



OPEN COMMUNITIES  
ALLIANCE



present an online

# Community Conversation

May 10, 2021

***Affordable Housing:***

***Myths, Benefits and Solutions***

***“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter”***

*Today's Community Conversation is generously supported by the Norma and Natale Sestero Fund administered by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving*

*The Norma and Natale Sestero Fund was created through the estate of Natale and Norma Sestero, longtime residents of Glastonbury, with the goal to benefit the people and institutions of the town. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for the 29-town Greater Hartford region and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for area residents.*

[www.glastonburymlkci.org](http://www.glastonburymlkci.org)



## Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative

The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, that was formed in 2001. GMLKCI's mission is to increase knowledge about, and understanding of, the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to provide leadership and active engagement to build an inclusive community. We believe that bringing people together to discuss openly and honestly social justice issues will help build a more inclusive and tolerant community. As Dr. King noted, "**... whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly...**" and "**...the quality of a community is determined by how members of the community relate to one another.**"

The goal of this Community Conversation is to inform and inspire Glastonbury residents to become actively involved in social justice issues by discussing in an open and congenial manner issues which may divide us or bind us together as individuals, families and a community.

All of the social justice issues discussed during this evening's Community Conversation are addressed in light of Dr. King's principles.

**"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."**

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The Open Communities Alliance (OCA) is a Connecticut-based civil rights organization that promotes access to opportunity through education, organizing, advocacy, research, and partnerships. OCA works to build an urban-suburban interracial coalition and aims to confront CT's long history of segregation. OCA has initiated legal advocacy in CT, challenging zoning that eliminates the possibility of creating affordable housing in towns. OCA believes that towns need to overhaul their zoning in order to meet the regional need for affordable housing.



TALK (Truth in Action with Love and Kindness, Inc.) is a nonpartisan organization, formed to provide educational opportunities to the citizens of the area, and to promote dialog about social, environmental, and political issues. TALK'S goal is to fight injustice and protect basic rights for all people through truth, compassion and nonviolence, by fostering dialog between opposing viewpoints, while working to improve the lives of our fellow citizens.

## Program

### Welcome and Introduction

David O'Connor

### Our Speakers:

**Erin Boggs**, Executive Director of OCA

**Sam Giffin**, OCA Policy and Data Analyst

**Taniqua Huguley**, OCA Outreach Director

**Martha Galvez**, Executive Director of the  
Housing Solutions Lab at NYU's Furman  
Center

### Conversation—Questions and Answers

Please enter your Questions into the Zoom “Chat”

### Closing Remarks and Appreciation

David O'Connor

Please complete the program evaluation survey that will appear as you exit Zoom. Your opinions are important to our programming and fundraising efforts.

## **Erin Boggs**

**Erin Boggs** is the Founder and Executive Director of OCA. Ms. Boggs, a resident of Glastonbury, has worked on issues of equity, particularly in the context of housing, for almost 20 years. Ms. Boggs is a graduate of Wesleyan University and Georgetown University School of Law. Ms. Boggs served as Deputy Director of the CT Fair Housing Center, where she focused on opportunity and race, and worked for the CT American Civil Liberties Union and the Harrison Institute for Public Law at Georgetown University Law School and at the Center for National Policy. In addition, Ms. Boggs was a fair housing advisor for Sustainable Community Initiative grants in the CT region. Ms. Boggs has contributed to a number of publications addressing zoning, opportunity, equity, and affirmatively furthering fair housing, and to the Connecticut Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice.

## **Sam Giffin**

**Sam Giffin** is the OCA Policy and Data Analyst. Mr. Giffin received a BA degree in public policy analysis from UNC - Chapel Hill and a MA degree in city planning from UC Berkeley, where he focused on affordable housing, community development, and analytical research methods. As a grad student, Mr. Giffin conducted research on San Francisco's largest public housing redevelopment initiative. He also served as a teaching assistant in courses on planning research methods and global economic history. Prior to grad school he worked in homelessness services in San Francisco and before that managed several farmers' markets in Washington, D.C.

## **Taniqua Huguley**

**Taniqua Huguley** is the OCA Outreach Director. Ms. Huguley joined the organization after completing a Fulbright Fellowship focusing on girls in the criminal justice system in Trinidad and Tobago. A native of New York City, Taniqua also has deep roots in Connecticut as the result of her time as an undergraduate, graduate student, and employee at Trinity College, where she completed a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Master of Arts in Public Policy. For the last five years she has coordinated and promoted events for the networking company Small Business Night Out. Her experience also includes campaign organizing and work with the New York City Housing Authority.

## Martha Galvez

**Martha Galvez** is the executive director of the Housing Solutions Lab at New York University's Furman Center, which helps small and mid-sized cities plan, launch, and evaluate effective and equitable housing policies. Ms. Galvez's expertise is in housing and homelessness policy, with a focus on interventions aimed at improving housing stability and choice for low-income families. She has held research and policy positions at The Urban Institute, the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, the West Coast Poverty Center at the University of Washington, the Seattle Housing Authority, the New York City Department of Small Business Services, and the New York City Citizens Housing and Planning Council. Martha earned a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University, and master's and doctoral degrees from New York University.

**The Town of Glastonbury Human Relations Commission** is available to assist any resident who, because of race, color, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or intellectual, mental or physical disability, has been discriminated against in a manner prohibited by the laws of the State of Connecticut or the Town of Glastonbury. For additional information visit the Town's website or contact the Commission through the Human Resources Department, (860) 652-7501.



**Thank you for joining us for tonight's program.** Your attendance encourages the work we do as members of the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative to make Glastonbury a more inclusive place to live and visit.

While all of our programs are free, we are dependent on you for financial support. The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is a 501(c)(3) corporation and all donations are tax deductible. **Please consider supporting our efforts with a financial contribution.** You can send your tax deductible contributions to:

**GMLKCI Treasurer  
62 Chimneysweep Hill Road  
Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033**

**Also please consider supporting the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative through the Amazon Smiles program.**

Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Select **Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative** to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to GMLKCI.

**You can also support GMLKCI by using the DONATE button on our web site—[www.glastonburymlkci.org](http://www.glastonburymlkci.org)**

***The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative would like to thank our Sponsors, who make this work possible***



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