



MIAMI VALLEY FAIR HOUSING CENTER NEWSLETTER

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JIM MCCARTHY, PRESIDENT/CEO

A fun time was had by all at the 13th Annual Waikiki Party Fundraiser

A big THANK YOU to all the corporate sponsors, raffle prize donors and attendees for making the Waikiki Party a success. Hope to see everyone again next August!



For more wacky, fun pictures from the evening [click here](#)



Meet Your Miami Valley Fair Housing Center Board Members

Each issue we will introduce a member of the MVFHC Board of Directors

Matt Crawford is a Dayton native who has served on the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center and the Central Ohio Fair Housing Association Boards since 2017. Matt is a labor attorney with the downtown Dayton firm of Doll, Jansen and Ford and advocates each day on behalf of employees and labor unions. Matt received his B.A. from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio before completing his law degree at the Ohio State University in Columbus. In addition to practicing labor and employment law, Matt has been active in election law, working on voter protection efforts in 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016 to ensure that each person has equal access to the ballot and their vote is properly counted. He is passionate about the law's capacity to redress injustice and discrimination, which led him to become involved with MVFHC.



*Matt Crawford
MVFHC Board Member*

When the opportunity arose to serve on the Boards, Matt was excited to work closely with organizations advancing affordable and fair housing. He has encouraged others to become involved in the mission of the Center, whether through attending the annual Waikiki Party or simply spreading the word about MVFHC's achievements and future goals. Working with others committed to justice in housing has been extremely rewarding so far, Matt said.

"Everyone deserves adequate and fair housing, and it is organizations like MVFHC that ensures those ideals are realized for all. We must continue to move forward with our efforts to eliminate discrimination in our communities."

Fair Housing Updates

Harassment in Housing

On September 14, 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the publication of a final rule formalizing legal standards under the Fair Housing Act for sexual and other forms of harassment in housing.

HUD and courts have long held that harassment in housing or housing-related transactions on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, and familial status is prohibited under the Fair Housing Act. The final rule specifies how HUD will evaluate claims of "hostile environment" and "quid pro quo" harassment in both private and publicly-assisted housing.

HUD's final rule on harassment in housing includes:

- Formal uniform standards for evaluating claims of hostile environment and quid pro quo harassment in the housing context.
- Quid Pro Quo Harassment involves subjecting a person to an unwelcome request or demand and making submission to the request or demand a condition related to the person's housing.
- Hostile Environment Harassment involves subjecting a person to unwelcome conduct that is sufficiently severe or pervasive such that it interferes with or deprives the person of the right to use and enjoy the housing.
- Clarification as to when housing providers and other covered entities or individuals may be held directly or vicariously liable under the Fair Housing Act for illegal harassment or other discriminatory housing practices.

To view the rule [click here](#).

Nuisance Ordinances and the Fair Housing Act

September 13, 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development issued Fair Housing Act guidance on local 'nuisance ordinances' that may lead to housing discrimination against survivors of domestic violence and other persons in need of emergency services.

HUD's *Guidance on Application of Fair Housing Act Standards to the Enforcement of Local Nuisance and Crime-Free Housing Ordinances Against Victims of Domestic Violence, Other Crime Victims, and Others Who Require Police or Emergency Services* is intended to inform state and local governments, **as well as private and public housing providers**, as to how HUD will assess nuisance or crime-free housing ordinances, policies, or practices alleged to be discriminatory under the Fair Housing Act. These local ordinances may be used to evict domestic violence survivors and others who seek police or emergency assistance.

"HUD makes it clear that no one should have to choose between calling 9-1-1 and being evicted," said HUD Secretary Julián Castro. "A home should be a sanctuary where everyone can live without the threat of violence or harassment. The actions we take today will work together to protect the housing rights of victims of harassment and survivors of domestic violence."

The Nuisance Ordinance Guidance addresses ordinances that penalize residents for a small number of 911 calls to police, even when a person is in need of protection from domestic violence or another crime. Nuisance ordinances often require or allow landlords to evict residents in such circumstances, thereby discouraging victims from reporting domestic abuse or other crimes and obtaining the emergency police and medical assistance they need.

HUD investigated and resolved a complaint brought by a woman living in Norristown, Pennsylvania, who had been subjected to domestic violence by her ex-boyfriend. Police warned her that if she made one more 911 call, she and her young daughter would be evicted from their home. The Norristown ordinance operated under a "three strike" policy, allowing no more than two calls to 911 for help. As a result, the woman was too afraid to call the police when her ex-boyfriend returned to her home and stabbed her. A neighbor called the police. A few days after the woman's release from the hospital, she was served with eviction papers pursuant to the local nuisance ordinance. As a part of the settlement, the city repealed the ordinance. These types of ordinances violate the Fair Housing Act when they have an unjustified discriminatory effect or are enacted or enforced to intentionally discriminate because of a protected characteristic.

To view the ordinance [click here](#).

The information in these articles was collected by John Zimmerman, Vice-President of the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center from resources from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



Need Continuing Education Credits? Sign up for a Webinar!

Miami Valley Fair Housing, in partnership with the [Greater Dayton Apartment Association](#) will offer one-hour fair housing webinars featuring MVFHC vice president John Zimmerman. Each class qualifies for Continuing Education Credit (CEC) from the National Apartment Association.

The cost of each webinar is \$10, payable via PayPal once you have registered online. To register click on the appropriate webinar.

- Remaining 2017 Webinar -

November 9 [Fair Housing Advertising 2—what we say](#)



Did you know the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center has a YouTube Channel?



The Miami Valley Fair Housing Center has created several videos and uploaded them to YouTube. Topics include:

- ✓ Basics of Fair Housing
- ✓ Fair Housing Trends and Scenarios
- ✓ Ohio's landlord/tenant laws
- ✓ Fair Housing Guidance on Welcoming Applicants with Criminal Histories
- ✓ and a video from HUD on Fair Housing Accessibility Guidelines

To view the videos [click here](#)

SAVE THE DATE

COMING UP

Sunday	November 5	Daylight Saving Time ends
Tuesday	November 7	Election Day
Thursday	April 5, 2018	50th Anniversary commemorating the passing of the Fair Housing Act. More info coming in the next issue of the MVFHC Newsletter. Stay tuned.

MVFHC Mission Statement

The mission of the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center (MVFHC) is to eliminate housing discrimination and ensure equal housing opportunity for all people in our region, the State of Ohio, and nationally.

Specifically, the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center seeks to eliminate housing discrimination against all persons because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, familial status, or any other characteristic protected under state or local laws. In furthering this goal, MVFHC engages in activities designed to encourage fair housing practices through educational efforts; assists person who believe they have been victims of housing discrimination; identifies barriers to fair housing in order to help counteract and eliminate discriminatory housing practices; works with elected and government representatives to protect and improve fair housing laws; and takes all appropriate and necessary action to ensure that fair housing laws are properly and fairly enforced throughout our region, the State of Ohio, and nationally.

MVFHC Vision Statement

The Miami Valley Fair Housing Center recognizes the importance of "home" as a component of the American dream. We envision a country free of housing discrimination where every individual, group and community enjoys equal housing opportunity and access in a bias-free and open housing market. We envision a country where integrated neighborhoods are the norm, and private and public sectors guarantee civil rights in an open and barrier-free community committed to healing the history of discrimination in America.

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