

# Kentucky Commission On Human Rights

ALL DOORS ARE OPEN IN KENTUCKY

Newsletter

## In recognition of U.S. and Kentucky Fair Housing Month, April

*This issue is dedicated to Fair Housing. Among other items within are fair housing-related articles by guest contributors, information about fair housing events, and more.*

There are still many residents who are not aware of their right to live free from discrimination in the area of housing.

The national Fair Housing Month of April began in 1968 as a celebration of the passage of the national Act, and burgeoned into an annual recognition. Many states, if not all, also adopted April as state Fair Housing Month.

In Kentucky, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and most partner organizations that either enforce civil rights or focus on housing assistance services to segments of the population, utilize April as a month of education and training. The goal is to raise awareness to people in the state who belong to protected classes such as minorities, people with children under age 18-yrs. old, people with disabilities, people of various ethnicity or other national origins. Education and training are also provided to housing providers and housing finance providers who desire or are required to learn how to comply with fair housing law.

### Protections from Housing Discrimination

The Kentucky Civil Rights Act, including amendments added to it in later years, prohibits discrimination in housing, based on the protected classes of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, gender, and familial status.

Protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation is provided through city ordinances by the following six Kentucky locations: Covington, Frankfort, Lexington, Louisville, Morehead, and Vicco.

In 2012, the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban

Development (HUD) issued a final rule that prohibits discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status in regard to housing programs assisted by HUD or subject to a mortgage insured by the Federal Housing Administration.

### Kentucky Civil Rights passage

On March 15, 1968, Kentucky passed the Kentucky Fair Housing Act. Newly elected state House of Representative Mae Street Kidd of Louisville was one of just three African Americans in the legislature in 1968. (She served until 1984.)



**Mae Street Kidd**

The first bill she sponsored prohibited racial discrimination in housing. After several Kentucky cities passed their own local open-housing legislation in 1966 and 1967, Kidd worked with Senator Georgia Davis Powers and Representative Hughes McGill

to introduce the Kentucky Fair Housing Act to the Kentucky General Assembly. The bill passed in 1968, making Kentucky the first Southern state to enact such a law on its own.

### U.S. Civil Rights Act passage

On April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the federal Civil Rights Act of 1968, which prohibits discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing.

According to HUD, "[the national Act] came only after a long and difficult journey...Congress regularly considered a fair housing bill, but failed to garner a strong enough majority for its passage."

Cities experienced rioting after Rev. Martin Luther King's assassination, and violence increased on a national level. Also, according to HUD, the Vietnam War played a great factor in that deaths of American soldiers fell heaviest among African American and Hispanic infantrymen.

As a result, HUD says, "[their] families could not purchase

*Continued next page*

or rent homes in certain residential developments due to race and national origin."

Organizations like the NAACP, the GI Forum and the National Committee Against Discrimination In Housing brought more pressure to bear on Congress to pass the Fair Housing Act to remedy the inequity, according to HUD.

### **Enforcement of Fair Housing law**

HUD reports that 35 years after Congress enacted the U.S. Fair Housing Act, millions of complaints are still filed each year through nonprofit fair-housing agencies, the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Dept. of Justice, state agencies like the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and local government agencies.

In the last 10 years, from fiscal year 2003 through 2013, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights has filed 454 housing discrimination complaints for people within the state. Many more people do not report housing discrimination due to lack of information about their rights or due to fear of legal process or fear of recrimination.

As a result, recognizing the Fair Housing Month of April and providing education, outreach and training play significant roles.

## **Thank you for success of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary March on Frankfort**

By John J. Johnson

Executive Director

Kentucky Commission on Human Rights



On behalf of the Allied Organizations for Civil Rights (AOCR), thank you for your leadership and participation in making the 50<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary March on Frankfort a great success. Words seem inadequate to express the compassion, sense of purpose, unity, and respect shown during the march.



*Photos by Rikka Wallin*

*Pictured above at the march, beginning at far left, is Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Chair George W. Stinson, third from left is General Association of Baptists in Kentucky Moderator Dr. C.B. Akins, , Kentucky Conference of NAACP Branches President Raoul Cunningham, KY Gov. Steve Beshear, KY Human Rights Commission Exec. Dir. John J. Johnson, Simmons College of Kentucky Board of Trustees Chair Dr. F. Bruce Williams, and KY Lt. Gov. Jerry Abramson.*

Martin L. King Jr. said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

You were not silent! Along with thousands of other good people of Kentucky, you put your hands to the plow of justice.

On Wednesday, March 5, 2014, the seeds you sowed by participating in the march were in full bloom as multitudes converged on the Kentucky capital city.

The event was the largest gathering in the capital for human and civil rights since the March on Frankfort in 1964.



It not only provided a special and unique opportunity to express appreciation for the struggles and sacrifices of the past, but also allowed us to join with comrades throughout the state who continue to stand on the frontline of the struggle for social justice, equal opportunity and equal treatment.

You stepped up and spoke up! With your enthusiasm, the rally theme, "Lift Every Voice & Vote," was carried throughout the state. Social media, newspapers, television, students and scholars all carried the important news of equality.

## **Kentucky Commission on Human Rights**

John J. Johnson, Executive Director

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Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Newsletter

Victoria Stephens, Editor

We joined as a coalition of conscience under the banner of the AOCCR made up of Kentucky organizations, marchers and volunteers representing persons of color, women, children, immigrants, older Americans, people with disabilities, the LGBT community, major religious groups, labor unions, and civil liberties and human rights groups.

This diverse assemblage of Kentuckians gathered to celebrate the '64 March on Frankfort and to galvanize support toward a nation that is as good as its ideals of promoting and protecting the human and civil rights of all persons.

## Legislation to restore voting rights is perhaps dead, but only for this session, Keep forging ahead

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and the other members of the Allied Organizations for Civil Rights urged everyone to voice strong support of the passage of legislation that would restore the basic American right to vote to more than 180,000 disenfranchised citizens in Kentucky.

Support of such legislation was the focus of the speaking portion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary March on Frankfort program held on March 5.

The 2014 Kentucky General Assembly House Bill 70 proposed allowing the public to vote on an amendment to Section 145 of the Constitution of Kentucky, which concerns voter rights.

If passed, it would have given

Kentuckians the chance to decide in an upcoming election whether to allow persons convicted of a felony (with some exceptions) to have their voting rights automatically restored after expiration of probation, final discharge from parole, or maximum expiration of sentence.

House Bill 70 passed the House, but the Senate amended it with a substitute that would have placed significant restrictions on automatic restoration terms and eligibility. The House rejected the substitute and returned it to the Senate.

The session is ending and a chance for passage of some version of the legislation has dwindled. Senate Majority leader Damon Thayer said in the *Courier-Journal* on April 1 that he likely will not call the measure for a second vote because the Senate backs the amendments he placed on the bill, which resulted in the Senate Bill Substitute.

Regardless, legislators need to hear from constituents on this matter, even after this session. Please call the KY Legislative Research Commission at 502.564.8100 and ask to leave a message for the entire Legislature urging passage of legislation now or in the next session that will bring to a public vote the matter of automatically restoring voting rights to people who have completed their sentences for felony convictions.

### Kentucky League of Women statistics

According to the Kentucky League of Women Voters, "Kentucky's disenfranchisement policies stand out as harsh not only in comparison to most states, but even by the

standards of neighboring states."

The League reports that as of 2010, which it says is the most recent data available, approximately 180,000 people were permanently prohibited from voting.

The Kentucky League of Women Voters reports that:

"Kentucky is currently one of the four most restrictive states in regard to voting rights restoration for individuals convicted of a felony. Along with Florida, Iowa, and Virginia, all felony convictions in Kentucky result in a lifetime ban on voting unless rights are restored by the governor. In most of these four states the rights restoration process is discretionary and often cumbersome, leaving few individuals who avail themselves of the opportunity to apply.

"The overall disenfranchisement rate of 7.35%, of the population, or 1 of every 14 adults, is nearly three times the national average."

## KY Human Rights Rulings on discrimination complaints

During its January, February and March 2014 meetings, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Board of Commissioners ruled to approve two conciliation agreements, eight case withdrawals resolved with private settlements, 23 case withdrawals giving complainants the right to file private suits, and 37 complaint dismissals with findings of

## Board of Commissioners

Chair George W. Stinson, Louisville . Robert Asseo, Florence . Duane Bonifer, Greensburg . Richard Brown, Owensboro  
Samuel R. Coleman Jr., Middlesboro . Henry Curtis, Frankfort . Mildred Hudson Diehl, Fort Mitchell  
Carol Jackson, Ashland . Sandra Moore, Ph.D., Richmond . Doris Clark Sarr Ph.D., Murray . Timothy W. Thomas, Madisonville



no probable cause to evidence that discrimination occurred.

Conciliations agreements are similar to settlements and are negotiated by commission staff. Respondents deny any allegations of violations of civil rights law. In most conciliations, respondents agree to undergo compliance training and monitoring. Following is information about the conciliations approved during this period:

Barry Baugh v. the Most Awesome Flea Market in the World LLC, in Shepherdsville, Ky.: Alleged discrimination based on disability in a public accommodations provider; \$1,500 to complainant.

Jan Baumann v. Woodland Hills of Southgate et al., in Southgate, Ky.: Alleged discrimination based on disability in housing; Respondent will provide accessible parking sign, with no related charges, for complainant.

## Regional Fair Housing Events Calendar

**April 8**, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. (EDT), Fair Housing Training at Patriot Bank Mortgage, 950 Breckinridge Ln., Suite 240, Louisville. Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is conducting this training. It is for affiliated partners of Patriot Bank Mortgage. Contact Juan Peña at [juan.pena@ky.gov](mailto:juan.pena@ky.gov).

**April 8**, 1:30 p.m. (EDT), La Poderosa Radio, 620 AM and 105.7 FM on the radio dial, in Louisville, Ky., Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission will air a Spanish-language radio presentation on fair housing. Please tune in and listen.

**April 11**, 1 to 3 p.m. (EDT), Training on fair housing laws at the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, 332 West Broadway 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Louisville.

Sponsored by the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. Space is limited to 15 participants, on first-come, first-serve basis. To register, contact Juan Peña at [juan.pena@ky.gov](mailto:juan.pena@ky.gov).

**April 12**, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (CDT), Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Fair Housing information booth will be at the Annual Health Fair at St. Joseph Church, 434 Church Ave., in Bowling Green, Ky. For more information, contact Gina Holmes, at [gina@stjosephbg.org](mailto:gina@stjosephbg.org) or call 270.842.2525.

**April 15**, 6 to 8 p.m. (EDT), The Northern Kentucky NAACP will be holding its fifth annual Diversity Housing Fair at the Newport Syndicate, 18<sup>th</sup> East Fifth Street, Newport, Ky. The program will feature information on obtaining home ownership, financing, credit and buying. Home builders, financial institutions, furniture stores and agencies that speak to people about home ownership programs are invited to attend and set up information booths. The program is free and open to the public. However, businesses and agencies are encouraged to take ads in the NAACP newsletter for the program to help sponsor refreshments for the housing fair. For information, contact Jerome Bowles, 859.442.7476, or [bowlesjs@yahoo.com](mailto:bowlesjs@yahoo.com).

**April 17**, 12 p.m. - (EDT), Fair Housing Home Ownership forum, The Three States of Home Ownership, at the Louisville Urban League, 1535 W. Broadway in Louisville. It is sponsored by the Louisville Human Relations Commission and Metropolitan Housing Coalition, KY Human Rights Commission, and others. It will cover rules that apply to purchasing, maintaining, and selling a home. Panelists include: Christie McCravy of the Louisville Urban League; John

Young, attorney at the Legal Aid Society; Jan Gable, a mortgage loan officer with Commonwealth Bank and Trust; and Stephanie Horne, owner of Agency Title.

For more information, contact Cathy Hinko at [cathy@metropolitanhousing.org](mailto:cathy@metropolitanhousing.org).

**April 21**, 1 to 3 p.m. (EDT), Fair Housing Training at the Pikeville Public Library, 119 College St., Room 125, Pikeville, Ky. The training will help social service providers and government employees learn common discriminatory actions so they can better inform clients and constituencies when they have been discriminated against. Individuals in real estate business can learn about fair housing laws that will help them avoid discriminatory practices. The training is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Lexington Fair Housing Council and the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. For more information, contact Juan Peña at [juan.pena@ky.gov](mailto:juan.pena@ky.gov).

**April 22**, 12:30 to 4 p.m. (CDT), 'Get on the Bus: the path toward equal housing opportunity,' a tour starting at State Street Baptist Church, 340 State St., in Bowling Green, Ky., 42101. Participants will be led on a guided bus tour as presenters highlight the history and impact of segregated housing in 20<sup>th</sup> century Bowling Green. The event is free and open to the public, but preregistration is required due to limited seating. To register for this event, visit the website at [www.lexingtonfairhousing.com](http://www.lexingtonfairhousing.com) or call 859.971.8067.

**April 30**, 1 to 4 p.m. (EDT), Fair Housing and Diversity training, Ramada Inn, 2143 N. Broadway, Lexington, Ky. The training will focus on basic fair housing law and will also include a brief diversity session. The event is being sponsored by the

Lexington Fair Housing Council, the Kentucky Housing Corporation and the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission. There is no fee, but registration is required. To register, visit the website at [www.lexingtonfairhousing.com](http://www.lexingtonfairhousing.com) or call 859.971.8067.

**April 30**, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. (EDT), Housing Opportunities Made Equal, a Cincinnati-based fair housing organization that is aligned with the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, will provide a free program on rebuilding home ownership in minority communities. It will be held at the Cincinnati branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, 150 East Fourth Street, Cincinnati. The keynote speaker will be James H. Carr, nationally recognized consultant in housing finance, banking and urban policy. There will also be a panel discussion on home ownership programs. Advance registration is required. Contact Myra Calder at Housing Opportunities Made Equal in Cincinnati at 513.977.2623, or send email to [myra.calder@homecincy.org](mailto:myra.calder@homecincy.org).

**May 14**, 2 to 4 p.m. (EDT) Kentucky Fair Housing Task Force is meeting at the Kentucky Housing Corporation, 1231 Louisville Rd., Frankfort. This will be a special meeting devoted to the analysis of impediments and a discussion of the impediments currently hampering fair housing efforts across Kentucky. The meeting is open to the public. The mission of the task force is to collectively and affirmatively furthering fair housing in all areas and populations in Kentucky. For more information, contact Juan Peña at [juan.pena@ky.gov](mailto:juan.pena@ky.gov).

**June 12**, beginning at 5 p.m. (EDT), Join the Metro Housing Coalition (MHC) for its 2014 annual meeting, to be held at The Ice House, 217 E Main St., Louisville, Ky., 40202.

Keynote speaker is Sara K. Pratt, deputy assistant secretary for Enforcement and Programs of the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO). Registration and sponsorship information coming soon. For more information, call the MHC at 502.584.6858.

## Lexington Fair Housing Council celebrates 20 years

By Art Crosby, Guest Contributor  
Executive Director  
Lexington Fair Housing Council



This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lexington Fair Housing Council (LFHC).

The 20-year mark is substantially less impressive

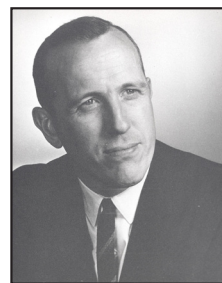
than the 50-year mark recently surpassed by the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights or the 46-year commemoration of the Federal Fair Housing Act.

Nevertheless, it is an accomplishment for a small nonprofit organization to survive and stay true to its mission for that many years.

The LFHC was founded in March 1994 by Galen Martin. His personal story is deeply interwoven with the history of civil rights in Kentucky.

Mr. Martin was the first executive director for the Kentucky Human Rights Commission, and served in that position from 1961 to 1989. He also founded the Kentucky Fair

Housing Council based in Louisville in 1995, and he played a key role in writing and passing the Kentucky Civil Rights Act in 1966. Mr. Martin's legacy lives on in many forms to this day.



The LFHC provides legal assistance for people who feel they have been discriminated against based on their race, color, religion, national

origin, gender, disability, familial status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

The LFHC provides training and advice to housing providers to help prevent housing discrimination that might otherwise occur. The LFHC also conducts tests (a sort of "mystery shopping") to monitor housing providers and to ferret out discrimination.

The LFHC does not charge for its services. Originally, the LFHC focused primarily on serving Lexington and the central Kentucky area, but with the closing of the Kentucky Fair Housing Council in 2006, the LFHC expanded its work throughout the state.

The LFHC takes thousands of calls each year from people who believe they have been treated "unfairly." The LFHC works with about 100 clients every year to investigate complaints of specific discrimination in housing. In about 40 cases every year, the LFHC helps the client file a complaint and represents the client throughout the administrative and legal process.

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*The LFHC has served clients in all manner of cases. There have been young female clients with landlords demanding sexual favors from them in order to keep their housing. There*

***have been African American families who woke up to find that a cross had been burned in their front yard in the middle of the night. There have been clients who were forced out of their homes when they had a new baby.***

Sometimes, the LFHC's work means that an individual finally receives the handicap parking spot that they had been requesting for years. Sometimes individuals will receive large financial settlements to compensate them for their loss of civil rights. Sometimes individuals are simply able to learn the real non-discriminatory reason that their rental application was turned down. Sometimes, the LFHC's work means to push for change. The LFHC has pushed for a number of apartment complexes to make retrofits to their units so that they would be accessible for individuals with disabilities.

The LFHC has worked to make sure that supportive housing for individuals with mental illness is allowed in every neighborhood. The LFHC has worked to increase awareness of how segregation patterns of the past continue to impact the segregation that still exists today in our communities.

Throughout the past 20 years, there have been two striking changes in the work being done by the LFHC. First, the number of complaints alleging disability discrimination has now surpassed the number of complaints alleging race discrimination.

Since 2008, the LFHC has consistently handled more disability complaints than any other type of case. Last year, the LFHC handled more disability cases than all other types of cases combined. There are a number of factors going into this change, including: the fact

that Kentuckians are living longer, that there is a growing awareness of disability rights, and that the law governing disability issues can sometimes be very complex.

Second, there has been a growing awareness as to the importance of civil rights protections for sexual orientation and gender identity. Lexington and Louisville both adopted Fairness Ordinances in 1999 and Covington adopted a similar ordinance in 2003. In 2013, there were three additional cities that adopted Fairness Ordinances (Frankfort, Morehead, and Vicco).

In the coming years, the LFHC will continue to offer its services and assistance to any city or county that is considering a local Fairness Ordinance.

The LFHC is proud of what it has accomplished over the past 20 years. It should be noted, however, that the LFHC would not have been able to accomplish anything without the help of its partners.

The LFHC depends on assistance from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The LFHC depends on its partnerships with the state and local human rights commissions.

The LFHC depends on its partnerships with countless other organizations, like Legal Aid, KDVA, Metropolitan Housing Coalition, the Kentucky Housing Corporation, the Louisville and Lexington Apartment Associations, Kentucky Equal Justice Center, Fairness Campaign, University of Louisville Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice, and hundreds of others.

For more information, call 859.971.8067 or toll-free at 1.866.438.8617.

## Segregated Louisville areas addressed in action plan

By Cathy Hinko, Guest Contributor  
Executive Director  
Metro Housing Coalition



On Thursday, February 13, 2014, the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission (LMHRC) released a 20-year action plan for improving fair housing,

*Making Louisville Home For Us All: A 20-year Action Plan for Fair Housing*, as part of the LMHRC's annual Race & Relations Conference.

The report was researched and produced for the LMHRC by the University of Louisville's Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research in consultation with the Metropolitan Housing Coalition (MHC), which coordinated the development of the action steps outlined in the report. The report is available as a free download at MHC's Website: [www.metropolitanhousing.org](http://www.metropolitanhousing.org).

*Making Louisville Home for Us All* details Louisville's history of discrimination in housing and efforts over time to combat that discrimination.

The report documents, utilizing many kinds of data, that residential segregation remains a major problem in metro Louisville and suggests forward-looking remedies. The report analyzes action steps developed from the 2010 report Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice in Louisville Metro,



KY. Making Louisville Home for Us All contains goals to effectively measure and continuously improve fair housing choice in our community.

According to Catherine Fosl, University of Louisville social scientist and lead researcher of the report, "This 20-year action plan offers concrete steps for making fair and affordable housing a reality in metro Louisville. Unlike many action plans in major cities all across the USA, it is firmly grounded in our local history. That history includes persistent structural residential segregation and discrimination that are with us still, but it also includes concerted effort and creative initiatives by many Louisvillians working together in search of ending housing disparities and reducing poverty. That kind of long-term commitment by government and business leaders and citizens is an important part of what lies ahead in rooting out the vestiges of discrimination and making Louisville home for us all."

Louisville's current segregation is a legacy of past policies spanning decades. Having action steps to further fair housing that takes us out twenty years is the right framework for the future for Louisville. There are immediate action steps to take, but there must be a long-term commitment.

There are two action steps I believe are real 'game changers':

- Making fair housing a mandatory lens for review of all actions by all parts of Metro government
- The development and utilization of a market analysis to assess housing demand by area of the city, type of housing, price/rental points needed and connection to job centers.

## 'Fairness' in Fair Housing

By Chris Hartman, Guest Contributor  
Director, Fairness Campaign



As we literally march into Fair Housing Month, we are reminded that Kentuckians have much to be proud of and so much more work to do on the

Fairness front.

Several weeks ago, the Fairness Coalition marched step by step alongside our allies to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s actions in Frankfort for civil rights. It was an inspiring moment, with thousands of Kentuckians still pushing forward the fight for true Fairness and equity in our commonwealth.

Together, we called on our state's General Assembly to finally pass a bill that would end the shameful, racist practice of voter disenfranchisement against former felons in Kentucky who have served their time.

But we didn't stop there. Many of us marched straight through the capitol building into the capitol annex, where the Kentucky House Judiciary Committee held its historic first-ever hearing on a Statewide Fairness law.

Most Kentuckians don't realize that in almost all of our state, someone can still be fired from a job, denied a place to live, and kicked out of restaurant just for being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT).

Before last month, Kentucky's leaders had remained silent on the issue of Fairness for more than fifteen years, denying a debate on

the proposed law despite clear and compelling evidence that LGBT people have been experiencing discrimination at disproportionately high rates for decades.

A statewide Fairness law is simple—it would add "sexual orientation and gender identity" to be included among the other state protected classes, like race, color, religion, nation of origin, familial status, age, and more. In Kentucky, even a person's smoking status is protected from this type of discrimination, but not LGBT people.

In the absence of a statewide Fairness law, which would be enforced by the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, cities across our state have moved to fill in the gaps left by state and federal laws.

Since 1999, six municipalities have passed their own LGBT Fairness protections—Covington, Frankfort, Lexington, Louisville, Morehead, and the tiny Appalachian town of Vicco.

Last year, the number of Kentucky cities with Fairness ordinances doubled, and state leaders finally began to pay attention.

As the 2014 Kentucky General Assembly convened, the number of cosponsors on Statewide Fairness laws nearly doubled, adding even Speaker of the House Greg Stumbo to the 18 representatives and six senators currently signed on to Fairness.

Sadly, it's still not enough. While a hearing on the bill was granted this session, it was for information only, meaning the law will have to wait another year or more before it receives a committee vote and begins moving along the arduous journey through the full legislature to the governor's desk.

Just as Kentucky cities have stepped up to fill the current discrimination protection gaps, state and federal

agencies have spoken up as well, mostly in the area of fair housing.

Last year, both the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development and the Kentucky Housing Corporation decreed that any housing unit receiving state or federal funding must comply with discrimination protections that include sexual orientation and gender identity—a huge move for Fairness!

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights itself was among the first to make its voice heard in support of LGBT protections, issuing resolutions for more than six years asking the legislature to pass a law protecting all those in our commonwealth regardless of who they are or whom they love.

Recent polling shows that 83% of registered Kentucky voters (including 77% of registered Kentucky Republicans) support these simple anti-discrimination Fairness laws for our state. Kentuckians get it, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights gets it, and even Vicco, the small Appalachian community of 334 people, gets it—when will Kentucky’s General Assembly get that Fairness is good for everyone?

As part of this year’s Fair Housing Month, let’s make it the responsibility of each and every fair-minded Kentuckian to call on their Senator and Representative at 1.800.372.7181 to voice support for Kentucky’s Statewide Fairness law!

The Fairness Coalition includes the ACLU-KY, Fairness Campaign, Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, and Lexington Fairness.

## Covington Human Rights to make fair housing recommendations to city

By John C.K. Fisher

Northern Kentucky Field Supervisor  
Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

The Covington Human Rights Commission scheduled a meeting on March 27, to make recommendations for the City of Covington Home Investment Partnership Program, which receives federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding to improve the city’s infrastructure and housing stock.

Natalie Gardner, the programs and strategic projects manager for the City of Covington, attended the Covington Human Rights Commission regular meeting on March 6 to discuss the program, which is a 5-year plan to create affordable housing, reduce barriers for people with disabilities and improve streets and roads in the city.

The City of Covington will be holding more public hearings about its 5-year strategic housing plan. The city also worked with the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights last year to hold public hearings to allow residents to know their rights to obtain fair housing under federal and state programs. Covington has also received information on its HUD program from the Northern Kentucky University Center for Economic Analysis and Development.

## Fair Housing strides in KY

By Juan Peña

Field Supervisor

Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

As fair housing partners reflect and reaffirm the commitment to further fair housing in Kentucky during National Fair Housing month in April, it is important to note the advances made to ensure that every person is free from housing discrimination. In the past few years, rules, policies and ordinances have been established to close some of the loopholes that exist in current fair housing laws.

In October 2010, the U. S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) ruled that “residents who are denied or evicted from housing as a result of domestic violence may have basis to file a discrimination complaint with HUD under the federal Fair Housing Act” on the basis of sex. The U. S. Bureau of Justice reports that 85% of victims of domestic violence are women. This indicates that any policy that may appear neutral but has a disparate impact or disproportionately affects victims of domestic violence, there may be grounds for a housing complaint. As long the victim wishes to stay in the unit and able to pay rent, the victim should not be evicted.

On March 5, 2012, HUD put into effect a rule that ensures equal access to housing in HUD’s programs regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status. The rule is known as the HUD LGBT Rule. It prohibits entities receiving funds from HUD to discriminate against a person on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. This includes HUD insured mortgage programs such



as Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans. This rule is enforceable by HUD.

At the state level, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights created the Kentucky Fair Housing Task force in 2011. This is a group of housing providers, advocates, and fair housing enforcement agencies in all levels of government. The group works collectively to advance fair housing in all areas and populations in Kentucky and looks into “impediments currently hampering fair housing efforts across Kentucky.”

The Kentucky Housing Corporation (KHC), a quasi-government housing agency and a recipient of HUD funding, has adopted to its policy the LGBT Rule. The policy reads, “All programs administered by KHC must demonstrate that they do not discriminate based upon sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status, or will risk loss of funding.” It further states that this policy was necessary in order to comply with its federal obligation to “affirmatively further fair housing” and it became effective on August 30, 2012. The policy affects directly 350 housing organizations across Kentucky. They include most if not all Kentucky housing authorities. KHC has also recommended its funding organizations to use the Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (URLTA) (KRS 383) as a reference in their lease. The URLTA provides balanced rights and responsibilities for tenants and landlords and provides equal housing opportunity. URLTA is a state law that gives local governments the authority to choose whether or not to adopt the provisions. About 18 cities and counties have adopted the law.

Housing providers that do not receive funds from HUD or KHC may lawfully deny housing to

a person on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, with the exceptions of Jefferson County, Fayette County, and Covington. Recently Morehead, Frankfort and Vicco have passed ordinances to prohibit discrimination in housing on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Vicco is said to be the smallest city in the nation to adopt such an ordinance. On March 5, 2014 the Kentucky General Assembly held hearing on a bill that will amend the Kentucky Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity as a protected class. The Kentucky Fairness Campaign, a civic organization, and the Kentucky Fairness Coalition, of which the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is a member, have been leading forces in bringing about fairness ordinances in cities and in the general assembly.

The 20 city and county government human rights commissions across the state have been the towers of the fair housing campaign. Their education and outreach programs have educated thousands of Kentucky residents about their rights and responsibilities under fair housing laws. The Lexington Human Rights Commission and the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission regularly hosts forums and trainings.

Non-government organizations have also played an important role in advancing fair housing. For example, The Lexington Fair Housing Council has stepped up its fair housing testing. This is the only agency that conducts fair housing testing in Kentucky. Its testing program has deterred some housing discrimination. Another key organization is the Louisville Metro Housing Coalition (MHC). This organization has been the backbone in bringing to the surface the status of fair housing in the

Louisville Metro area. MHC has produced reports and challenges the public to look at fair housing from different lenses. It reports that inaccessible transportation, employment, and other vital services are impediments to fair housing.

The major steps taken by HUD, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, the Kentucky Housing Corporation, and other organizations, are significant strides to eradicate housing discrimination. The momentum to close gaps in fair housing laws is strengthening.

## Domestic violence victims may enter the ‘Address Confidentiality Program’

The Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) was introduced on March 25 by the Office of Secretary of State Allison Lundergan Grimes to shield from public record the name and address of a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault (and other specified offenses).

The website says, “No eligible voter should be discouraged from voting out of fear for his or her safety, or the safety of his or her children. But because voter records are generally available to the public, many victims do not register to vote because they fear the perpetrators of the crimes against them would be able to determine their addresses, compromising their security.

“The Address Confidentiality Program (ACP), makes it possible for these individuals no longer have to make the impossible choice between their safety and exercising

the fundamental right to vote.

"Two categories of people are eligible to participate in the ACP:

"1. Those who have a current emergency protective order or domestic violence order under KRS Chapter 403

"2. Victims of a specified offense, including domestic violence and abuse, stalking, a sex crime, or a crime against a minor victim) in an ongoing criminal case or a criminal case that resulted in a conviction

"To become a participant, the eligible individual (or someone authorized on his or her behalf) must complete the ACP Application. Hard copies are available from the Secretary of State and county clerks' offices, as well as through authorized assistance agencies. Applications must be submitted to the Secretary of State office."

If the applicant is granted certification to participate in the program, he or she will be allowed to vote via mail-in absentee ballot, and the person's name and address will not be included on any publicly available voter records. Certification lasts for two years, unless it is canceled or the participant withdraws before the expiration date. Certification can be renewed before the expiration date.

All forms for the ACP program are available at the website, or contact the Secretary of State's office to have copies emailed or mailed. There is no cost to apply or participate. Call (844) 292-KACP for more information and assistance, or send an email to: KACP@ky.gov.

## HUD program to protect women and girls

The following article, titled, "Making Progress for our Nation's Families," was published by the U.S. Dept. Of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan, on March 24:

[HUD is a partner of the interagency entity, the White Housing Council on Women and Girls. "...The council is charged with ensuring there is a coordinated effort between federal agencies of policies and programs that impact women and families.

"...HUD serves as a safety net for vulnerable women and girls, whether they are living with HIV/AIDS or living in shelters for victims of abuse. Providing them with physical and emotional safety, HUD works hard to place women and girls in transitional housing, public housing and rental housing, where they will experience a continuum of care ranging from substance abuse counseling, to financial literacy classes to job training.

"Through the Continuum of Care grant competition, HUD has awarded \$46.7 million to continue 349 projects that predominately serve victims of domestic violence as well as an additional \$2.6 million to support 28 new projects. All these projects provide much needed housing and services for victims of domestic violence.

"In 2013, HUD was able to expand housing protections for victims of domestic violence thanks to the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. This allowed HUD to make necessary changes and begin alerting the public of how the changes will impact tenants and housing providers in HUD-assisted housing and shelters.

"While ensuring victims of domestic violence don't end up homeless, HUD is also continuing to identify best practices, share guidance and award funding to communities

based on the policy priorities of the Opening Doors plan to prevent and end homelessness. Since 2010, family homelessness has decreased by 10.7 percent.

"Last year, HUD graduated 3,400 families from the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program. This means they were free of welfare assistance and employed. Over 90 percent of FSS participants are female-headed households, 33 percent of graduates no longer needed rental assistance, and 15 percent went on to purchase a home.

"HUD has also aggressively investigated and resolved cases where women experienced lending discrimination for being pregnant or on parental leave. In 2013 alone, HUD settled 28 cases obtaining almost \$300,000 for 43 complainants. Thanks to HUD's efforts, some of the country's largest lenders have changed their policies and practices on maternity leave lending.

## Call for Nominations 2014 KY Civil Rights Hall of Fame

Nominations will be accepted beginning Tuesday, April 15, for the 2014 Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony is tentatively scheduled for October 2014. The date and location will be announced as soon as possible.

The nomination form may be found on the agency website at [www.kchr.ky.gov](http://www.kchr.ky.gov). For more information, call Cynthia Fox at 502.782.9726.

The Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame was established in 2000 to recognize brave men and women who have been leaders in the

struggle for equality and justice in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Inductees have worked to end discrimination in several areas.

As examples, they have fought for desegregation of schools and public accommodations; they have pushed for civil rights legislation and equal opportunity in education, employment and housing; and, they have given of their time, resources, and service toward efforts that challenged and changed old, unjust philosophies and systems.

The Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame is designed to raise public awareness about human rights issues and to foster an environment for discussion and education regarding Kentucky civil rights history and ongoing challenges.

After the inaugural 2000 event, inductions were held again in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2010 and 2012.

Most of the induction ceremonies have occurred in Louisville. However, in 2005, the event was held in Frankfort at Kentucky State University, at Northern Kentucky University in Highland Heights in September 2007, and at the Lyric Theatre in Lexington in 2012.

Since the inaugural event, 132 people have been inducted into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame; 22 in 2000, 16 in 2001, 14 in 2003, 14 in 2005, 21 in 2007, 31 in 2010, and 14 in 2012.

## UK Civil Rights Hall of Fame Oral History Project

The following was provided by the University of Kentucky Libraries: On March 5, the University of Kentucky announced a new collection of oral histories with many of the state's

most noted civil rights activists exploring major milestones in the civil rights movement in the Commonwealth.

The Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame Oral History Project is made possible by a partnership between UK Libraries' Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History, the UK Office of Community Engagement and the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights.

Thus far, 10 inductees of the Hall of Fame have been interviewed for the oral history project: Raoul Cunningham, Dolores Delahanty, John Johnson, Mattie Jones, George Logan, Edgardo Mansilla, Charles Neblett, P.G. Peeples, Suzy Post and Georgia Davis Powers. Another five oral history interviews will be completed and added this year to the collection.

## Women's Commission to make documentary, inducts Humphries to KY Women Remembered

Based on information published by the Kentucky Commission on Women: In celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kentucky Commission on Women, the Kentucky Commission on Women Foundation received a \$100,000 grant from Toyota to complete the production of a one-hour public television-style documentary based on the contributions women have made to the growth and development of the state.

The documentary, devoted to the history of Kentucky women, will air on public television and will be sent to schools across the state as an educational tool.

Also, the women's commission inducted Marie Caldwell Humphries into the Kentucky Women Remembered exhibit. She served as first chair of the women's commission.

The documentary subject matter will largely involve material from the exhibit that began in 1978 and consists of watercolor portraits depicting outstanding women in Kentucky history. The women's commission unveils new portraits to be added to the exhibit during Women's History Month each March.

With the induction of Humphries, the capitol exhibit has nearly 70 portraits of outstanding women in Kentucky.



*Kentucky Women Remembered honoree Marie Caldwell Humphries (Graphic by KY Commission on Women)*

Humphries was appointed by Gov. Louie Nunn in 1969 and was a well-known advocate for the Equal Rights Amendment and other issues relating to gender equity. She was described in a 1969 newspaper editorial as "going about the commonwealth stirring up delusions of grandeur among the ladies of the Bluegrass."

Humphries attended her induction ceremony and spoke briefly:

"Gov. Nunn was hopeful that the existence of the commission would allow women to play a larger role in the growth of Kentucky," she said.



## ALL DOORS ARE OPEN IN KENTUCKY

*Fair Housing Month*  
**FAIR HOUSING**  
**IS YOUR RIGHT: USE IT!**

*Live Free*



**To: Kentucky Commission on Human Rights**  
**332 West Broadway, 14th Floor Louisville, Kentucky 40202**  
**1-800-292-5566 www.kchr.ky.gov**