



Coalition for the Homeless
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COALITION
FOR THE
HOMELESS

Dear Metro Council Planning and Zoning Committee members,

The Coalition for the Homeless urges you to support the preservation of affordable rental housing by voting in favor of the Anti-Displacement and Fair Housing Ordinance.

We thank Councilmember Arthur, tenants and community members, and the Council for working on this critical issue in our community.

Every day, homeless services teams work alongside Louisvillians experiencing homelessness in order to find housing. Together, they navigate barriers, pay application fees, gather paperwork, and search for affordable units. This is exhausting work complicated by the dramatic shortage of affordable rentals in our city for those earning the least.

In order to move unhoused Louisvillians into housing, the Coalition's partners provide housing vouchers to cover some of the costs. From the receipt of the voucher, prospective tenants have 90 days to secure housing. If they fail to find housing within that window, they lose their voucher and remain homeless. Today, there are 101 potential tenants with vouchers who have not yet found a place they can afford to rent. Housing vouchers cover \$1,052 in monthly rent for a two-bedroom unit—but unfortunately, the average rent in Louisville sits around \$1,200, and rents continue to rise. The rent increases across the city have left us with fewer options for unhoused people with vouchers.

When we ignore the problem of housing affordability, hardworking Louisvillians who cannot keep up with rising rents are forced into homelessness. The Anti-Displacement and Fair Housing Ordinance would create strong preventative measures to ensure that families can afford to stay in their homes, and would ensure that city dollars are not contributing to the increase in rents across the city. As costs rise, we must stay focused on meeting the needs of people who would otherwise face homelessness.

The Coalition for the Homeless asks you to vote in favor of the Anti-Displacement and Fair Housing Ordinance. Together, we should continue to research and support the preservation and creation of affordable housing options in Louisville. This is an important first step.

With appreciation,

George Eklund