

From: [Sanders, Marilyn](#)
To: [Sanders, Monica](#); [Rice, Howard](#)
Subject: FW: Vote YES on the Right to Counsel Ordinance
Date: Thursday, December 9, 2021 5:37:05 PM

FYI

Please attach

From: Erin Bradley <erin.bradley9229@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 9, 2021 2:38 PM
To: MayorQ <MayorQ@kcmo.org>; O'Neill, Kevin <Kevin.O'Neill@kcmo.org>; Hall, Heather <Heather.Hall@kcmo.org>; Loar, Teresa <Teresa.Loar@kcmo.org>; Fowler, Dan <Dan.Fowler@kcmo.org>; Brandon.Elligton@kcmo.org; Robinson, Melissa <Melissa.Robinson@kcmo.org>; Shields, Katheryn <Katheryn.Shields@kcmo.org>; Bunch, Eric <Eric.Bunch@kcmo.org>; Barnes, Lee <Lee.Barnes@kcmo.org>; Parks-Shaw, Ryana <Ryana.Parks-Shaw@kcmo.org>; Bough, Andrea <Andrea.Bough@kcmo.org>; McManus, Kevin <Kevin.McManus@kcmo.org>; Sanders, Marilyn <Marilyn.Sanders@kcmo.org>
Subject: Vote YES on the Right to Counsel Ordinance

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My name is Erin Bradley. I work with the community in districts Three and Five. **I am writing today to ask for your support in passing Tenants' Right to Counsel in Kansas City.**

Tenants' Right to Counsel is the guaranteed right to legal representation in landlord-tenant cases. Twelve cities have now enacted Tenants' Right to Counsel, including Boulder, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Louisville, Newark, New York City, and San Francisco. In 2021, Washington, Maryland, and Connecticut passed statewide Right to Counsel laws. Where Right to Counsel has passed, it has reduced eviction filings, kept tenants in their homes, and saved money for the government. Right to Counsel would save the City thousands of \$\$\$ by reducing 8,000 evictions annually to far less in the future. RTC has proven to be a deterrent to eviction filings, keeping tenants in their homes.

- * Philadelphia is expected to save \$12.74 for every dollar spent.
- * Baltimore's RTC will save the City and state \$6.24 for every dollar spent.
- * LA County has saved \$4.80 for every dollar spent.
- * New York has generated enough cost saving to pay for itself, and still generating another 121 million in savings.

Right to Counsel in Kansas City will ensure Kansas Citizens have a fair chance in court and in maintaining safe, stable housing.

As you know, evictions are both a cause and condition of poverty, often leading to job loss, mental and physical health consequences, and homelessness. Legal representation provides power in the courtrooms where evictions are decided. Landlords are represented by lawyers over 90% of the time. Since 2014, KCMO tenants facing eviction filings have been represented an average of 3% of the time. From 2006-2016, over 99.8% of Jackson County eviction hearings resulted in tenants losing their homes. The odds were much better for tenants who were represented by lawyers.

On December 2, KC Tenants, Missouri Workers Center/Stand Up KC, and Heartland Center for Jobs

and Freedom introduced an ordinance (Ordinance 211067), sponsored by Councilwoman Andrea Bough, that would ensure Tenants' Right to Counsel in Kansas City. Here is a summary of the ordinance.

I hope that we can count on your support in voting YES on Ordinance 211067 in today's meeting!

Erin Bradley