

February 22, 2026

Neighborhood, Planning & Development Committee
City of Kansas City Missouri
414 E. 12th Street, 15th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64106

Re: Support for Ordinance No. 260219

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my **support** for Ordinance 260219, which modifies the City's parking and loading standards to promote walkable development and reduce the requirements for on-site parking.

Removing the minimum requirement for off-street parking spaces in the urban core aligns with several goals for our city, focusing on increased reinvestment, redevelopment, and repopulation of the city center. This change, along with a street management program, would better address the parking needs of residents and future developments.

1. Market-Driven vs. Mandated Supply

The removal of parking minimums does not *prohibit* parking. By removing the mandate, the city allows the market to determine the exact amount of parking needed for a specific use, rather than imposing a "one-size-fits-all" number that often leads to a surplus of heat-trapping asphalt and dead urban space.

2. The High Cost of "Free" Parking

Forcing developers to build parking—particularly structured or underground parking—can cost between \$25,000 and \$50,000 per stall. By exempting all properties, the city effectively lowers the barrier for entry for all developments, making the Urban Core more competitive and potentially lowering the cost of living by "unbundling" rent from parking.

3. Environmental and Urban Vitality

Parking lots are the antithesis of a "vibrant neighborhood fabric." They create gaps in the street wall, increase the urban heat island effect, and discourage walking.

In conclusion, supporting Ordinance 260219 is a critical step towards fostering a more sustainable, vibrant, and economically viable Urban Core. By embracing market-driven solutions and minimizing unnecessary barriers, we can create an environment that prioritizes walkability and encourages community engagement.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,



Laura Burkhalter
Southmoreland Resident