

FW: Leonard Smith Hall Historic Preservation

From Public Testimony <Public.Testimony@kcmo.org>
Date Tue 3/24/2026 8:01 AM
To West, Daliah <Daliah.West@kcmo.org>
Cc Sanders, Monica <Monica.Sanders@kcmo.org>

Please attach as public testimony to the ordinance

From: Michael M <happydad39@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 8:34 PM
To: Clerk <Clerk@KCMO.org>
Cc: Public Testimony <Public.Testimony@kcmo.org>
Subject: Leonard Smith Hall Historic Preservation

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Date: March 24, 2026

To: Neighborhood Planning and Development Committee
Attn: Kansas City Council
Location: 414 E. 12th St., 24th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64106

RE: STRONGLY SUPPORTING Ordinance No. 260283 – Historic Designation of Leonard Smith Hall

To the Honorable Members of the City Council,

I am writing to express my full and unwavering support for **Ordinance 260283**, which seeks to apply a Historic Overlay (H/O) to the property at **1700 Independence Boulevard**, known as **Leonard Smith Hall**.

As a concerned previous lifelong constituent, I believe the preservation of this landmark is vital for several reasons:

- **Historical Significance:** Leonard Smith Hall is inextricably linked to the history of **Children's Mercy Hospital** and the evolution of healthcare in Kansas City. It stands as a physical testament to our city's commitment to public service and medical progress.
- **Architectural Excellence:** Designed by the renowned firm **Hoit, Price, and Barnes** in 1927, the building is a premier example of Colonial/Georgian Revival architecture. Its presence defines the aesthetic character of the Independence Corridor and the Pendleton Heights neighborhood.
- **Community Integrity:** Granting this historic designation ensures that our city's heritage is not lost to short-term development goals. Once a structure of this caliber is demolished, its cultural and educational value can never be recovered.
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I echo the **Historic Preservation Commission's recommendation for approval** and respectfully urge the City Council to vote in favor of Ordinance 260283. Protecting Leonard Smith Hall is an investment in the historical fabric and future identity of Kansas City.

Thank you for your time and for your dedication to our city's history.

Respectfully,
Michael J Markum
816-859-3510