



MIAMI VALLEY FAIR HOUSING CENTER NEWSLETTER

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JIM MCCARTHY, PRESIDENT/CEO

Update on the Fair Housing Center regarding COVID-19

The Miami Valley Fair Housing Center continues to remain closed for walk-ins. The center's staff are operating via phone, email and video conferencing during our normal business hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Our annual August fundraiser has been cancelled for this year due to the risk of spreading the coronavirus in a large gathering. We will be back in August 2021 and hope to see you then!

We will share further updates as they become available. If you have any questions, please call us at 937-223-6035 OR by emailing info@mvfairhousing.com.

For additional information concerning COVID-19 in Ohio visit www.coronavirus.ohio.gov

Are you being threatened with an eviction during the current COVID-10 crisis?
Please go to <http://mvcovid19eviction.com> to learn more and find resources.

Meet Your Miami Valley Fair Housing Center Board Members

Mohamed Al-Hamdani came as a refugee along with his family to the City of Dayton in 1992. At the time he was 10 years old. He is the second child of six. He has three brothers and two sisters. His mom and dad are current residents of Centerville. He is a product of Dayton Public schools, where he attended Miami Chapel Elementary, Fairview Middle and Colonel White High School.

A graduate of Wright State University and the University Of Dayton School Of Law, Mohamed has dedicated himself to serving our country and his community. After graduating from Wright State University, Mohamed went to work with the Department of Defense as a Cultural Advisor to the Marine Corps. His work helped develop cultural and linguistic immersion training for over 3,000 marines prior to their deployment to Iraq.

After completing his law degree, Mohamed went on to serve as the Director of Leaders for Equality and Action in Dayton (LEAD). LEAD brings together large numbers of people across racial, denomination and economic lines to make a difference in our neighborhoods and local decision making.

Mohamed then went on to serve as the Operations Manager of the Montgomery County Human Services Levy in 2014. The levy helps more than 50,000 children and families in the county through the Job Center, Children's Services and Public Health. Mohamed guided the campaign to a successful victory. Mohamed was named as a 40 Under 40 award recipient by the Dayton Business Journal in 2016.

Mohamed recently completed his first term on the Board of Directors of the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center. He enjoys his service on the board because he believes in the Center's mission and vision towards expanding social justice and fighting for housing rights for the most vulnerable members of our society.

Elected in November 2017, Mohamed began his first term on the Dayton Public Schools Board of Education in January 2018. He currently serves as the President of the Board of Education. Mohamed is an immigration attorney at Larson, Lyons & Al-Hamdani in Dayton. He is the proud father to two beautiful boys, Adam and Zachariah.



*Mohamed Al-Hamdani
MVFHC Board Member*

FH Update: Landlords Need To Avoid Race Profiling and Train Staff Accordingly

Fair housing laws protect the right of all tenants to live in a rental property without interference or discrimination, regardless of race, and this includes the right to associate with anyone you choose, regardless of the race of the individual with whom you choose to associate. This means that a landlord cannot prohibit anyone from having visitors who are of a particular color, national origin or religion, or of a specific gender or in any other way related to a protected class. All landlords need to have a discussion about this with staff so that fair housing complaints can be avoided.

In 2017 an article in the LA Times described a situation where race profiling happened to a white tenant who had a non-white sibling visit. She wrote: “The landlord then called me and asked why I was letting ‘dangerous people’ visit me. I told her that the visitor was my brother and that he was not dangerous. My landlord then told me that I was not allowed to have my brother over as a guest because she wanted to ‘keep the house safe’ and did not want ‘dangerous people’ on the property. I told her that I didn't think she could stop my brother from visiting me and reiterated that he was not dangerous in any way. The following week, I was issued a ‘60-Day Termination of Tenancy’ notice.”

While it is important to keep properties safe, property managers and staff need to avoid unfounded situations that are prompted by either overt or implicit bias.

Information for the article was gathered by John Zimmerman, VP Miami Valley Fair Housing, from a 2017 LA Times article found at <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-rentwatch-discrimination-20170121-story.html>

Fair Housing Update: Fair Housing Tips for Service Technicians

Familial Status — Prohibitions:

The 1988 Fair Housing Act Amendments prohibit housing discrimination against families with children and/or households with any person under the age of 18. Protection is extended to pregnant women and persons in the process of securing legal custody of children.

Familial Status & Building Safety:

If building amenities are not safe, agents should work with service technicians to correct structural deficiencies since this cannot be used as a reason to refuse a household covered by familial status. In addition, the management company or property owner cannot refuse access by children to areas such as swimming pools, weight rooms, and saunas even though HUD does give us some examples of allowable restrictions. For example, it might be reasonable to disallow children under 5 from accessing a hot tub. In other words, the management company or property owners may impose reasonable health and safety rules that limit access by unaccompanied children to such areas. A key word is “reasonable.” The building’s rules should not make use of building amenities by families difficult.

Maintenance of accessible features:

Some organizations think that installing a feature ends their FHA or ADA responsibility. Installation is the opposite; it is the beginning of the responsibility. Maintenance personnel should ensure continued access.

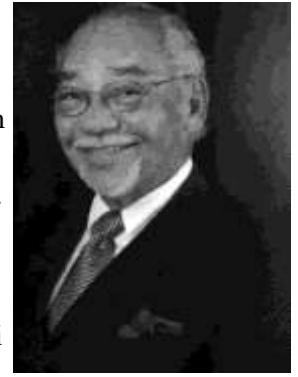
Examples of activities service techs maintain are:

- Eliminating obstructions to accessible parking and access aisles.
- Ensuring that accessible parking is used only by those with proper tags.
- Making sure accessible routes (sidewalks, ramps, curb ramps) are unobstructed and in good shape (no gaps or faults in concrete that could impede a wheelchair).
- Making sure there are no protruding objects that could be trip hazards for people with visual impairments.
- Snow and ice removal when appropriate. Because local codes are important to this task, owners and managers should have a policy on this that meets their local jurisdictions requirements.

The information in this article was collected by John Zimmerman, VP Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, from resources from HUD. To view more information go to <https://portal.hud.gov> and use these search words: “Fair Housing — It's Your Right.” Also, visit www.myfairhousing.com/rental to retrieve Fair Housing for Service Technicians.

Former MVFHC Board Member Passes Away

Dr. Clark Eugene Beck, Sr., 91 of Dayton, Ohio passed on Sunday, June 14, 2020. He obtained his master's degree in Aerospace Engineering from University of Cincinnati, who also bestowed an honorary Doctor of Science degree on him in 2003. He had an illustrious 33 year career as a civilian research engineer manager at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. After his retirement from WPAFB, he became an assistant dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science at Wright State. He designed and implemented the Wright STEPP (Science and engineering precollege program). He served as the first African American President of the Engineers Club of Dayton. He also served as president for The Ohio Society of Professional Engineers, the Engineering and Science Foundation of Dayton, the City of Dayton Environmental Advisory Board, and the Engineer's Foundation of Ohio. He was a member of the Dayton chapter of the American Red Cross and the order of the engineer, and a member of the University of Cincinnati Foundation Board of Trustees. He was a proud member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity Inc. Clark was a faithful member of the Stillwater SDA church in Dayton, OH.



Clark was an avid volunteer serving on the board of the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center from 2000 through 2010, he carried the Olympic torch in Dayton, was appointed by the Montgomery County Commissioners to serve on the county's Planning Commission, volunteered for Grandview Hospital and on the board of College for Seniors at Sinclair.

He was given a Point of Light Award from President Bush. President Bush also honored him regarding the Right Step Program, and he was the creator of Radiant Barrier.

He is survived by his loving wife, Gwendolyn Macon Beck, son Clark Jr. (Ramona), daughter Angela (Eric), grandchildren Emory, Taylor and Jessye, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, stepchildren, family, and friends.



Visit the [Center for Disease Control's website](#) for ways to protect yourself and others.



There are no events scheduled

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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