

**From:** [Abigail Shaffer](#)  
**To:** [Public Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support Ordinance 220961  
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Hello,

I would like to express my STRONG support for Ordinance 220961. My family lives and works in the KC Metro and the Protective Tree Ordinance is an important ordinance to protect the wellbeing of KC Metro residents, help mitigate climate change, and generally ensure a more pleasant and beautiful environment. It's also about social justice, too. Our trees give us so much on so many levels — it's vital we protect them.

Solid research has demonstrated trees provide so much to a community on a variety of levels — including physical and mental well being. Not only are established trees instrumental in offsetting pollution but they also help mitigate the negative other deleterious effects of climate change. Trees can also keep us cooler in the hot summer by providing shade to sidewalks, yards, community spaces and other public areas. Additionally, trees are aesthetically pleasing — which not only is just beautiful to experience for the community, but also provides a green and thriving outdoor environment. It brings us all outside.

I am assuming that the opposition to such a fantastic ordinance is coming from developers and a few individuals who do not want to deal with the regulations and any costs associated with maintaining a healthy, tree-filled community. My hope is they reconsider their individual desires and consider the overall wellbeing of others — but if not, then KC should move forward despite their opposition. Give 'em a tax break or something if you must so they stop trying to thwart community interests.

This is an excellent example of when the overall good to the community should outweigh the objections of a few folks. Bettering a community is more important than the wants of a vocal few. Money and profit are not the only metrics of success, of wellbeing, or of a thriving community. To that end, however, research in areas where similar ordinances have been enacted and are in place show economic improvement for the community over time — so protecting trees also helps the economy.

So to sum, I strongly support Ordinance 220961.

Best regards,

Abigail Shaffer