

May 1, 2023

Neighborhood Planning & Development Committee
414 E 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

RE: Short-Term Rental Ordinances 230267 & 230268

Dear Chair Barnes and Committee Members,

Neighborhoods are a core strength of Kansas City – we live, work, and play here – and we volunteer our time to ensure they remain vibrant and safe. The overwhelming growth of non-resident short term rentals is changing the very fabric of our communities. This shift monetizes the work of community members who have invested in revitalizing, stabilizing, and maintaining residential districts, disrupting the sense of community built from those efforts, and presenting it as a staged environment for tourism.

As Kansas City realizes significant accomplishments in many areas, it faces crisis-level housing shortages, unacceptable levels of violent crime, and continued shortfalls in infrastructure maintenance. The continued expansion of short term rentals exacerbates these challenges and as communicated during recent community discussions, warrants updates to the existing policy with specific focus on:

- Restricting further expansion of non-resident short term rentals in residential zoning categories and implementing density restrictions in other zoning categories.
- Engaging booking platforms to require permits and compliance with local regulations.
- Implementing appropriate fees and fines to support program staffing and oversight.
- Strengthening enforcement provisions of the program to prioritize safety and quality of life for Kansas City residents.

The Westwood Park Homes Association supports the recommended language prepared by a coalition of Midtown neighborhoods, the Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Committee, and representatives of the most impacted neighborhoods in the urban core. We ask the members of the Neighborhood Planning and Development Committee to adopt committee substitutes for 230267 and 230268 that reflect those efforts and recommend passage to the full Council.

Sincerely,

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