



STATEMENT RE: HOUSING ORDINANCE SOURCE OF INCOME PROTECTION

The Kalamazoo County Continuum of Care firmly believes that any barrier to fair, equitable housing is an injustice to our most vulnerable citizens and to our whole community. In 2020, the Kalamazoo City Commission unanimously approved extensive changes to the City's housing ordinance aimed at eliminating such barriers, including discrimination based on a person's lawful source of income. As we continue to applaud the Commission's action, we are deeply concerned over recent statements made by the City Attorney to the Civil Rights Board suggesting an unwillingness to enforce those provisions.

Source-of-income protection is vital to fair housing laws achieving what they are meant to do. Not enforcing these safeguards perpetuates the results our community has experienced for so long: individuals and families struggling to obtain and maintain safe and affordable housing.

The CoC joins with the Civil Rights Board in insisting that the City Attorney's Office assure transparency related to unfair housing claims and enforce source-of-income protection in the housing ordinance. We look forward to quick action by the City Attorney's Office on these points to bring our community a step closer to equitable access to safe, affordable, dignified housing for all.