

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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November 2, 2009

Mr. John Trasvina

Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
451 Seventh Street, S.W. - Room 5100
Washington, D.C. 20410

Re: Loss of Affordable Housing Units in the Cincinnati Downtown Community
Metropole Apartments, 609 Walnut Street, Cincinnati, OH

Dear Mr. Trasvina,

The Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC) formally objects to the reduction of affordable housing units in the neighborhood of Downtown Cincinnati as ownership of the Metropole Apartments is transferred. MARCC is a religious coalition of seventeen denominations made up of Muslims, Jews, Protestants, Roman Catholics, Greek Orthodox and Unitarian Universalists concerned about affordable housing and homelessness.

The new owners of the Metropole Apartments, Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation propose to develop a boutique hotel force 230 tenants to find other housing. These residents want to continue to live in the Downtown Community. We believe that as a matter of social justice, and in accordance with Fair Housing laws, the plan for their relocation and transfer of the Housing Assistance contract must preserve their subsidies for use Downtown. Relocation to scattered subsidized housing units in other neighborhoods would result in a loss of affordable housing units as well as a socio economic mix of downtown residents. This loss de-stabilizes the community.

According to the *Stable Integrated Communities Report, 2007* researched by The Wilder Foundation, this Downtown Community was identified as one of nine racially and socio-economically stable communities in the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, stabilized for decades. MARCC requests the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development not take any action to destroy this racial, ethnic and economic diversity in this Downtown Community, and requests review by HUD Fair Housing officials. By keeping this stabilizing mix in the Downtown Community the city benefits.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Fox
Executive Director

CC: Jim Cunningham, Director, HUD Division of Southwestern Ohio
Carolyn Murphy, Director, Columbus Fair Housing Center, US Dept of HUD
Scott Hunley, Multifamily HUB Director, Columbus Fair Housing Center
Carol J. Galante, Deputy Assistant Sec. for Multifamily Housing