March 1, 2021

Councilwoman Katheryn Shields
4th District At-Large
Kansas City MO

Re: Ordinance No. 210179 Prevailing Wage Applications to Incentive Plans

Dear Councilwoman Shields:

I, John P. Fennesy represent IBEW Local Union 124, and we urge you to support
Ordinance No. 210179 Prevailing Wage Applications to Incentive Plans. We support
prevailing wage on projects with effective economic development incentives. This
ordinance adds a new Division 5 to Prevailing Wage to the incentive plans.

Prevailing Wage, the accepted measure to level the playing field for construction bids, is
mandated for all Kansas City contracts yet is not addressed for its incentive agencies. In
the public's interest, the government's spending attains high-value services while not
driving down labor market standards. Correcting the omission of Prevailing Wage within
the City's incentive agencies is critical to enhancing the community's value.

Prevailing Wage generates fairer competition within bids by attracting more local,
reputable companies of all sizes while refocusing construction contractors' bid value on
the skill, productivity, and experience. Prevailing Wage establishes wages and benefits'
floors for each trade occupation working in a particular locality. State regulatory agencies
establish the livable Prevailing Wage.

Mandating Prevailing Wage eliminates the destructive need to bring workers from
outside the community who are willing to accept lower pay and lesser benefits, thereby
passing up qualified workers living in the community. The construction industry has
predatory contractors, often from other states, who unfairly pay workers, commit tax
fraud, perform lower quality work, and increase liability risk, which minimizes the value
to the community.

I thank you for your dedication to the city in working during these difficult times. Be
safe and thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

John P Fennesy
Business Manager