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October 22, 2021

Mayor Lucas and
Members of the Kansas City Council
KCMO City Hall
414 E. 12th Street 64106

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center, I am writing to express my opposition to proposed ordinance #210966. This measure stands in direct contrast to our mission of creating healthy people in a healthy community. Further:

- **The measure would limit our organization’s voice in matters of improving health in the 3rd District.** The legislation specifically notes that the final decision on whether to proceed with bike infrastructure projects will lie with neighborhood associations providing written support. This benchmark excludes the voices of organizations like ours who may not be a neighborhood association but do a great deal to improve the health of neighbors in the 3rd District.
- **The legislation opts our district out of the Complete Streets ordinance.** When the Complete Streets ordinance was adopted in 2017, it was stated very clearly that the standard set by the ordinance was that everyone in the city, regardless of their mode of transportation, was entitled to safe, reliable infrastructure. Opting the city out of this critical legislation is not only harmful for people who bike, but sends the message that they and others don’t deserve safe, reliable infrastructure. It sends the absolute wrong message about the positive health outcomes the 3rd District is supposed to be striving for.
- **Taking this step would complicate efforts to improve outcomes in the LifeX districts.** The 3rd District includes a number of zip codes which fall under the LifeX designation, which identifies parts of the city with especially poor health outcomes. Taking out bike lanes, and effectively banning future bike lanes, will significantly hinder our ability to guide residents in the direction of healthy lifestyles to reverse the troubling trends in these zip codes.

In conclusion, Samuel U. Rodgers strongly opposes this legislation and asks each of you to vote against it.

Regards,

Bob Theis
Interim Chief Executive Officer
Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center

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