



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

**Metropolitan
Area
Religious
Coalition of
Cincinnati**

2400 Reading Road, Suite 201-B
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
Phone 513.978-0086
Email marcc@marcconline.com
Web www.marcconline.com

American Baptist Churches USA
Miami Association

Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Baptist Ministers Conference
of Cincinnati and Vicinity

Cincinnati Islamic Community Center

Diocese of Southern Ohio (Episcopal)

Disciples of Christ – SW Ohio

Interdenominational Ministers Alliance

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
Southern OH-Northern KY Association

Volunteers of America
Of Greater Ohio

Reverend Robert Dye
President

Reverend Thomas Barnes
Vice President

Robert Ehrtam

Vice President/Treasurer
Elizabeth Brown

Secretary

Angela Harris Watkins
Assistant Secretary

Margaret A. Fox
Executive Director

Angela Wright

Office & Technology Manager

April 21, 2021

Vice Mayor Christopher Smitherman, Chair of the Law and Public Safety Committee, and
Members of the Committee, City Council, Cincinnati Ohio

Re: Passage of Ordinances 202101428 and 202101429 Agenda Items, by the Law and
Public Safety Committee, City of Cincinnati

Renters will suffer due to the Hamilton County Municipal Court’s interpretation of the
recent Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals to rescind the CDC Moratorium on Evictions.
The moratorium protects renters from being evicted during the pandemic, by allowing
them to pay in full their back and current rent, using federal and state rental assistance
funding made available to renters during the pandemic. MARCC supports reinstating
the CDC Moratorium rules and urges this Public Safety Committee recommend city
council adopt Ordinance 202101428.

Without the Moratorium on Evictions property owners do not have to accept back or
current rent payments from renters in Hamilton County and by default the City of
Cincinnati. A Pay to Stay policy, Ordinance 202101429, can operate during and after
the pandemic. Under this policy property owners are obligated to accept back and
current rent unless the renter has committed other serious violations of the rental
agreement. Many cities across the country have adopted “pay to stay” policies. In Ohio,
both the cities of Toledo and Dayton have passed reasonable “pay to stay” ordinances.

The MARCC CourtWatch project observed the Hamilton County Eviction Docket in
May and June of 2020. Out of almost 500 observations approximately 95% of renters
were evicted. Under a Pay to Stay policy for Cincinnati the property owner is obligated
to accept back and current rent, rather than rejecting it and proceeding with non-
renewal of the lease agreement or eviction. If this policy had already been in place,
most of those renters, observed in court would have been spared eviction.

MARCC urges this committee recommend to City Council reinstatement of the CDC
Moratorium on Evictions ordinance (202101428) and the Pay to Stay ordinance
(202101429). Let’s abide by CDC rules, and stand with other Ohio cities, like Toledo
and Dayton who have passed pay to stay policies. By passing both, renters at risk
remain in their homes and property owners increase their chance of collecting the rent
they need to cover their costs.

Thank You,

Peg

Margaret A. Fox
MARCC Executive Director