Outlook

Ordinance TMP-6642

From babette.macy@link2built.com <babette.macy@link2built.com>
Date Thu 4/16/2026 12:43 PM
To Lucas, Quinton <Quinton.Lucas@kcmo.org>
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Dear Mayor Lucas:

I am writing as a Woman Business Enterprise (WBE) in Kansas City to express serious concerns about Ordinance TMP-6642, particularly the proposed changes to MBE/WBE goal waivers and the expanded authority granted to economic development agencies.

As currently drafted, the ordinance allows economic development agencies to waive MBE/WBE participation goals and positions those agencies—and effectively their directors—as key decision-makers in determining when such waivers are appropriate.

This raises a fundamental concern about alignment of incentives and accountability. Something I know is of importance to you as you have reflected on the KCMO Police accountability situation.

The primary mission of these agencies is to drive development and close deals. In many cases, they also generate revenue through fees tied to those deals. This structure creates an inherent incentive to reduce MBE/WBE requirements in order to make projects more attractive to developers and ensure projects move forward quickly. While economic growth is important, it should not come at the expense of equitable participation.

By contrast, the City Council has consistently demonstrated a commitment to ensuring minority- and women-owned businesses have meaningful access to opportunities tied to public investment. That public accountability is critical and should not be diluted.

I am particularly concerned that:

The ordinance allows economic development agencies—not just City Council—to waive MBE/WBE requirements if deemed in the “best interests of the city.”
The waiver process for incentive agency contracts introduces shared or negotiated determinations that could weaken enforcement of good-faith efforts.

When public resources are involved—whether through tax abatements, incentives, or other subsidies—there should be greater, not lesser, scrutiny around inclusion. Projects benefiting from public support should be held to the highest standards for equitable participation.

I respectfully urge you to:

- **Retain City Council as the primary authority over MBE/WBE goal waivers for incentive-backed projects**
- Strengthen, rather than weaken, enforcement of good-faith effort requirements
- Require additional transparency and reporting for any waivers granted by economic development agencies
- Ensure that projects receiving incentives or tax abatements meet robust MBE/WBE participation goals

Kansas City's growth should be both strong and inclusive. Maintaining meaningful participation for minority- and women-owned businesses is essential to achieving that goal.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering the impact this ordinance will have on small businesses like mine.

Sincerely,

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