



August 11, 2023

Metro Council  
601 W. Jefferson Street  
Louisville, KY 40202

Re: Proposed Historically Black Neighborhoods Ordinance

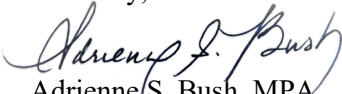
To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky (HHCK), we appreciate the opportunity express our support for the Historically Black Neighborhoods Ordinance sponsored by Council Member Arthur. Our position is shaped by our work to solve homelessness and fulfill the promise of affordable housing across Kentucky. We are charged by Kentucky Revised Statute with convening and staffing the Kentucky Interagency Council on Homelessness. We see the effects of housing policy, positive and negative, at all levels of government on low-income Kentuckians every day.

As a statewide organization, we monitor policy developments across Kentucky, including Louisville. With Louisville being the largest city in Kentucky, what happens in its housing markets has a profound effect on our state. The 2019 Housing Needs Assessment continues to be a helpful guide to identify the number of homes needed to meet Louisville's housing needs, which in turn informs how much supply is needed across the Commonwealth. With a shortage of ~31000 deeply affordable units for extremely low income folks, it is imperative that any losses through direct and indirect displacement be minimized. The study acknowledges this and identifies specific neighborhoods particularly at risk. Due to longstanding patterns of structural racism in the housing market, the residents of West Louisville, which are Historically Black Neighborhoods, need to be protected explicitly. The disparities in the housing market as is result in a large share of Black Kentuckians renting their homes and thus subject to large rent increases with little notice, which in turn contributes to disproportionate rates of homelessness among Black Kentuckians and a widening gap in homeownership rates among Black and White Kentuckians. This ordinance, with its governance structure and enforcement mechanism, will help protect longstanding residents' right to remain in the homes and communities of their choice.

Thank you for your consideration of this ordinance. Should you need additional information, please feel free to contact me at [abush@hhck.org](mailto:abush@hhck.org) or 502-223-1834 x101.

Sincerely,

  
Adrienne S. Bush, MPA  
Executive Director

/asb