

**From:** [Justin Short](#)  
**To:** [Public Testimony](#); [Foster, Katrina](#); [Katrina Foster](#)  
**Subject:** Support of Resoluition 210688  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 25, 2021 10:49:23 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Justin Short, and I am the LGBTQ Representative for District 4 in Kansas City! I am writing in support of Resolution 210688 directing the city manager to develop and execute a Nexus study when it comes to affordable housing in our city. Members of my community, especially LGBTQ individuals of color have been disproportionately affected by the continued rise of rents and lack of housing options within the city. The time to build affordable housing is now. There is no denying that we as a city need a variety of housing options. While building luxury housing is important for our ever changing and growing urban core, the time to build affordable housing is now. Our city is growing at an exponential rate, and everyone in this chamber knows that. We have a real opportunity here to do something in addition to the already proposed resolutions and ordinances related to this matter.

My friend James put it this way, you want to build a Jimmy Johns downtown, great! Amazing Idea! Well, we know you can't pay those workers enough to live in the area, so we are going to assess a linkage fee which will go into a housing trust fund and to fund more financially viable housing! To be clear, the resolution does not assess the fee; it simply directs the study, from which, the council can act upon it after it is completed. Again, I say the time to think about affordable housing is now. I am talking more than income restricted which we see in places downtown, I am talking rents that are tenable for the workforce that is required to keep downtown moving. This is especially true for our hotel, convention, and tourism staff. These folks need a place to live that is a reasonable distance to their workplace. This is better for downtown overall, because it keeps our workforce close while expanding our downtown presence.

This Nexus study is a no brainer and the next step in ensuring we build a Kansas City for All and we provide affordable and effective solutions for not only our workforce, but for people who want to live and work downtown! Let us get to a place where we are building affordable housing in conjunction with luxury apartments/condos so that we don't get into a position in 25-30 years where it might be too late to do so.

Thank you

Justin Short

LGBTQ Commissioner District 4

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With Gratitude,  
Justin M. Short  
LGBTQ Commissioner District 4  
Justin Short for KC  
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