision makers to resolve problems brought to C-FAIR's attention.**

**Dawn is an avid fencer involved in efforts to grow and promote the sport in the area with youth. She finished a three year term as USFA KY Division Secretary and a four year term as the chair of the Bout committee for the Super Youth Regional Fencing Competition held for the last 4 years in Louisville to rave reviews. Dawn is also a member of Edenside Christian Church in Louisville, KY.**





## LOUISVILLE METRO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

410 West Chestnut Street Phone: 502-574-3631  
Suite 300A Fax: 502-574-3577  
Louisville, KY 40202 E-mail: [hrc@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:hrc@louisvilleky.gov)

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

[http://  
www.louisvilleky.gov/  
HumanRelations](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/HumanRelations)

## THE FAIR HOUSING ACT AND DISABILITY

The federal Fair Housing Act was passed in April 1968, protecting all Americans from unlawful discrimination in housing based on protected classes including race, color, religion, and national origin. It has been amended over the years to include other protected classes and, in 1988, was amended to include the handicapped, also commonly called disability. Louisville Metro ordinance also bars the same unlawful discrimination in housing.

The disability protection under the fair housing law covers a variety of different aspects in affording persons with disabilities equal access to housing. Under the law, landlords must allow reasonable accommodations, or changes in business policies, and reasonable modifications, such as structural changes to an apartment, for the purpose of assisting a tenant with a disability. Reasonable accommodations might include a landlord's waiver of a pet deposit for a tenant who uses a service animal, or allowing a tenant with a mobility impairment to pay his/her rent via postal mail where a policy of paying rent at an inaccessible rental office exists. Reasonable modifications might include a landlord allowing a tenant to install grab bars in a shower to assist with a disabling condition, or allowing a wheelchair ramp to be installed outside a unit for access by a wheelchair user. All accommodations and modifications must, of course, pass the reasonableness test in order to preserve the rights and responsibilities of the landlord-tenant relationship.

In addition, the disability provision stipulates that for any multifamily housing project of four or more units built for first occupancy after March 13, 1991, all ground-floor units must be minimally accessible to persons with disabilities. Such accessible features include barrier-free access to the unit (no high thresholds or steps), temperature controls at appropriate levels inside the unit (not too high, not too low), and reinforced bathroom walls to allow later installation of grab bars, if needed.

There are many exemptions and nuances to fair housing laws in order to protect the real estate industry as well as the home seeker. If you have any questions, contact the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission.

— Nick Valenzuela, HRC Housing Compliance Officer



Check out our  
recent  
Settlements!

---

## RECENT SETTLEMENTS

### EMPLOYMENT:

Kevin Bryan v Paychex, Inc.— sex discrimination— \$23,000.00

Amy Price v Playworld Child Development— disability discrimination -  
\$6,500.00

Sheila Cox v Reynolds Foil—sex and disability discrimination—  
\$10,000.00

### HOUSING:

Britt v Hass & Hass — sexual harassment — \$10,000.00