



May 21, 2026

The Honorable Quinton Lucas and Distinguished Members of the City Council  
City of Kansas City, Missouri  
City Hall, 414 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of LISC Greater Kansas City, I write to express our strong support for Ordinance 260484, to call for an election regarding issuing \$100 Million in General Obligation (GO) bonds to support the Housing Trust Fund. Additionally, we strongly support Ordinance 260485, to call for an election to renew the Central City Economic Development (CCED) sales tax for an additional 10 years.

### **Ordinance 260484 – \$100M GO Bonds for Housing Trust Fund - SUPPORT**

As many of you may recall, in 2021, LISC and other stakeholders thru the Promoting Equitable Neighborhoods (PEN) task force worked closely with City officials and staff to propose a governance model for the city’s Housing Trust Fund, as well as supported its initial capitalization of \$25 Million from American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds. At the time, LISC “committed to leading the fundraising effort for a 1:1 match, up to \$25 Million, from philanthropic, corporate, and individual donors”. We also supported the 2022 General Obligation bond election to invest an additional \$50 Million in the Housing Trust Fund. We believed it was important to demonstrate to the public how their tax dollars would leverage additional investments.

We are pleased to share that our internal tracking demonstrates we have far exceeded those initial projections. **Over the past 5 years, local foundations have committed in excess of \$90 Million to affordable housing efforts**, much of that in the past 2-3 years. This conservatively reflects the known investments from major area foundations. Additionally, **LISC Greater Kansas City has invested more than \$16 Million of our own resources to support the creation and preservation of over 850 units of housing** in Kansas City during the same timeframe. Many area non-profit and for-profit developers have also raised millions of dollars from individuals and other philanthropy for their projects, and area financial institutions are investing hundreds of millions of dollars in affordable housing annually.

While none of these funds are flowing directly through the City, they are effectively working in partnership, by going to support the same projects and developers that the City’s Housing Trust Fund, CCED, and other public investments are being awarded to, thus driving down the level of investment required from City funds on a per-unit basis. If you wish to learn more about how your public funds are leveraging these philanthropic and private investments, we would welcome the opportunity to convene some of these other investors to share their perspectives and insights with you. Our community should rest assured, that **the City’s investment in the Housing Trust**



**Fund served as a catalyst for significant additional investment in affordable housing** from other entities.

Unfortunately, while the resources have increased significantly, the demand for those resources has also increased, due to inflation, high construction costs, and additional pressures from housing costs outpacing incomes. Nevertheless, we are making progress as a community towards addressing the affordable housing crisis, and we must capitalize on the momentum and keep pushing forward. There is no single solution to solving our housing crisis, but each program, policy, and funding source plays an important role. The Housing and Community Development Department should be commended for their effort to stand up this program from scratch over the past 5 years, as well as their commitment to transparency and data, as demonstrated through their annual report, online dashboard, and public bus tours of projects. The City's Housing Trust Fund is an effective and efficient program. By supporting Ordinance 260484, you demonstrate your continued emphasis on investing in affordable housing. Please know that your commitment will continue to leverage additional outside investments for the foreseeable future.

**Ordinance 260485 – renew Central City Economic Development sales tax - SUPPORT**

LISC has witnessed first-hand the incredible benefits of the Central City Economic Development (CCED) sales tax program. During the pandemic, we were pleased to assist the CCED Board by managing a small business COVID-relief grant program, getting critical resources into the hands of our small businesses during a very challenging time. More recently, we were honored to recognize the CCED sales tax district as the “Economic Development Champion” at our 2025 Thrive celebration. CCED resources have been used as early and flexible capital in many of the projects that LISC has also invested in, and we have seen how, but for the CCED investment, those projects would likely have fallen short. Over the past 10 years, our understanding is **CCED has awarded nearly \$100 Million for critical housing and economic development projects, leveraging \$1 Billion in additional investments from other sources.** This is exactly the type of investment our community needs and we encourage your support of Ordinance 260485 to seek the voters' approval for an additional 10-year renewal.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with the City on how best to comprehensively address the housing crisis and economic disparities that exist in our community. Your support for Ordinance 260484 and Ordinance 260485 helps to keep Kansas City and our entire region moving towards a better tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Jolley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Geoff Jolley  
Executive Director