From: Alex Joseph Niner
To: Public Testimony; cc 1
Subject: Vote NO on Ordinance NO. 250889 and 250890
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City Council,

I am a former resident of Kansas City and a two-time graduate of UMKC. At UMKC, I earned a BA and MS in Criminal Justice & Criminology, and my engagement with social issues within these programs led to me to apply to, and gain entry into, one of the top criminology doctoral programs in the US.

As a credentialed expert of the criminal justice system and as a concerned person who calls Kansas City home, I urge you to vote no on the proposed ordinances 250889 and 250890 that would establish a new and temporary jail prior to the world cup. Putting aside that the proposed builder of the jail is the same company that built the infamous Guantanamo Bay torture facility, there is no reason why KC needs a new jail (or to have a jail at all). Criminologists have shown quite definitively that jails and incarceration do not reduce crime. Rather, they cage humans deemed to be problems instead of addressing actual social problems.

Imagine if the city put the same amount of money into reducing homelessness, poverty, and other conditions that are known to be associated with future criminality as it did into apparatuses meant to punish people for survival crimes. Imagine if we were to house people in homes, not cages.

I have a family member who is currently incarcerated in a KC-area jail. I often wonder how this person's life might have been different if there were workable mechanisms by which they could have received housing, a stable and livable income, and mental health treatment. Instead, they are trapped inside a human cage.

I'll leave you with a final thought: what does it say to the world about Kansas City if our biggest infrastructure investment prior to the world's arrival is a set of new human cages? *Welcome world! Kansas City is ready to cage you.*

Alex J. Niner, MS

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