

February 27, 2020

Kansas City Council Members
Mayor Quinton Lucas
City of Kansas City, Missouri
414 E 12th Street, 22nd Floor
Kansas City, MO 64106

RE: Ordinance #191022 31st and Oak Street CID

Dear Mayor Q and Councilmembers,

I am writing to you in opposition to **Ordinance 191022** which would establish yet another single-owner CID, this time for the sole purpose of funding a private development which will create private revenue. Yesterday I had the opportunity to meet and hear Mr. Nagaoka's request and he confessed that he was not familiar with how a CID worked and was only recently made aware that he could fund his brand new development this way. His application has been flawed from the beginning and the Neighborhood Planning and Development committee continued to give them several continuances until they could meet the "bare minimum" requirements. None of this fills me with the confidence that is needed to trust someone with over \$2 million in "estimated" sales tax revenues. Do we even have a vetting process for whether people are capable of managing a PUBLIC TAX FUND this large without ANY EXPERIENCE?

I urge this committee to vote NO to creating a new taxing jurisdiction for the sole purpose of private development because it would be fiscally irresponsible, to say the least.

Once again I would, respectfully, remind this council that we already have a state-wide problem with the increasing amount of CIDs that are being created which has overburdened the Missouri Department of Revenue. There are no systems in place to make sure that reporting is filed on time, nor are there systems in place to revoke a CID once it has been established, even if it was found to be misappropriating tax-payer funds.

Furthermore, the price of the property was negotiated to include the blighted conditions, yet these blighted conditions are being used as an argument for creating the CID. Once again, risk comes with any property purchase and now it appears that word is out that in Kansas City, anyone could get a private CID to cover the cost of any development.

This leads me to my final point and one that our newer council members should take note because the CID that you form now will be in place long after you have left office.

When you voted for the Romanelli CID, you sent a message to private developers all over the city that tax payers are funding multi-million dollar developments which will surely put profits back into their pockets at a much higher return 20 years, even 40 years from now. It was no surprise to me, after writing to you then, that this new CID is being considered. When will you finally vote NO to stop this madness from escalating any further?

Warmly,



Angie Lile
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