

From: [Sanders, Marilyn](#)
To: [Sanders, Monica](#); [Rice, Howard](#)
Subject: FW: Please SupportRight to Counsel!
Date: Thursday, December 9, 2021 5:35:17 PM

FYI

Please attach

From: Tiana Caldwell <tiana@kctenants.org>

Sent: Thursday, December 9, 2021 3:41 PM

To: Bough, Andrea <Andrea.Bough@kcmo.org>; Brandon.Elligton@kcmo.org; Fowler, Dan <Dan.Fowler@kcmo.org>; Bunch, Eric <Eric.Bunch@kcmo.org>; Hall, Heather <Heather.Hall@kcmo.org>; Shields, Katheryn <Katheryn.Shields@kcmo.org>; O'Neill, Kevin <Kevin.O'Neill@kcmo.org>; McManus, Kevin <Kevin.McManus@kcmo.org>; Barnes, Lee <Lee.Barnes@kcmo.org>; Sanders, Marilyn <Marilyn.Sanders@kcmo.org>; Robinson, Melissa <Melissa.Robinson@kcmo.org>; Parks-Shaw, Ryana <Ryana.Parks-Shaw@kcmo.org>; Loar, Teresa <Teresa.Loar@kcmo.org>; MayorQ <MayorQ@kcmo.org>

Subject: Please SupportRight to Counsel!

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Good afternoon KCMO Council,

My name is Tiana Caldwell. I am a leader and organizer with KC Tenants. I have spent years in crisis, mostly related to my housing. I've been evicted more times than I can count-- both through a formal court process and outside of one. People I love have been harmed by this system. My son AJ has had to grow up quicker than any kid ever should. It's not right.

I'm writing today to seek your support for Tenants' Right to Counsel in Kansas City. We have been working in coalition with tenants, low-wage workers, lawyers, and other community partners on this policy, which we introduced last Thursday with our sponsor, Councilwoman Andrea Bough.

Tenants' Right to Counsel is the guaranteed right to legal representation in all landlord-tenant cases. Twelve other cities and three states have implemented this right in the last several years, with much success in decreasing eviction filings, keeping tenants in their homes, helping to end homelessness and saving money for public programs.

- [HERE](#) is the Tenants' Right to Counsel policy (Ordinance 211067)
- [HERE](#) is our Summary / FAQ / Community Support Letter

Over 45 organizations signed a [letter](#) in support of Tenants' Right to Counsel, representing labor, faith, civil rights, and community organizations. Supporters include (but are not limited to): ACLU of Missouri, Kansas City Public Schools, LISC of Greater Kansas City, Urban Neighborhood Initiative, The Urban League, NAACP - Kansas City, SEIU Local 1, and several neighborhood associations and tenant unions.

We would so appreciate support from the full City Council. We believe that this policy is a commonsense, humane policy that will make Kansas City a better place for all of us.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or feedback. Thank you so much,

Tiana and the KC Tenants team--

Tiana Caldwell

She/Her

Leader and Board President with KC Tenants

c (816) 772-6674

[@TianaCaldwell15](#)