

Westside Heritage Urban Renewal Plan

Managed by EDC KC and HEDC

Dear City Planning Commissioners,

HEDC has been engaged with many residents and business owners of the Westside community in creating a plan that advocates for affordable housing and job creation. As a result, we created the Westside Heritage Urban Renewal Plan to leverage a 10-year tax abatement for qualified long-term residents and small business owners who live, work, and create jobs in the Westside neighborhoods. This plan is like the approved Eastside Urban Renewal Plan that has been approved to protect their communities and we ask for the same protective plan.

We supported the LCRA recommendation for the 10-year tax abatement and write to you the City Planning Commission to approve this plan. This plan incorporates protective measures against property tax increases while long-term homeowners and small business freeze our taxes while upgrading our properties. Providing long-term residents living in the Westside who provide affordable rental properties a chance to keep rents affordable.

This new program is designed to reward long-term residents who make positive investments in their properties. We can make interior and exterior improvements that will allow us to remove barriers as we age in the community no other plan offers interior improvements.

It is imperative that we incentivize long-term residents and facilitate reinvestment into their residential, rental, and commercial properties while maintaining our affordability options.

We ask for your approval and forward this plan to the city council.

Sincerely,



1013 W 29th ST

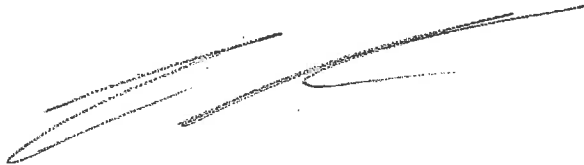
KC MO

October 14, 2023

Dear city planning commission,

I am writing in support of the Westside Heritage Urban Renewal Plan. The Westside Heritage Urban Renewal Plan focuses on protecting long term residents (persons residing within the Westside for 10 consecutive years or more) and small businesses (businesses that have been established here on the Westside 10 years or more), which in turn preserves the unique fabric of this community. For decades the Westside has been overlooked, underserved, and an undervalued community. This plan can help right what has been done, and what people on the Westside are now facing: the negative consequences of gentrification: a community finally being seen but being heard that is up to you.

Through segregation efforts, community members have low educational attainment, low income, and have various health issues, which keep them in a vicious cycle of trying to make it day to day. They truly only have their homes as an asset, and as a precious gift of passing their homes from one generation to the next. If my family chooses to opt into the Westside Heritage Urban Renewal Plan, I will be generationally blessed with an affordable home that will keep a roof over my head or any family member of mine that needs it. I have been fighting personally to break the cycle of a system that was put in place to keep me down. I would appreciate it if you would put yourself in the "Westsider" shoes and realize how this plan can positively affect Westsiders that need it. Not only does this plan freeze tax's but it also helps those who need home repairs/ updates their homes due to aging, health ailments, and deteriorating infrastructure.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tessa Ramirez', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

-Tessa Ramirez

911 ½ Avenida Cesar E Chavez

Kansas City, MO 6410

October 16, 2023

Dear City Planning Commission:

I am writing in support of the Westside Heritage Urban Renewal Plan. I am a life-long, retired, on-a fixed- income resident of the Westside. I have lived in our family home for over 75 years. As a senior citizen in the Community, I am interested in what happens in the neighborhood. I am especially interested in the how the property taxes have unfairly hit the area and how much the taxes jumped from one year to the next. I am in that group of Westside residents and in the group of City residents that have been adversely affected by the unfair and ridiculously high increase in property taxes.

The Westside Heritage program can help in us in this situation. It provides another program option so a person can get tax abatement and apply costs to home improvement in the process. We are all going to need this because all of us will age and need certain physical accommodations in our homes. This program will also help fight against Gentrification. In recent years, there have been five new overly-expensive houses built within a radius of a block or two of my house.

The program enables residents to keep their taxes at the same level for a 10-year period and the residents can fix up their homes as well. Westside residents need this program as well as the 353 program. We need both programs!! Not just one or the other. This program provides a direct path to a City department that can assist residents on a neutral confidential basis. It does not require turning in a house title. Both programs can serve the area. There is room for both programs and there is a need for these and more resources to help the area in a positive manner.

I implore you to move this program forward. As a senior citizen, I, and the other Westside residents need this program.

Sincerely,


Esther O. Lona

2336 Belleview Ave
Kansas City, MO 6410

October 16, 2023

Dear City Planning Commission:

I am writing in support of the Westside Heritage Urban Renewal Plan. I am a life-long resident of the Westside. In addition, I am currently retired (but I had a business in the Westside for over 45 years) and I am on a fixed income. I have been involved in Westside Community Affairs ranging from City, County, State, and School Board elections and other Westside issues such as housing, school closings, social service agency management, and youth improvement, for over 55 years. As a senior citizen in the Community, I have a great interest in the neighborhood's development.

The Westside Heritage program is clearly a good thing for the Community. This program will be another effective effort fight against Gentrification in the area while allowing Westside residents to improve the area.

The program enables residents to freezing their taxes for a 10-year period as well as allows them to improve their main asset, i.e., their home. This provision is valuable to those residents who have to improve their home not just for increased value, but to meet their growing health needs as they age in the golden years of their life. I am particularly interested in this provision because it will benefit me and other senior citizens who reside in the Westside.

In the most forceful terms possible, I am stating, that you pass this program. The Westside is dire need of this program. The benefits of tax abatement and property improvement will go a long way to help in the Community's positive growth.

Sincerely,


Charles O. Lona

911 Avenida Cesar E Chavez

Kansas City, MO 64108

October 16, 2023

Dear City Planning Commission:

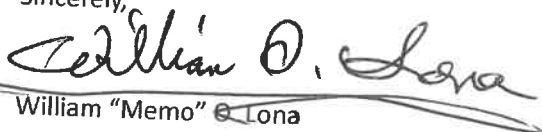
I am writing in support of the Westside Heritage Urban Renewal Plan. I am a retired, fixed-income resident of the Westside. In the past I have been involved with Westside issues on a professional basis as well as on a volunteer basis. I have worked in three agencies involved with the Westside; Guadalupe Center, Hispanic Economic Development Corporation, and the Kauffman Foundation's Project Early. In the Foundation project I worked with and provided funding to Guadalupe Center, Westside Housing Organization, Mattie Rhodes Counseling and Art Center, the Westside Neighborhood Association, the City Planning Department for the Westside Strategic Plan. This was the first City Neighborhood Plan to be computerized and placed online. Additionally, I also provided funds to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. I have also been involved with volunteer activities ranging from local political elections, cultural events, educational matters, employment matters, and acted in act in advocacy roles for the area. I have been active in a more limited role in recent years. However, I have acquired and retained a more than competent knowledge level of the area.

The Westside Heritage program has grown out of a Westside need for tax abatement and home improvement. In addition, the program can help against Gentrification in the area. This is a major problem that not only confronts the Community on an economic basis; but it is threatening the very fabric of the cultural/ethnic composition of the Westside. The long-term Mexican American and other Minority residents, as well as long-term moderate and low-income residents are being driven out of their own historically Latino enclave in Kansas City, MO. The Minority and Lower income residents are being replaced by new higher-income White residents.

The program provides tax abatement, home improvement, and protection against price gauging tax increases, and fights against Gentrification. It aids senior citizens to make needed home improvements based on age/health related requirements such as a walk-in shower versus an inaccessible bathtub. What can be wrong with these program components? There is nothing wrong with the components!! The Westside Heritage Program has met all the requirements for this type of a program. These are indisputable facts as shown by the presentations here and in the Community.

It is imperative that you approve of the program. This is a great opportunity to show the nation that two programs, this program and the 353 program can coexist in and benefit a Community. Why can't we be the first neighborhood in the Country to have these tools to help community residents and fight against Gentrification. We, the people in the Westside, need and must have this program. Help us in overcoming long time barriers to the continuance and development of the Westside in a positive manner. As someone once said, "We can have unity in diversity". Benito Juarez, the great Mexican President, once said "Respect for the rights of others means peace". Help us, help ourselves and move this program forward.

Sincerely,



William "Memo" Lora

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We supported the LCRA recommendation for the 10-year tax abatement and write to you the City Planning Commission to approve this plan. This plan incorporates protective measures against property tax increases while long-term homeowners and small business freeze our taxes while upgrading our properties. Providing long-term residents living in the Westside who provide affordable rental properties a chance to keep rents affordable.

This new program is designed to reward long-term residents who make positive investments in their properties. We can make interior and exterior improvements that will allow us to remove barriers as we age in the community no other plan offers interior improvements.

It is imperative that we incentivize long-term residents and facilitate reinvestment into their residential, rental, and commercial properties while maintaining our affordability options.

We ask for your approval and forward this plan to the city council.

Sincerely,

Helen Zoman
2713 Jarboe St
KCMO 64108

2818 Summit

Kansas City, MO 6410

October 16, 2023

Dear City Planning Commission:

I am writing in support of the Westside Heritage Urban Plan. I am both a resident and Business Owner in the Westside Community. I have been a life-long resident and have seen both good and bad changes come to the neighborhood. This program is clearly a benefit to the Community. I happen to be enrolled in the other program, the 353 one. But, this program is clearly another tool that other Westside residents can use to help the Westside grow and prosper for their own good. This program can be another effective tool to fight against Gentrification which has come to the area and is detrimental to area residents.

The program benefits the residents by freezing their taxes for a 10-year period as well as allows them to improve their main asset, i.e., their home. This provision is valuable to those residents who have to improve their home not just for increased value, but to meet their growing health needs as they age in the golden years of their life.

In conclusion, I urge to pass this program. There's room in the Westside for two programs to confront and fight against Gentrification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy Lona". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Timothy Lona

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Sincerely,

Chris Luezo
2305 Holly
KCMO 64108

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, possibly "John" or "Jonathan".

2801-2805 Southwest Boulevard
2801 Ferris Road

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Sincerely,

Carolyn Delgado
2621 Madison
KC Mo 64108

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Sincerely,

Roman Guerra
Lisa Guerra

2929 Jarboe KCMO 64108

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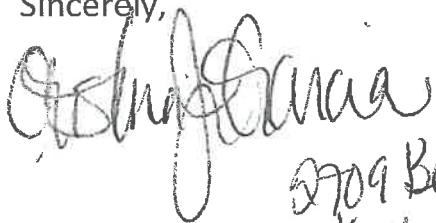
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Sincerely,



3709 Bellemare Ave
Kenilworth 64108
816-309-0287

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Sincerely,



1300 W 28th
2730 Monica
2701 SW Blvd

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Sincerely,

Vincent L Gomey JR
911 W 27th St Kansas City, MO
64108
~~316~~ - 816-824-6270