



**CALVARY COMMUNITY
OUTREACH NETWORK**

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For a Healthy Life...

July 22, 2020

TO: City Council, City of Kansas City, Missouri
SUBJECT: Opposition to Ordinance 200239

I am writing to express my deep opposition to Ordinance 200239. In 2005, former Mayor Kay Barnes and mayor pro tem Alvin Brooks were very concerned when the city recorded its 97th homicide (127 by year's end). They created a commission to look at possible solutions and the historical roots of the problem. The commission released a report in 2006 that laid the groundwork for strategically addressing the problem of violence in Kansas City.

It just so happens that I was a part of that commission. We served tirelessly because each member felt the necessity to stop the madness. This movement is what is now called AIM-4 Peace.

As a local pastor and executive of a 501C3 organization in Kansas City I have collaborated with AIM 4 Peace since it's inception and have witnessed their work in many very personal situations.

They have helped to deescalate retaliation and prevent the occurrence of multiple crime scenes as a result of one incident. The fact that they are in the community and on the street is a valuable asset. We consider AIM4 Peace as a trusted partner in reducing violence.

As one who has promoted peace in this city for decades, it is my strong recommendation that we invest more fully in the arsenal of weapons that can reduce the occurrence of crime and violence. This is something that we must get right.

Respectfully,

Rev. Eric D Williams
Calvary Temple Baptist Church, Pastor
Calvary Community Outreach Network, Executive Director