

**From:** [Mary Allison Joseph](#)  
**To:** [Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** in support of ordinance 231019  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 8:38:41 AM

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My name is Mary Allison Joseph. I'm the Director of the Justice Ministry at Trinity United Methodist Church in the 4th District, and I'm a leader with KC Tenants. I am here testifying in support of banning source of income discrimination.

A Midtown resident for 5 years, and now a Midtown church employee for 3 years, I am deeply concerned about rising gentrification and decreasing affordable housing options for poor and working-class folks, not just in Midtown but across Kansas City.

I urge Council to disregard the opinions of those who would spread misinformation and fearmonger to protect their generational wealth. I do not want to live in a city that prioritizes some people's investments over thousands of other people's homes.

By allowing landlords to deny housing to residents of our city because of how they get their income, we're not only letting them discriminate but we're letting them unilaterally undermine the government's programs to help people get housed, which are paid for with our tax dollars. Who gave landlords the right to throw away the programs that our democratically elected officials have put in place to answer our society's needs? Are we here to help landlords build generational wealth while there are people sleeping on the street in December, or are we here to build a healthy and happy society we can feel good about being a part of?

Housing is a human right. Everyone deserves a home. No one should be homeless, EVER, and CERTAINLY no one should be homeless because a landlord refuses to accept their voucher or other source of income.

In a democracy in 2023, a landlord's investment cannot be a higher priority than making sure everyone has safe housing with dignity.

I urge you to vote YES on ordinance 231019. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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