



Fw: Data center zoning code concerns

From Reinhardt, Jennifer <Jennifer.Reinhardt@kcmo.org>

Date Mon 12/8/2025 6:40 AM

To Clerk <Clerk@KCMO.org>

Cc Emily C <ecopley2515@gmail.com>

Below please find public testimony for Ord. 251031.

Thanks,



Jennifer Reinhardt, AICP

Lead Planner, Playbook Implementation

City Planning and Development

816-513-2866

From: Emily C <ecopley2515@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, December 6, 2025 7:01 PM

To: Reinhardt, Jennifer <Jennifer.Reinhardt@kcmo.org>; Melissa Patterson Hazley <Melissa.Patterson-Hazley@kcmo.org>; Willett, Nathan <Nathan.Willett@kcmo.org>; Williamson, Annie <Annie.Williamson@kcmo.org>; Bunch, Eric <Eric.Bunch@kcmo.org>; Iden, Marissa <Marissa.Iden@kcmo.org>; Parks-Shaw, Ryana <Ryana.Parks-Shaw@kcmo.org>; McCoy, Keema <Keema.McCoy@kcmo.org>

Subject: Data center zoning code concerns

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Please consider the concerns outlined below about the data center. Current codes are not proficient in protecting the residents.

The data center zoning code for Kansas City should not be lumped in with Large Format Uses and should instead be its own zoning code. It should also require special-use permits for data centers that are voted on and approved by the city council or other governmental committees instead of being approved by right as they currently are. In addition, data centers should only be zoned in industrial areas and people in the vicinity should be notified when there is a proposed data center nearby — something

Smithville residents were not privy to when the Meta and Google data centers went up in their backyards. To address environmental concerns, the zoning code should require environmental impact studies, limit fossil-fuel backup generators, have limits on water usage and also mandate cooling requirements so no potable water is used in their systems. In consideration of economic concerns, we should require utility disclosures from data centers and ask for a renegotiation of permit approval so we can make sure the data centers do not become too burdensome in order to monitor the strain on the energy grid and potential water pollution.

The current zoning code needs more protection for Kansas City residents from the impacts of data centers. It does not protect them from going up in people's backyards, does not do enough to protect our community's environment and local resources like water, and it does not protect Kansas Citians from bearing the brunt of the cost of utility rate increases.

Please consider these concerns when adopting a zoning code for data centers.

Sincerely,
Emily C