

From: [Dylan Pyles](#)
To: [Public Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for Ordinance 240284
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 11:28:34 AM

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Dear Council Members,

My name is Dylan Pyles, and I'm a resident of KC in the 2nd district. I am writing to express full support for passing ordinance #240284, which would establish the REACH program within Kansas City's Health Department. This ordinance is the result of nearly a year's worth of research and community engagement involving the city's Alternatives to Incarceration commission, impacted community members, and public health stakeholders.

There are thousands of Kansas City residents who have been or have a loved one who has been incarcerated--including some folks on this council. Personally, I have watched family members and friends get caught up in a cycle of incarceration, and have found myself at a loss for how I could "help." I've seen the ways that something as small as a trespassing charge (often triggered by houselessness) can lead to arrest, re-arrest, job loss, and more. This ordinance would create a way of helping people at the front end of this cycle--it would address the root causes that get people ensnared in a system that is so hard to get out of.

This ordinance is just a start, but if implemented with intention and care, could be the beginnings of something transformational in KC (not to mention a chance for KC to lead in compassion and care). Please vote Yes on Ordinance 240284 in committee and full council.

Sincerely,
Dylan Pyles