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Louisville Tenants Union Celebrates Win, Continues Fighting for LMHA Residents

LOUISVILLE, KY, May 13, 2022 – The Louisville Tenants Union (LTU) has scored a major victory for one of its core leaders as it continues to fight its inaugural campaign for better living conditions for all public housing residents.

LTU leader Dominique Harris was rehoused to a safe and well-maintained house managed by SEIU/NCFO Local 320 union employees, far away from the horrific conditions perpetrated by CT Group, a lowest-bidding private contractor with the Louisville Metro Housing Authority (LMHA) which still manages over 700 public housing units across Louisville Metro.

The LTU pressured LMHA through a series of actions to rehouse Dominique, whose privately maintained public housing unit remains [rife with black mold](#).

Dominique and the LTU have noticed a huge difference between CT Group-managed properties like her old home, and those managed by LMHA union maintenance workers, where she now lives.

The effect of paying maintenance workers as little as possible in order to meet profit quotas for the executives at CT Group was on full display last week, when an LTU member was locked out of her apartment in Liberty Green because she broke the key off in her door. This occurred after “regular maintenance hours,” and it took CT Group days to respond. Our sister was only able to gain access to her apartment through the help of her neighbors and her 78-year-old-mother – *not* CT Group – who showed up to retrieve the broken key with tweezers and vice grips.

Chris Laird, an LMHA employee since 2009 and SEIU/NCFO member, offered his thoughts on the incident:

"I've worked at LMHA for nearly 13 years and did emergency after-hours calls for almost 10," he said. "When I first started with the Authority, I worked at Sheppard Square, before the property management was contracted out. I was able to buy my first car with the extra income from taking emergency calls. Working on call also gave me an opportunity to get to know our residents better. LMHA maintenance staff know our residents deserve respect and, in my opinion, there's no way a resident in any of the buildings we maintain would have been locked out of their home and unable to get assistance for days. Ever."

Alexis Hardesty, Organizing & Political Director for the National Conference of Firemen & Oilers, 32BJ SEIU, offered her thoughts as well:

"In my opinion this wouldn't happen in a building our members maintain. From what I know there's always someone to take the call, and the idea that a resident was locked out for days is appalling."

The LTU demands that LMHA maintain all buildings with LMHA bargaining unit maintenance staff SEIU/NCFO, and to cancel all remaining contracts with CT Group.

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The Louisville Tenants Union is a multi-racial and multi-generational 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](https://twitter.com/LouTenantsUnion)

Instagram: louisvilletenants

Facebook: Louisville Tenants Union

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

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