

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

Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati

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Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Association of Unity Churches

Baptist Ministers Conference
of Cincinnati and Vicinity

Cincinnati Conference
(Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

Cincinnati Islamic Center

Disciples of Christ – SW Ohio

Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

Greek Orthodox Church of
Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas

Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance

JCRC of The Jewish Federation

Miami Association (American Baptists)

Ohio River Valley District
(United Methodist Church)

Presbytery of Cincinnati

Religious Society of Friends

Southwest Ohio-Northeast Kentucky Division
(The Salvation Army)

Unitarian Universalist Council
of Greater Cincinnati

United Church of Christ

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RE: Jimmy Heath House, Permanent Supportive Housing Project

Dear Members of City Council,

The Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati supports and strongly urges members of City Council to approve City of Cincinnati HOME Funds of \$1,396,139 for The Jimmy Heath House, a Permanent Supportive Housing project to be located at 209-210 Odeon Street in Over-the-Rhine. The goal of this 25 unit housing project spearheaded by Over-the-Rhine Community Housing gives a permanent home to those who are chronically homeless. This is a moral obligation of the religious community and the city and City Council needs to approve it.

OTR Community Housing working with Housing First, using a best practices model for Permanent Supportive Housing, has taken the time to design a safe and secure plan for the chronically homeless and the surrounding community. The Jimmy Heath House will revitalize five vacant properties and have a single point of entry and other important amenities. Clearly, the plan helps to stabilize the neighborhood and has the support of 3CDC - Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation.

As you may recall, City Council passed a resolution calling for a comprehensive strategy to respond to single homeless individuals. In the spring the 2009 Homeless to Homes Report was completed and submitted to City Council. This report outlines a plan for the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County to ensure single homeless individuals have access to shelter facilities and comprehensive services. Many people from a variety of community and faith based organizations, including MARCC, worked tirelessly for several months to forge those recommendations. The Homeless to Homes Report recommends building Permanent Supportive Housing to house the long term homeless who have mental and addiction challenges. The Jimmy Heath House moves that recommendation into a reality - a well thought out solution responding to members of our community who need a home and support services – let this be the outcome of our moral voices speaking as one.

Sincerely,

Adam Hall
President

Margaret A. Fox
Executive Director