From: Clerk
To: Rice, Howard
Subject: FW: Support for Ordinance No. 250496
Date: Monday, June 23, 2025 11:00:49 AM

Forwarding message below.

From: Don Wallace <123dhwallace@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 8:52 AM
To: Public Testimony <Public.Testimony@kcmo.org>; Clerk <Clerk@KCMO.org>
Cc: Bough, Andrea <Andrea.Bough@kcmo.org>; Lucas, Quinton <Quinton.Lucas@kcmo.org>; Rea, Crispin <Crispin.Rea@kcmo.org>; Curls, Darrell <Darrell.Curls@kcmo.org>; Rogers, Wes <Wes.Rogers@kcmo.org>
Subject: Support for Ordinance No. 250496

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KCMO City Clerk,

This comment concerns Ordinance No. 250496 please distribute this to the Finance, Governance and Public Safety Committee and add it to the public record.

Thank you,

Don Wallace

June 23, 2025

TO: Finance, Governance and Public Safety Committee Chairperson Andrea Bough, Vice Chair Quinton Lucas and Members Crispin Rea, Darrell Curls, and Wes Rogers

RE: Support for Ordinance No. 250496

As a volunteer working with the Thomas Hart Benton Group (THBG) of the Sierra Club Missouri Chapter, with more than 5,000 members and supporters in Kansas City, MO, I write to urge the Council to vote in favor of Ordinance No. 250496.

We support proposed Ordinance No. 250496, which will consolidate the current duties of the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) and the Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC) into one singular environmental advisory body. **Historically, EMC and the CPSC have**, respectively, **provided** to the City Council, City staff, and all other boards and commissions of the City **critical information** regarding the issues of environmental planning, management, and compliance, and provided findings and recommendations that have informed City policy and operations for implementing the City's climate plans.

As stated in a preambular paragraph of this legislation, the newly constituted EMC

will enjoy the Council's affirmation of the goal of enabling:

> "… **robust community involvement and engagement in developing City policies** that will impact the well-being and future of the City, and ensure that these policies incorporate City goals, including, but not limited to, those related to sustainability, environmental justice and equity, and climate action are incorporated into city operations and policy."

We specifically highlight our agreement that robust community involvement and engagement will be **essential for the City to fulfill the pledges** made by the Council to the residents of Kansas City **in the updated Climate Protection and Resiliency Plan**, adopted in Resolution No. 220596 on August 25, 2022. The Plan was developed in a transparent and inclusive stakeholder process that emphasized inclusion of those most impacted by climate change.

In the newly reconfigured EMC as envisioned by this proposed ordinance, we see a recognition of a necessity of **continuing the process of meaningful community engagement** for the City's ability to achieve the targets of the Climate Plan, that will provide a clean and healthy climate for current and future generations of our city in a socially just manner. This newly constituted community advisory board will help ensure that the community works as a whole in fulfilling the pledges made under the current Climate Protection and Resiliency Plan.

In the long history of broad reliance on citizen participation in many advisory commissions and boards, City governance has benefitted greatly. This ordinance presents an opportunity for continuing the hard work of two of citizens advisory entities by combining their charges and tasks **in a more dynamic structure**. The present-day challenges confronting the City demand a concerted effort by all constituencies; this newly devised EMC can be instrumental in meeting this demand.

Please vote in favor of this proposed No. 250496.

Don Wallace, Sixth District Resident
Member, Legislative Committee, Thomas Hart Benton Group
Sierra Club Missouri Chapter