

Rice, Howard

From: Reinhardt, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 12:40 PM
To: Clerk
Cc: Cody Boston
Subject: Fw: On Data Centers - Neighborhood Planning and Development Committee

Below please find public testimony for Ord. 251031.

Thanks,



Jennifer Reinhardt, AICP
Lead Planner, Playbook Implementation
City Planning and Development
816-513-2866

From: Cody Boston <codyjboston@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 12:37 PM
To: Reinhardt, Jennifer <Jennifer.Reinhardt@kcmo.org>; Melissa Patterson Hazley <Melissa.Patterson-Hazley@kcmo.org>; Willett, Nathan <Nathan.Willett@kcmo.org>; Bunch, Eric <Eric.Bunch@kcmo.org>; Parks-Shaw, Ryana <Ryana.Parks-Shaw@kcmo.org>; Yearwood, DJ <Darvius.Yearwood@kcmo.org>; Williamson, Annie <Annie.Williamson@kcmo.org>; Iden, Marissa <Marissa.Iden@kcmo.org>; McCoy, Keema <Keema.McCoy@kcmo.org>
Cc: cc 1 <cc1@kcmo.org>
Subject: On Data Centers - Neighborhood Planning and Development Committee

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Hello council members,

My name is Cody Boston and I am a resident of Kansas City.

I'm reaching out to you because the Neighborhoods Planning and Development committee will be hearing a presentation about zoning for data centers on Tuesday and I want you to know that, as a Kansas Citian and as someone who has growing environmental and economic concerns about data centers in our city, I find the zoning code woefully insufficient in protecting the interests and health of

our citizens. At a minimum, I urge you to ask for updates and amendments to the currently proposed zoning code.

To put it mildly, the zoning code proposed for data centers in Kansas City is incomplete and does not adequately address citizen concerns over the huge impact that these data centers have on the communities in which they are built. The zoning code, as currently drafted, does not do enough to protect Kansas Citians from utility rate increases, pollution and environmental concerns. There are major hyperscale data center projects in the works in Kansas City that have gone underway without public input. Our city must quickly act in order to rein in the rampant construction of data centers in our city that are being constructed without sufficient regulation before we are collectively invested in an infrastructure that extracts our resources while providing very little in return.

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. We should require utility disclosures from data centers and require a transparent process of renegotiation, or even revocation, of permit approval if these data centers become too burdensome on our energy grid, water use or environmental pollution.

The current zoning code needs more protection for Kansas City residents from the impacts of data centers, much of which is still being reckoned with in similar communities all across the country. 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.

We need you to demand more accountability from those leading these data center projects, not approve the giveaway of billions of dollars of incentives and abatements to richest corporations in the world who want to gamble our communities health away for the speculative value of an unregulated AI industry that, by all indications, threatens to take far more jobs away than these centers would grant.

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

Thank you,
Cody