

# **A Call to Faith-in-Action**

Recently, Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation (3CDC) has purchased the Metropole Apartment building, located at 609 Walnut Street. For over 30 years, the building has served as 230 units of much-needed affordable housing. Many residents chose to live in the Metropole because it is close to needed living amenities such as their jobs, stores, bus-lines, etc. 3CDC, however, intends to convert the building into a 160-room boutique hotel. This conversion would rely on the displacement of over 200 residents currently residing in the building.

Over 120 residents have signed a petition saying that they oppose being forced out of their homes. 69 tenants have joined the Metropole Tenant Association to protect their homes. Many residents are elderly or disabled. Many are black. Many are white. Many have lived in the building for about 20 years. Many found a home in Metropole after previously being on the streets. All are low-income. All have been ignored by 3CDC. Recently, the Metropole Tenant Association filed a formal discrimination complaint with HUD, which asserts that 3CDC is attempting to cleanse downtown of the diversity that Metropole tenants represent. It is morally wrong to forcibly move a people from their homes for capital gain.

## **The Call to Action:**

1. Call or email HUD, 3CDC, Model Management with the following message:

*“I (or my church, congregation, mosque) stand with the Metropole Tenant Association and will not allow 3CDC and Model to force the Tenants of Metropole from their homes. Our city does not have the capacity to deal with the increase in homelessness this will cause. Further, we believe this will strengthen the harmful precedent that has led to twenty-five years of affordable housing loss in Cincinnati.”*

2. Forward this document and email to all staff, parishioners, clients if possible, donors, supporters, etc.
3. Contact the GCCH office with ideas, strategies or names of people that should be involved or to join the advisory committee. Rob Goeller, Civil Rights Outreach Coordinator: 513-421-7803 ext. 15 or [robgoeller@cincihomeless.org](mailto:robgoeller@cincihomeless.org)

## Contact List:

- HUD

- o John Trasvina, Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity
  - 202-708-4252; [John\\_Trasvina@hud.gov](mailto:John_Trasvina@hud.gov)
- o Carol Galante, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily Housing
  - 202-708-2495 ext. 2400; [Carol\\_J.\\_Galante@hud.gov](mailto:Carol_J._Galante@hud.gov)
- o Scott Hunley, Multifamily HUB Director
  - 614-469-5737 ext. 8307; [Scott\\_Hunley@hud.gov](mailto:Scott_Hunley@hud.gov)
- o Carolyn Murphy, Columbus Fair Housing Center
  - 614-469-5737 ext. 8170; [Carolyn\\_Murphy@hud.gov](mailto:Carolyn_Murphy@hud.gov)
- o James Cunningham, Cincinnati Field Office
  - 513-684-8775; [James\\_A.\\_Cunningham@hud.gov](mailto:James_A._Cunningham@hud.gov)

- 3CDC (Call both at 513-621-4400)

- o Steve Leeper, CEO: [sleeper@3cdc.org](mailto:sleeper@3cdc.org)
- o Adam Gelter, Development Manager-Metropole:

- Model Management

- o Steve Smith, President: 513-559-0048; [steve.smith@themodelgroup.net](mailto:steve.smith@themodelgroup.net)