

From: [Lex Hooper](#)
To: [Public Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for Ordinance 240284
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My name is Lex Hooper and I live in the 4th district. I am here to ask the council to vote YES on Ordinance 240284 to pass and fully fund REACH, the pre-arrest diversion and community response program in the health department.

I used to work at a grocery store in Kansas City and I loved how that job made me feel more connected to my community members. However, there were countless times that police were called to situations that were not safety emergencies, where the issue was related to mental health, food insecurity and/or houselessness and all that happened was the dispersal of or disappearing of those people. I remember wishing we had a program like PAD in Atlanta or STAR in Denver. With the REACH program, we would have that resource that addresses root causes. Furthermore, I want to emphasize that incarceration is a public health issue. If we want to address root causes that often lead to incarceration, we should invest in infrastructure within the Health Department that supports people's needs. Our community will be healthier and stronger for it. I would be such a proud Kansas Citian if we passed and fully funded this ordinance.

Thank you,
Lex