

marcc “...to forgo the luxury of separate ways when a common path can be found...”

**Metropolitan
Area
Religious
Coalition of
Cincinnati**

632 Vine Street, Suite 606
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Phone 513.721.4843
Fax 513.721.4891
Email marcc@fuse.net
Web www.marcconline.com

Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Association of Unity Churches

Baptist Ministers Conference
of Greater Cincinnati and Vicinity

Church of the Living God

Cincinnati Conference
(Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

Cincinnati Islamic Center

Disciples of Christ – SW Ohio

Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance
Of Greater Cincinnati

JCRC of The Jewish Federation

Miami Association (American Baptists)

Ohio River Valley District
(United Methodist Church)

Presbytery of Cincinnati

Religious Society of Friends

Unitarian Universalist Council
of Greater Cincinnati

United Church of Christ
Southwest OH Northern KY Association

Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio

Reverend Dan Weyand-Geise
President

Rabbi Margaret J. Meyer
Vice President

Tiffany Zents
Vice-President

Nancy L. Walters
Secretary

Ken Bordwell
Treasurer

Margaret A. Fox
Executive Director

Angela Wright
Office & Technology Manager

June 20, 2014

Mayor John Cranley
Vice Mayor David Mann
Members of City Council
Cincinnati, Ohio

Re: Substantial Amendment to Action Plan for HOME Funds

Dear Mayor Cranley, Vice Mayor Mann and City Council Members Flynn, Murray, Seelbach, Simpson, Sittenfeld, Smitherman, Winburn, and Young,

Last week MARCC gave testimony in front of the Trade & Development Department supporting the use of HOME Funds for the Commons at Alaska permanent supportive housing project in Avondale, and the Cutter Apartments in the Pendleton area. Both projects are desperately needed.

City Council has approved money for Commons at Alaska. Avondale community organizations such as the Avondale Community Council, Avondale Development Corporation and Concerned Clergy of Avondale have supported the permanent supportive housing project on Alaska Avenue. Pressure and a variety of strategies have been developed and tried with the intent to change City Council support for the Commons at Alaska project. The “substantial amendments” to the Action Plan for the HOME Funds is one such strategy.

MARCC has been involved in several housing need assessments and policy recommendations in recent years: Homeless to Homes Plan, Family Homelessness Housing Stability Study & Policy Recommendations, Plan Cincinnati and the Consolidated Plan. All four studies or plans demonstrate the need for three types of housing: permanent supportive, transitional and permanent. Commons at Alaska and the Cutter Apartments respond to two of the three. More affordable housing is not a mystery to be solved. It is, however, a reasonable, well thought out response to a significant need in our city and region.

Plain and simple, people need a place to live. National Church Residencies and Over-the-Rhine Community Housing are two reputable organizations that know how to build safe and secure affordable housing. In truth, all of Cincinnati neighborhoods need to step up and do the same, as does Hamilton County and its contiguous counties, simply because it is the right thing to do. There is no wiggle room when it comes to providing housing for people who are mentally and physically challenged, or who have fallen behind due to the growing income gap. Subsidized housing can no longer be viewed by government or society as a temporary response to a lack of affordable housing while income disparity grows. Elected officials need to take the lead on how to solve this challenge, though not at the expense of those who need a place to live.

Local government needs the courage to lead. Failure is not an option or a way to solve a lack of affordable housing. These disparities are real and a matter of social justice. MARCC strongly urges you to continue to support Commons at Alaska and the Cutter Apartment housing projects.

Respectfully,

Margaret A. Fox,
Executive Director