

*Hi my name is Skyler Mart. I'm a resident of KC in the 2nd district. I'm here today to oppose the ordinance proposals for a new temporary jail.*

*Instead of investing in a temporary jail, I'd like to see money go toward long term solutions that provide stable housing, mental and general health supports, and economic stability for those who may be likely to commit a city offense. Research shows that there is a connection between poverty and crime. Most crimes occurred out of a lack of material necessities. We need to adequately address the root causes of crime instead hyper-fixating on punishment. I am a full time teacher and have to work part time as a bar tender just to get by. Times are hard for us all right now. People who have lived here all their lives are being priced out.*

*We have an opportunity in KC to create new methods of care and accountability that actually address root causes of harm for the future of our city, not just create a fake veneer of safety for the eyes that come along with hosting the World Cup. As of right now, I'm very worried that this council is focused on their own optics and political careers rather than doing enough to explore new possibilities that would actually help our community and stop crimes from even occurring in the first place. We could be leaders in developing a truly prosperous and safe city that works for everyone. A safe Kansas City is one where a hard days work is enough to earn citizens a good night's rest. A safe Kansas City is one where a hard days work is enough to keep children's bellies full. A safe Kansas City is one where we address problems within our city instead of burying our head in the sand and continuing the same tired framework that is proven time and time again to not create public safety. Jails do not prevent crime.*

*As members of this committee, you have the opportunity to set the tone for all of Kansas City and to lead the country in finding a new way. This is your chance to take seriously the need for new approaches to addressing the issue of incarceration and harm in KC. We can't afford to do more of the same. Vote NO on ordinances 250889 and 250890.*

Sincerely,

Sky Mart