From:	Public Testimony
To:	Rice, Howard
Subject:	FW: Public Testimony for 200907
Date:	Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:39:12 PM

Erica Dobbs

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From: Bunch, Eric
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 2:01 PM
To: Public Testimony <Public.Testimony@kcmo.org>
Subject: Public Testimony for 200907

Justin,

Thank you for working behind the scenes to bring forth more LGBTQ equality and more attention to LGBTQ voices within the city of Kansas City. I had the chance to look over the proposal you sent and I think it is a fantastic idea to bring forth a special commission to tackle LGBTQ issues, affairs, and policy. I know for a fact that the Midwest Rainbow Research Institute would be happy to sign on as a collaborator for this endeavor. I did want to draw some attention to a few issues that might arise given the geographic diversity of our community in the area and was wondering if you could answer a couple clarifying points:

1. As with most municipal commissions and governmental area appointments, those serving and or employed by the city of Kansas City must live in the city limits of Kansas City. In your current structure, I believe you will find it very difficult to find active community members (those working, serving, or volunteering at Kansas City, MO based organizations) who also live in the specific jurisdiction. For example, although the Kansas City Center for Inclusion is within the city limits on Main Street, the Executive Leadership (myself included) do not live within the City Limits. As for the Midwest Rainbow Research Institute, only one of our Board Members lives within the city limits of Kansas City and she is in the northland. Based on my knowledge of local organizations and the composition of their leadership team, I believe many also do not live within the city limits of Kansas City. So will commission appointments be based on residential address or organizational/place of business address?

2. In the initial proposal for the governing structure you write:

"The LGBTQ Commission comprises up to thirteen (13) members. Of initial appointments, seven members shall be appointed for terms of four years, and the remaining eight members shall be appointed for a term of two years."

That math would put the commission at 15 members, not 13. Are you aiming for 13 members of which 6 are appointed by district councilmembers and the additional 7 are at large?

3. In this proposal there are 5 specific sub-committee areas for service: Business, Health, Housing, Education, and Public Safety. Do you have any plans to add to this list or are these set in stone?

4. Do you see this commission as a place of facilitation to bring any type of city support to the LGBTQ+ community, either through direct municipal funding, or by other means?

I believe both the Midwest Rainbow Research Institute and the Kansas City Center for Inclusion would love to help assist in bringing this endeavor to fruition and will be more than happy to provide possible candidate selections once the guidelines are clarified to whom can serve.

Thanks!

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