



MID-CONTINENT
PUBLIC LIBRARY

November 30, 2021

City Council
City of Kansas City
414 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106

Members of the City Council,

This letter is to indicate Mid-Continent Public Library's support for Ordinance 211025. The ordinance is critical because it removes residential development projects from those projects that can receive abatements through the city's Enhanced Enterprise Zone program. Excluding residential had been the practice throughout the lifetime of Kansas City's three zones. Recently, that practice was changed, and two multi-family residential projects located in the MCPL district received abatements via EEZ. This change is particularly problematic due to the EDC's explanation that under the new interpretation some residential projects would be granted abatements administratively without a requirement for any public discussion.

As you know, library districts, school districts, mental health districts and others all depend on property tax funding to provide service to residents. In the case of Mid-Continent Public Library, 97% of revenues come directly from property tax. Abating residential projects creates the unique problem of adding demands for service without adding any corresponding revenue to pay for the new service.

MCPL has a long history of supporting development incentives when appropriate and necessary. The recent expansion of EEZ seems to be neither of those things. For that reason, the Library supports Ordinance 211025 and encourages the Council to pass it without delay.

Sincerely,

Steven V. Potter
Library Director