

Statement to Metro Council on Funding the Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund

by Shatori Hall, Greater Good Hope Baptist Church, on behalf of CLOUT (Citizens of Louisville Organized & United Together), Thursday, January 28, 2016

My name is Shatori Hall and I live in Councilman Tandy's district. I attend Greater Good Hope Baptist Church, which is a member of CLOUT, Citizens of Louisville Organized and United Together. My family is one of the faces of Louisville's Affordable Housing crisis.

I grew up at Beecher Terrance and had to leave home when I was 17. I lived with my auntie and kept going to school and graduated from Shawnee High School. By 19, I had a full-time job in housekeeping at Suburban Hospital and moved into my own apartment. But a few years ago, after I had my son, U-Kari, I had to choose between paying rent and paying for food, diapers, and everything he needed.

So during the last three years, I've moved from an apartment, to a house with four adults for a while, and now I'm back living with family in Beecher Terrace. I know how to take care of myself — I've been self-sufficient for a long time. I'm working two jobs — at Family Dollar and at First Choice Market, but I'm still having to move from place to place. I'm on four housing waitlists, at least one of which is two years long.

Working two jobs is hard, because it takes away from the time I can spend with U-Kari, but everything I do is for him. He's four years old and goes to Brandeis Elementary. He loves school and loves people, and I am so proud of him.

Having an affordable apartment of my own would change our lives. It would mean that U-Kari would have his own room and be able to grow up in a more stable environment, not having to move from place to place. It would help me start saving money. I love helping people, and I know that when I get on my feet I will help other people who are going through hard times.

I work hard. But I need affordable housing that can help me help myself.

That's why we're here to ask you to fund the Affordable Housing Trust Fund by a small increase in the Insurance Premium Tax by March 23. Affordable housing is an investment in young adults like me and in children like U-Kari. Thousands of families like mine can't wait any longer. Thank you.