

BERRYTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

PO Box 23385, Louisville, Kentucky 40223-0385



November 8, 2023

To: President Marcus Winkler & Louisville Metro Council

Dear President Winkler & Metro Council Members,

We are writing to you to express our support of the Anti-Displacement Ordinance (formerly known as the Historically Black Neighborhood Ordinance). We joined the campaign to pass this ordinance on April 3, 2023, because this ordinance supports the preservation of deeply rooted families in our community by creating opportunities for homeowners and our descendants to affordably maintain and attain homeownership in Berrytown.

Berrytown is a historically Black neighborhood in District 17, that was founded by Alfred Berry in 1874. Many of the families still living in Berrytown are a part of long legacies going back sixty or more years. Some Berrytown families have lived in Berrytown for over 100 years. While Berrytown has seen many structural changes since its founding, its spirit of community has remained intact. It is this sense of community that Berrytown is struggling to maintain as corporate and private developers work to gentrify our community.

Berrytown—and many other neighborhoods vulnerable to displacement—need the decisive action of Metro Council. We humbly ask you to vote in favor of the Anti-Displacement Ordinance. It is protective, practical, clarifying, and flexible. Its flexibility is part of its brilliance, because it is designed to tailor anti-displacement support based on the needs of the community.

For example, when passed, the Anti-Displacement Ordinance will help homeowners in our community get priority access to city programs like the home repair assistance program. Many of our neighbors are senior homeowners living on a fixed income, who are unable to get access to city services due to the high property values associated with our zip code (40223). The Anti-Displacement Ordinance will make finding financial support in the long term maintenance of our homes more accessible. By doing so, this ordinance strengthens our community's ability to maintain individual housing stability and communal longevity. This ordinance also creates the

opportunity for our descendants to gain priority access to down-payment assistance through the city, so that more of our children and grandchildren can know the joys and security of home ownership.

Finally, this ordinance supports the vision and goals published in the Berrytown Neighborhood Plan. Just a few months ago, in August of 2023, the Berrytown Neighborhood Plan was approved by Louisville Metro Council. The Berrytown Vision Statement reads in part: "Berrytown is a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community that preserves the historic Black legacy by promoting the continuation of home ownership." Furthermore, one of the objectives of the Plan is to support and encourage the historic housing legacy of Berrytown. This legacy is about maintaining the existing single-family housing character and **retaining** the families living in them. Another objective of the Plan is to promote and support owner-occupied housing, not to displace homeowners, nor to make owning a home in Berrytown unaffordable to and unattainable by our descendants.

We, the members of the Berrytown Neighborhood Association, ask the members of Metro Council and our Metro Council representative, President Marcus Winkler, to vote in favor of the Anti-Displacement Ordinance.

Please do not water it down or change its ability to be effective. The choice is simple. Are you for displacement or against it?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

**Members of the
BERRYTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**