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To:	Rice, Howard
Cc:	Monroe, Jill
Subject:	FW: Endorsement of Resolution #250396 by The Northeast Neighborhood Coalition
Date:	Tuesday, May 13, 2025 8:24:17 AM

Public Testimony

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Subject: Endorsement of Resolution #250396 by The Northeast Neighborhood Coalition

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Endorsement of Resolution #250396 by The Northeast Neighborhood Coalition

Good morning:

The neighborhood leaders of Lykins, Sheffield, Indian Mound, Pendleton Heights, Scarritt, Independence Plaza, Paseo West, and Columbus Park thank Mayor Lucas and Councilwoman Patterson-Hazley, as well as City staff, for their hard work on **Resolution #250396**. Vacant buildings and lots are a hazard to public safety and a barrier to community revitalization. It is time for a new, collaborative approach. This resolution is a realistic beginning to a complex challenge.

Each neighborhood has a different mix of vacancies and requires a different strategy. We are, therefore, grateful for the “toolbox” approach with this resolution.

We are not seeking to punish owners who need resources or who have recently inherited a home. Property titles can be expensive to clear. Land and buildings are difficult to remediate. These owners will need resources, not punitive measures or delays.

However, we believe the bulk of the vacancy inventory is held by “investors” as part of a real estate portfolio. They may live outside the city, state, or country. Such investors pay little in property tax and let buildings deteriorate, burn, or collapse.

Affordable housing is reduced as blight increases, inviting crime and discouraging lending and investment. Other properties sit vacant because government entities and non-profits feel less pressure to activate them, and they often wait until it is too late. Residents pay the real price. Squatters have become routine, dangerous to residents and to each other, especially when structures burn multiple times.

Any solution should not hand over properties from one class of investors to another. We do not want corporate or institutional control. We wish to reinvigorate these historic communities with new neighbors and small businesses.

Thank you for the efforts to address these problems and to restore these neighborhoods. We look forward to beginning this collaboration.

- *The Northeast Neighborhood Coalition*