
Amend Zoning Code for Data Centers

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Dear Neighborhoods Planning and Development Committee,

I urge you to say no to data center construction in the KC Metro. Or at the very least, to ask for amendments to the currently proposed zoning code being brought to the Neighborhoods Planning and Development committee on Dec. 9th. The zoning code proposed for data centers, as currently drafted, is insufficient in protecting the interests and health of everyday Kansas Citians.

We don't have to look far to see how bad Data centers are for the environment and nearby communities. Data centers require more electricity than the communities they are built near and thousands of gallons of water. Daily. These costs keep getting pushed onto regular citizens rather than the corporations using these valuable resources. Not to mention, that such a massive drain on these resources doesn't leave much available to citizens. This is an unethical injustice.

I urge you to be proactive about minimizing these harms by creating a zoning code that allows for more oversight in the following ways. The data center zoning code should:

Be its own zoning code rather than lumped in with Large Format Uses.

Require special-use permits for data centers that are voted on and approved by the citizens.

Include environmental impact studies.

Include environmental protections such as limiting water usage/cooling requirements and limiting fossil-fuel generators (including back-ups).

Require utility demand disclosure.

Require vsst distance from residential neighborhoods.

If data center development is allowed to continue as is, Kansas Citians will be forced to bear the brunt of the cost of utility rate increases, resource extraction, and pollution. Do right by Kansas Citians and demand a more thorough zoning code for data centers.

Thank you,

Laura Darnell