



"Ordinance No. 250637"

From Hunter Pace <huntergarrpace@gmail.com>

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To Public Testimony <Public.Testimony@kcmo.org>

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Hello,

I'm writing to voice my support for Ordinance No. 250637. The Code of Ordinances is something I've taken issue with for some time. You see, one of the community gardens I volunteer with was once written up for having a sunflower. A sunflower. The state flower of Kansas. The most iconic plant we have in this region. A plant which provides food and nectar for caterpillars and butterflies in the summer, seeds for humans and birds in the fall, and shelter for bees through the winter.

To me, a "nuisance" plant would be one that serves no purpose other than taking up space - produces no berries or seeds for birds to eat, has no caterpillars living on it. Something like the exotic, overplanted, and boring turf grass and boxwoods that developers plant en masse only to waste money cutting into unnatural shapes later.

According to the Audubon Society, over one third of American bird species are of conservation concern. The Xerces Society reports similar statistics regarding our firefly and bumblebee species, stating one third of each is at risk of extinction. It's not hard to imagine why. These creatures depend on native plants for survival.

The conformity mandated by the current code strikes me as unfair and unnatural. I'm constantly in fear of my neighbors reporting me despite the fact I'm doing what I believe is best for our community. Please do consider it.

Happy gardening,

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