

From: [Rob Callus](#)
To: [Public Testimony](#)
Subject: Comment on Resolution 260071
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Hello,

I'm reaching out as a new resident of Kansas City who works in the field of public health at the county level. I work to build the capacity of folks in our area to better respond to the challenges of substance use and overdose fatalities, and one of the reasons we do that is through providing non-police alternatives to care. The evidence for the effectiveness of these kinds of diversion strategies is strong – people are better able to get the care they need when they receive dignified and non-carceral safety, care, and support.

I know that the police are not going anywhere despite my abolitionist beliefs. In the meantime while the police still enforce our laws, I want our public safety folks to respond to folks in crisis with care. I do not, however, believe that the current system encourages care for those within the carceral "justice" system. Programs like REACH and the Community Resource Center do an amazing job of providing this kind of care exactly because they exist as much outside of those structures as they can.

It is with this on my heart that I am reaching out to you all to reconsider your support of Resolution 260071. I love that our city has these programs, and I would love to see them continue growing and flourishing. From my experience and vantage point, housing these within KCPD's Central Patrol Station will stymie their hard-fought success and progress attained through the voice and action of our community.

Disclaimer: These thoughts are all my own – I do not represent any institution or organization to which I belong, and these are not statements on their behalf.

Rob Callus
Kansas City Resident