From:	Public Testimony
To:	Rice, Howard
Cc:	Sanders, Monica
Subject:	FW: Ordinance #2000907
Date:	Monday, November 30, 2020 2:42:35 PM

From: Hinds, Stuart L. <hindss@umkc.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2020 11:27 AM
To: Public Testimony <Public.Testimony@kcmo.org>
Cc: Shields, Katheryn <Katheryn.Shields@kcmo.org>; McManus, Kevin <Kevin.McManus@kcmo.org>; McCoy, Keema <Keema.McCoy@kcmo.org>; Pearson, Angela <Angela.Pearson@kcmo.org>; Wickham, Fred <Fred.Wickham@kcmo.org>; Hall, Heather <Heather.Hall@kcmo.org>; Roland, Le'Shyeka <LeShyeka.Roland@kcmo.org>; Hall, Heather <Heather.Hall@kcmo.org>; Kevin O'Neill <Kevin.ONeill@kcmo.org>; Justis, Amy <Amy.Justis@kcmo.org>; Loar, Teresa <Teresa.Loar@kcmo.org>; Robinson, Melissa <Melissa.Robinson@kcmo.org>; Ellington, Brandon <Brandon.Ellington@kcmo.org>; Bunch, Eric <Eric.Bunch@kcmo.org>; McCoy, Keema <Keema.McCoy@kcmo.org>; Pearson, Angela <Angela.Pearson@kcmo.org>; Foster, Katrina <Katrina.Foster@kcmo.org>
Subject: RE: Ordinance #2000907

Esteemed Council Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for Ordinance #2000907, which will result in the formation of a KCMO LGBTQ Commission. Creating this Commission will continue Kansas City's long struggle to create an just and equitable environment for all of its citizens, and will ensure the LGBTQ communities will have the organized and focused means to ensure their voices will be heard. Perhaps more importantly, by passing this ordinance, you implicitly recognize those who have come before us through struggles we cannot imagine today. Specifically,

> --by passing this ordinance you honor gender non-conforming Kansas Citians who were regularly arrested, fined, and imprisoned in the latter half of the 19th century for violating an 1860 municipal ordinance that criminalized appearing "in public in clothing inappropriate for his or her sex".
>
> -- by passing this ordinance you honor subsequent non-conformists who presented themselves not on the street but on the stage. From minstrel shows through vaudeville, male and female impersonators appeared in the finest theaters in Kansas City throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s. As time passed, the practice moved to nightclubs and cabarets, where gender impersonation was a popular and lucrative feature of the Pendergast era.
>
> -- by passing this ordinance you honor local activists who organized the first gathering of gay and lesbian civil rights leaders in 1966, at a hotel five blocks east of City Hall. This gathering featured our movement's Martin Luther Kings, our Gloria Steinems, our Cesar Chavezes, and

started the process of networking and connection-building that resulted in the phenomenal success of the gay liberation movement after the Stonewall Rebellion in 1969.

--by passing this ordinance you honor the UMKC students who, in 1973, joined their cohorts in Columbia to sue the University of Missouri Board of Curators for official recognition and funding of their gay and lesbian student groups. The case made its way to the Supreme Court of the United States, and the ruling in favor of the students set a precedent applicable to college and universities across America.

--by passing this ordinance you honor those Kansas Citians who died in the pandemic of 40 years ago, when there was no organized, meaningful, or impactful response to AIDS at the local, state, or federal level until years into the crisis. The groundswell of community-based activism that resulted from this shameful treatment has long gone unacknowledged, despite the fact that it is directly connected to the speed at which vaccines for COVID-19 are being approved by federal agencies.

--by passing this ordinance you honor another generation of local activists who mounted a four-year struggle in the late 1980s to secure passage of a different municipal ordinance, one that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. It was a particularly ugly and hateful fight, and would not have succeeded but for the effort of not only the LGBTQ activists but our allies as well, including current Councilwoman Katheryn Shields. Madame Shields, our gratitude is deep and unabated.

You have before you the opportunity to build on this incredible legacy, and it is my sincere and hearty wish that, for the sake of a new generation of activists, you make the LGBTQ Commission a reality.

Stuart Hinds
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