My name is Alex Flood and I'm part of the coordinating team of Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice, or LSURJ. The LSURJ coordinating team supports Councilman Arthur's resolution requesting that the Louisville Metro Housing Authority cancel contracts with The CT Group and offer employment to any frontline staff who might be impacted by the cancellations.

We're in favor of this resolution because we've heard directly from LMHA tenants who are part of the Louisville Tenants Union and who live in buildings managed by The CT Group. The CT Group is falling down on its obligations to provide quality service and to respect the people they serve. It's that simple.

LMHA tenants have described the following issues to us: persistent problems with cockroaches and mold, consistent water leaks leading to water damage, gas leaks, poor insulation, safety concerns, difficulties with basic issues such as lockouts, a squatter living in an empty apartment for weeks, harassment by staff, parking for people with disabilities being blocked by maintenance vehicles, and more.

The concerns and stories that tenants have shared should be unacceptable to all of us. Everyone deserves safe, well-maintained, and affordable housing. That's why we support the tenants' demand that LMHA cancel its contracts with The CT Group.

Earlier this summer, we wrote to LMHA's Executive Director, Lisa Osanka, to lift up tenants' demands and share what we heard from them. Now we will contact our Metro Council members in support of Councilman Arthur's resolution. As white people organizing other white people to join racial justice work, we call on everyone in our base to contact Metro Council as well.

Housing is a racial justice issue, but to be specific, the vast majority of LMHA tenants are Black, including every tenant who's spoken with us. Black women with children and Black seniors are the core of whom LMHA serves. It's a difficult, risky thing for these tenants to speak out about the people who control their homes. We support LMHA tenants organizing.

We hope that Metro Council will show up for LMHA tenants as they organize to win the safe and hospitable housing they deserve. On behalf of the LSURJ coordinating team, thank you for your time.

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