



Metropolitan Housing Coalition
P.O. Box 4533
Louisville, KY 40204-4533
502.384.6368

November 1, 2022

Councilwoman Cassie Chambers Armstrong (District 8)
601 W. Jefferson Street
Louisville, KY 40202

Councilwoman Armstrong,

I am writing to express the Metropolitan Housing Coalition's (MHC) support for Louisville Metro Council Ordinance O-134-22, establishing a Lead-Safe Rental Registry. Safe, healthy, and affordable housing is essential to better educational outcomes, economic success, and health outcomes. MHC has been involved in these conversations, with our community partners, for the past six months and we have a long history of working on lead issues in relation to safe, fair, and affordable housing. Currently, approximately 18,000 children live in pre-1978 rental housing that could expose them to lead poisoning. Northwest Louisville contains older housing stock and the data shows the increased likelihood of lead exposure in this area, among other negative environmental impacts. A recent MHC report focused on housing instability amongst families with children in District 8, showed 93% of homes in District 8 were constructed before 1979, compared to just 66% in Jefferson County, which could indicate more homes with lead paint, a risk to the development of children. This is an unacceptable reality in multiple parts of our community and one that we have the opportunity to correct.

No one wants children exposed to lead and the long-term effects of lead poisoning, and this ordinance moves us several steps toward protecting our children. Housing advocates, policymakers, landlords, youth advocates, and other community stakeholders have all been at the table discussing and honing this ordinance from a variety of perspectives. There is no doubt that this ordinance creates a transparent, accountable, and proactive policy that supports tenants, protects children, and creates accountability, and resources, for landlords.

MHC and other housing advocates will continue to watch the impact of this ordinance on the number of affordable housing units, as we do not want there to be any negative unintended consequences on the number of affordable housing units available in our community, as we are already facing a severe housing crisis. Now is the time to act—protecting our children and improving our housing stock.

Thank you for taking a few moments to consider these thoughts as Council begins the process of strengthening protections for Louisville's children against lead poisoning.

Sincerely,

Executive Director
Metropolitan Housing Coalition
tony@metropolitanhousing.org