



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Louisville Tenants Union

Email: [loutenantsunion@gmail.com](mailto:loutenantsunion@gmail.com)

Google Voice: 502.438.9048

### **Announcement**

*Join the Louisville Tenants Union on Friday, April 1st at noon EST to learn about the new city-wide tenants union fighting for tenants rights and safe, decent and permanently affordable housing in Louisville, Kentucky. The press conference will take place in the heart of Sheppard Square at 528 Lampton Street, Louisville, KY, 40203.*

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**Louisville, Kentucky, April 1, 2022–The Louisville Tenants Union (LTU) has uncovered dozens of complaints against city-supported slumlord Kathy Strom and her employer, property management company CT Group.**

The LTU [launched our first campaign two weeks ago](#) to address tenant mistreatment by the Louisville Metro Housing Authority and property management company, CT Group, and on Tuesday, 3/29, the LTU received an Open Records Request from LMHA regarding tenant complaints against both CT group and Strom specifically.

According to city records, from January 2020 to March 2022, there were **85 complaints** filed specifically against CT Group. Of those, **there were 29 complaints that specifically addressed Kathy Strom’s behavior, which ranged from verbal mistreatment to outright neglect.**

Residents’ specific complaints include:

- “Want to move to another scattered site property not under [Kathy Strom].” (Sept 2021)
- “Kathy has cost me over \$700 in water cost due to her not sending anyone out to fix the problem which she neglected.” (Feb 2022)

- “I have mold, water running, and it smells awful. I want another apartment. And Kathy should be fired.” (Oct 2021)
- “Sheppard Square staff has been rude and unprofessional.” (April 2020)
- “In the past spoke with KS. Kathy is suspicious. Do not want to speak with Kathy.” (Feb 2022)
- From LMHA Ombudsman: “On June 4 spoke with you (Kathy). You were to call her back that day. As of today [two weeks later] no staff nor maintenance has contacted her nor repaired anything.”

We are asking the Louisville community to support these tenants in their request for a meeting with LMHA director Lisa Osanka to make the following demands:

- The removal of Regional Manager Kathy Strom, either through termination or the cancellation of CT Group’s contract.
- The rehousing of LMHA resident Dominique Harris into a safe and decent home that is not managed by the CT Group. (Harris’ horrific living conditions at a CT Group-managed LMHA property were [recently covered by WFPL.](#))

The context for this institutional abuse is striking: Louisville is currently experiencing a housing crisis, with an unmet need of over 30,000 housing units for people making below 30% of the area median income; eviction rates are as high as 15% in certain parts of the city; and landlords hold more power than ever in the courts and in the lobbying rooms.

Meanwhile, in local government, the foxes are guarding the hen house, so to speak.

**“In March 2021, Louisville Metro Government hired Megan McGinn, Chief Operating Officer from Alltrade Property Management, to oversee rental assistance subsidies, highlighting the close relationship between landlords and local government,”** Josh Poe, tenant organizer with Root Cause Research Center, said. “There is such a need for poor and working class tenants to build collective power because no one else is going to fight for their self-interests.”

The LTU is committed to fighting through nonviolent direct action campaigns for laws like [Just Cause](#) and [Right to Counsel](#) that would protect vulnerable tenants from unfair evictions. We are also committed to fighting for policies that protect tenants from gentrification, such as Rent Control and permanently affordable and tenant controlled [Social Housing](#). We believe that unless tenants across the city band together to fight for their rights, landlords and developers will only keep getting stronger, housing prices will continue to rise, and people will continue to be displaced from their neighborhoods.

“As poor and working class people in a city with a strong union history, we know our only defense against the power of united real estate capital is solidarity between tenants,” Erika Sommer of the Party for Socialism and Liberation, said.

The Louisville Tenants Union (LTU) is a tenant-led organization dedicated to protecting and fighting alongside poor and working class tenants, and whose mission is to create housing for every tenant in Louisville that is safe, decent, and permanently affordable. We believe that housing is a human right, not a commodity! We fight for an end to all evictions, and for community control of housing through the building of tenant power.

Please follow us on the following social media platforms to keep abreast of our current and future actions:

Twitter: [@LouTenantsUnion](#)

Instagram: louisvilletenants

Facebook: Louisville Tenants Union

Please [sign our petition to get Kathy Strom fired](#), and join us to fight with your neighbors for tenants rights!

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