
Ordinance 260401

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To Public Testimony <Public.Testimony@kcmo.org>

Cc Melissa Patterson Hazley <Melissa.Patterson-Hazley@kcmo.org>; MayorQ <MayorQ@kcmo.org>; Kathy Valenti Maggio <kathyvalenti2016@gmail.com>

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Good morning:

As a downtown resident for the last 25 years, thank you for the hard work of elected officials and staff to reform vacant buildings policy. The reforms are a solid step in the right direction.

Columbus Park, like many neighborhoods, has watched its history crumble and naturally affordable housing deteriorate because of irresponsible investors. Most of our blight is due to greed, not poverty.

Investors treat us like a line on a spreadsheet in their real estate portfolio, and they simply do not care if these blighted conditions encourage crime, squatters, and arson. They pay next to nothing in property taxes while they degrade our property values and safety. These investors run the gamut from small private owners to institutions.

We have many vacant buildings and lots that should be producing tax revenue for Kansas City and improving our quality of life. They should be places to live and to build a small business. We are tired of being held hostage by people who do not live in our community.

Thank you for the commitment to this issue and we hope these ordinances pass with robust enforcement. Other cities do not permit this kind of degradation of housing and neighborhoods. It's time Kansas City did the same.

Regards,

Kate and Michael Barsotti