

SECTION III.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROCESS

- 1. Describe outreach activities undertaken to encourage and broaden meaningful community participation in the AFH process, including the types of outreach activities and dates of public hearings or meetings. Identify media outlets used and include a description of efforts made to reach the public, including those representing populations that are typically underrepresented in the planning process such as persons who reside in areas identified as R/ECAPs, persons who are limited English proficient (LEP), and person with disabilities. Briefly explain how these communications were designed to reach the broadest audience possible. For PHAs, identify meetings with the Resident Advisory Board and other resident outreach.**

The community participation process can be divided into three phases: planning phase, consultation and draft development phase, and public comment period.

Planning Phase

In developing the community engagement plan, MDHA consulted with the Mayor's Office, the Metro Human Relations Commission, and the Tennessee Fair Housing Council to create strategies for maximizing outreach. Using a matrix of protected classes and fair housing issues, groups representing each area (or multiple areas) were identified and targeted. As a result, a broad range of organizations were invited to and attended stakeholder meetings.

On March 9, 2017, MDHA Community Development staff met with MDHA's Council of Presidents/Resident Advisory Board to discuss the purpose of the AFH and the best methods to gather input from public housing residents. The resulting strategy was to hold meetings at every public housing property and provide a meal as an incentive.

Consultation Phase

The consultation phase began on March 14, 2017, when MDHA held a kickoff public hearing at Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, Inc. The purpose of the public hearing was to present and accept comments on the revised Citizen Participation Plan, as well as explain the Assessment of Fair Housing Process and introduce the Assessment Tool and HUD maps.

On March 20, 2017, MDHA representatives briefed members on Metro Council's Ad Hoc Affordable Housing Committee. The video is available through the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oLVeqltDwc&list=PLE145F765DEA54FDB&index=2>.

The community engagement plan sought input through three mechanisms: stakeholder consultations, community meetings, and meetings with public housing residents.

Stakeholder Consultations

MDHA held four (4) stakeholder consultations at its central office on topics focused on the seven protected classes under the Fair Housing Act. Two meetings focused on race, color, religion and national origin. One meeting focused on sex and familial status, and another on disability. MDHA staff consulted with public and private agencies that provide assisted housing, health services, and social services (including those focused on services to children, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, homeless persons), community-based and regionally based organizations that represent protected class members, and organizations that enforce fair housing laws.

Meeting dates were as follows:

Race, Color, Religion, and National Origin	March 22, 2017
Sex and Familial Status	March 23, 2017
Disability	March 24, 2017
Race, Color, Religion, and National Origin	March 30, 2017

In addition, MDHA held a consultation on disability at the 2017 Fair Housing Matters Conference and met with stakeholders by appointment.

Information about the meetings was provided by email to organizations identified during the planning phase and to MDHA's vast network of partners. Recipients were asked to share the information with interested parties.

Community Meetings

In collaboration with Promise Zone Implementation Partners, MDHA held five (5) community input meetings throughout Davidson County. (Outreach efforts for community meetings are described below.) In addition, the Councilman for District 1 held a community meeting in the Bordeaux area.

Meeting dates were as follows:

St. Luke's Community House	April 5, 2017
Bordeaux Library (District 1 meeting)	April 5, 2017
Woodbine Community Organization	April 13, 2017
Martha O'Bryan Center	April 18, 2017
Conexión Américas at Casa Azafrán	April 19, 2017
Urban League of Middle Tennessee	April 22, 2017

Meetings with Public Housing Residents

MDHA Community Development staff worked with MDHA's Resident Association Coordinator and Resident Association Presidents to publicize and coordinate meetings with public housing residents. Meetings were held at 17 different MDHA properties.

Meeting dates were as follows:

Cheatham Place Community Room	March 15, 2017
Hadley Park Towers Community Room	March 16, 2017
Sudekum Apartments Community Room	March 20, 2017
Vine Hill Apartments & Studio Community Room	March 20, 2017
Gernert Studio Apartments Community Room	March 21, 2017
Preston Taylor Apartments Community Room	March 22, 2017
Parkway Terrace Community Room	March 24, 2017
Napier Place Community Room	March 27, 2017
Edgefield Manor Community Room w/ Cayce Place Residents	March 27, 2017
Levy Place Community Room	March 27, 2017
Madison Towers Community Room	March 28, 2017
John Henry Hale Community Room w/ Neighborhood Housing Residents	March 29, 2017
Cumberland View Community Room	April 3, 2017
Carleen Batson Waller Manor Community Room	April 4, 2017
Parthenon Towers Community Room	April 4, 2017
Andrew Jackson Courts Community Room	April 6, 2017
Edgehill Apartments Community Room	April 11, 2017

Public Comment Period

The public comment period on the draft AFH was initially advertised to begin on Tuesday, May 23, 2017, and conclude at 9:00 a.m., central time, on Friday, July 7, 2017. Because the draft AFH was not released until 8:00 a.m., central time, on Friday, May 26, 2017, the public comment period was extended to Noon on Monday, July 10, 2017. Also, a sixth public hearing was added. Public notices for the initial public comment period and extended public comment period, including the additional public hearing, were publicized via the outreach methods described below. Both notices are provided in Appendix F.

Members of the public were able to download copies from MDHA's website at <http://www.nashville-mdha.org/?p=2011> or request copies by contacting the MDHA Community Development Department at 615-252-8505 or TDD at 615-252-8599. Also, copies were available at MDHA's Community Development Department, located at 712 South Sixth Street, Nashville, TN 37206, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. MDHA accepted written comments electronically at

fairhousingplan@nashville-mdha.org, by fax to 615-252-8533 (Attention: Fair Housing Plan), by mail to MDHA Community Development Department, Attention: Fair Housing Plan, P.O. Box 846, Nashville, TN 37202, or hand-delivered to MDHA Community Development Department, Attention: Fair Housing Plan, 712 South Sixth Street, Nashville TN 37206.

During the public comment period, MDHA hosted six (6) public hearings on the draft AFH:

Thursday, June 1, 2017
5:30 p.m.
West Precinct
5500 Charlotte Pike
Nashville, TN 37209

Tuesday, June 6, 2017
5:30 p.m.
Bordeaux Library
4000 Clarksville Pike
Nashville, TN 37218

Thursday, June 8, 2017
6:00 p.m.
East Library
206 Gallatin Road
Nashville, TN 37206

Tuesday, June 13, 2017
*Immediately following
the MDHA Board meeting
which begins at 11:30 a.m.*
MDHA Collaboration Center
Gerald F. Nicely Building
701 South 6th Street
Nashville, TN 37206

Wednesday, June 14, 2017
5:30 p.m.
Hispanic Family Foundation
3927 Nolensville Pike
Nashville, TN 37211

Saturday, June 24, 2017
10:00 a.m.
John Henry Hale Apartments
Community Room
1433 Jo Johnston Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203

MDHA requested that any person needing reasonable accommodation or language assistance/services to contact 615-252-8555 or TDD at 615-252-8599 at least five (5) business days prior to the date of the meeting they planned to attend.

Outreach for Community Meetings and Public Hearings

In publicizing community meetings and public hearings, MDHA followed its Citizen Participation Plan. Outreach efforts included:

- **Publication:** publishing notices of meetings in English and Spanish in *The Tennessean*, the *Tribune*, and *El Crucero*.
- **Social Media:** posting notices via its social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, Google+, and LinkedIn) and asking partners and the public to share these posts. Social media analytics from MDHA postings are provided in Appendix G.

- **Email Outreach:** sending an email through the vast distribution lists (over 300 recipients) as well as utilizing Metro’s email network and requesting that persons receiving an email to forward to others.
- **Website:** posting notices on its website and attempting to coordinate with Metro to post on its website.
- **Posting at Locations:** posting copies of the notices at its administrative offices and public housing properties and request that Metro and partner agencies post notices at their offices.
- **Radio Ads:** running (40) 30-second commercials on the Spanish radio station Bonita 1380 from June 11th to June 14th. The host of “Common Cents: The Money Show” on WFSK 88.1fm mentioned the AFH during broadcasts on April 13th and June 22nd.
- **Video and Audio Recordings:** making a video recording of the first public hearing and audio recordings of the subsequent public hearings available on its website.

2. Provide a list of organizations consulted during the community participation process.

During the planning and consultation phases, MDHA consulted with a wide range of stakeholders from the nonprofit, private, and government sectors who represented diverse interests related to fair housing.

Organization	Type of Organization	Industry
Affordable Housing Resources	Nonprofit	Housing
AIM Center	Nonprofit	Disability Services
AIM Center	Nonprofit	Disability Services
Be a Helping Hand Foundation	Nonprofit	Housing
BRIDGES	Nonprofit	Services for the Deaf
Centerstone	Nonprofit	Mental Health Services
City of Franklin	Government	Housing & Community Development
City of Murfreesboro	Government	Housing & Community Development
Conexión Américas	Nonprofit	Immigrant services
Family & Children's Service Intern	University	Community Service
First Tennessee	Private	Banking
Freeman Webb	Private	Housing
Greater Nashville Apartment Assoc.	Private	Housing
HUD	Government	Housing
Legal Aid Society	Nonprofit	Legal
Martha O'Bryan	Nonprofit	Family services
Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity & Empowerment	Government	Housing & Homelessness
MDHA Resident Advisory Board/Council	Advisory Council	Public Housing

Organization	Type of Organization	Industry
of Presidents		
Metro Council Affordable Housing Ad Hoc Committee	Government	Housing
Metro Homelessness Commission	Government	Homeless Services
Metro Human Relations Commission	Government	Fair Housing
Metro Nashville Community Budgeting	Nonprofit	Advocate
Metro Nashville Public Schools	Government	Education
Metro Office of Family Safety	Government	Domestic Violence
Metro Public Health Department	Government	Health
Metro Social Services	Government	Services
Metro Transit Authority	Government	Transportation
Middle Tennessee State University	University	Higher Education
Nashville Downtown Partnership	Nonprofit	Business
Nashville International Center for Empowerment	Nonprofit	Immigrant services
NeedLink	Nonprofit	Homeless Services
Neighborhood Health	Nonprofit	Healthcare
New Level Community Development Corp.	Private	Housing
Open Table Nashville	Nonprofit	Homeless Services
Park Center	Nonprofit	Homeless Services
Salvation Army	Nonprofit	Homeless Services
South Central Development District	Government	Services
St. Luke's Community House	Nonprofit	Family services
Stein & Vargas	Private	Legal
Street Works	Nonprofit	HIV Services
TN Commission on Aging & Disability	Government	Aging & Disability Services
TN Department of Economic & Community Development	Government	Community Development
TN Foreign Language Institute	Nonprofit	Translation Services
TN Housing Development Agency	Government	Housing
TN Human Rights Commission	Government	Fair Housing
Upper Cumberland Development District	Government	Services
Urban League of Middle Tennessee	Government	Empowerment Programs
Voice for Reduction of Poverty	Nonprofit	Advocate
Woodbine Community Organization	Nonprofit	Housing

3. Describe whether the outreach activities elicited broad community participation during the development of the AFH. If there was low participation among particular protected class groups, what additional steps might improve or increase community participation in the future, including overall participation or among specific class groups.

MDHA's elicited input from over 300 residents and stakeholders of Nashville-Davidson County and the region. By collaborating with the Promise Zone Implementation Partners

to host community meetings, MDHA was able to engage residents in every quadrant of the county. Although, some of the community meetings had small attendance numbers, the information gathered from those that were in attendance was very valuable in establishing goals and priorities for the City and MDHA.

Participation was particularly low among the immigrant and refugee populations. During a few of the community meetings, ideas were solicited on how to better reach these residents. Stakeholders suggested providing information in more than just English and Spanish, and reaching out to radio stations that broadcast in other languages could be ways to increase attendance by these groups. In response, MDHA ran advertisements on the Spanish radio station Bonita. Stakeholders explained that many immigrants and refugees are worried about the current political climate and are afraid to attend meetings to discuss issues that they may be experiencing.

The first public hearing on the draft AFH was broadcast on the Metro Nashville Network and shown repeatedly during the public comment period. As discussed previously, MDHA provided a link to YouTube so residents could view it at their convenience and made audio recordings from subsequent public hearings available, too.

4. Summarize all comments obtained in the community participation process. Include a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons why.

Planning Phase

- A summary of comments received at the Kickoff Public Hearing held on March 14, 2017, and MDHA's responses, is provided in Appendix A.

Consultation Phase

- A summary of comments received at stakeholder consultations is available in Appendix B.
- A summary of comments received at community meetings is available in Appendix C.
- A summary of comments received at meetings with public housing residents is available in Appendix D.

Public Comment Period

- A summary of comments received at public hearings and submitted in writing during the public comment period, as well as a summary of comments/views not accepted and the reasons why, is provided in Appendix E.