

Neighborhood Planning and Development Committee,  
KCMO City Council,  
KCMO City Hall  
414 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, MO 64106

On behalf of the Thomas Hart Benton Group of the Sierra Club Missouri Chapter, I am writing in opposition to proposed Ordinance No. 230507.

Last week there was a failed attempt by members of the Council to pass Resolution No. 230471. This proposed legislation had the purpose to delay by a full year the implementation of the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code ("IECC") with a Zero-Code Appendix. This week the Neighborhood Planning and Development Committee is being called upon to pass Ordinance No. 230507 which seeks to delay the implementation of 2021 IECC by three months.

Last week's events highlight what we already know: the purpose of this legislation is to deliberately undermine Kansas City's effort to build better in order to satisfy the ambitions of a minority of developers of single-family homes to realize short term profits. Nothing has changed in the language of this sudden, haphazardly-drafted legislation except for a sudden shortening of the extension by nine months, seemingly without reason. **If there truly was a dire need for a full year's extension for the implementation of the 2021 IECC, as was stressed by proponents of this ordinance, how can a three-month extension satisfy this imperative?** The answer is that it can't. Further, a delay is unnecessary as Kansas City staff and Council have been working with stakeholders to fully implement the code beginning July 1, 2023, the date decided upon in the Committee Substitute for Ordinance No. 220364, passed by the full Council on October 13, 2022.

**The purpose of proposed ordinance No. 230507 is not to support staff, help Kansas City enforce codes, or fulfill any substantive or procedural objective of the City.** The ordinance proponents' goal here is to stop the City from ever implementing its 2021 IECC ordinance, as it has been since the beginning of the discussion of this matter. More likely, we can predict that if this ordinance is adopted, the emboldened minority of developer lobbyists will come back to the city council (with new councilmembers) in two or three months and demand yet another delay, until there is an opening to weaken or eliminate Kansas City's better building codes altogether. This would come at great expense to the City by foregoing the benefits of better codes while adding to the accumulation of expenses imposed on taxpayers due to continued needless discussion of a good decision the Council has already made. This, as has been determined after thorough discussion and analysis by the City itself, will come at the expense of all Kansas Citians, possibly for generations to come.

**The issue of implementing the 2021 IECC has been thoroughly discussed, debated, and settled** by a thorough public process of which Kansas City should be proud. There has been no general public goal or need identified by proponents of this effort to delay the implementation of the 2021 IECC. No imperative has been offered for acting in contradiction to the City's efforts to address challenges caused by climate change. Given the harm and confusion further delay could cause to Kansas Citians, the Council should honor its commitment to Kansas City and reject this ordinance.

Please vote no on Ordinance 230507 in Committee.

Don Wallace,  
Member Legislative Committee

THB Group of Missouri Chapter of Sierra Club  
Resident, Sixth District, KCMO