From: Austin Strassle
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Ordinance 200907
Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 7:07:17 PM

Hello, I would like to submit testimony on Ordinance 200907. This is in regards to the KC LGBTQ Commission. I would like to voice my support for this ordinance. Kansas City has a long record of supporting LGBTQ people. From our non-discrimination ordinance in the 1990s, to banning the use of conversion therapy on minors in 2019, Kansas City has stood by LGBTQ+ people. And they need Kansas City to stay by their side. We've made a lot of progress as a city in becoming more inclusive of queer identities. But the work continues. LGBTQ people remain at risk for higher instances of mental health diagnoses, substance use, suicide, homelessness. Black transgender women remain one of the most vulnerable groups among us, with a life expectancy of only 35. It is unconscionable to think that this Council would refuse to act. I implore the members of this Council to give their full support to this commission. Let LGBTQ people represent the interest of LGBTQ people, let our community find solutions that help us. I ask that the committee provide their support to this ordinance and encourage the full Council to do the same.

Kind Regards,

Austin Strassle
4th District Resident