From:	Public Testimony
To:	Rice, Howard
Subject:	FW: Ordinance #200907
Date:	Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:33:18 PM

Erica Dobbs

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From: Bunch, Eric
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:29 PM
To: Public Testimony <Public.Testimony@kcmo.org>
Subject: Fw: Ordinance #200907

Eric Bunch
4th District Councilperson
City of Kansas City, MO

From: Alex Salazar <alex@alexsalazar.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 1:09 PM
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Subject: Ordinance #200907

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Honorable Members of the KCMO City Council -

My name is Alex Salazar and I am a Board Member and former youth advisor with Transformations KC, Kansas City's Transgender and Gender Expansive (TGNC) Youth Organization. My organization is a drop-in for TGNC Youth in the KCMO area. I am a resident of Kansas City's 4th district and I am also an Indigenous and LatinX Transman.

I am writing to you today in support of ordinance #200907 to develop the Kansas City LGBTQ+ Commission. On the surface - it appears the equality has been achieved by Gay and Lesbian individuals. Nothing could be further from the truth. It was only in 2019 that Transgender humans were included in the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

I am not talking about "marriage equality." I am speaking about simply surviving. **American Medical Association declared violence against transgender people an epidemic in 2019**. It is more dangerous than ever to be transgender woman of color than any other identity. Black and Brown trans women are murdered at a rate of about one per week and with very little accountability. We face high levels of violence, unemployment, homelessness, and poor health outcomes. Black and Brown Trans people often face markedly worse health and economic outcomes as they navigate multiple systems of oppression.

The formation of the LGBTQ+ Commission in Kansas City is a necessary and correct step to begin to address these facts and the needs of the Kansas City LGBTQ+ community as a whole. Let's start conversations and initiatives to solve problems within our beautifully diverse city and lets do it by centering the voices of Black and Brown transwomen of color. Why? There is an opportunity to show exceptional leadership by Council on the National level with respect to LGBTQ+ health, civil rights, and visibility.

Transformations KC is just one of several amazing organizations doing hard work in Kansas City. This commission could help bring together organizations and foster more effective interaction, inclusivity, and advocacy.

As a Trans human, I have chosen to make Kansas City my home. I ask the Kansas City Council will vote positively to create this commission and bring organizations together.

Alex Salazar
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