

Public Testimony – Will Gregory 3.26.2026

Statement on Behalf of the Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund (NTDF) Committee

The Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund (NTDF) Committee is comprised of representatives from all Kansas City Council districts and is committed to upholding a fair and transparent process for awarding funds to benefit Kansas City’s residents, visitors, and nonprofit community.

Each year, committee members volunteer significant time—this cycle culminating in more than 700 total hours for in-person interviews, scoring, and a dedicated half-day of deliberations—to thoughtfully evaluate nearly 300 applications and allocate funding in a manner that best advances the City’s cultural vitality and tourism.

It is with concern that the Committee has become aware of efforts to circumvent this established process through individual City Council member funding requests outside of the NTDF’s structured review. These actions undermine the integrity of the program, as well as the considerable work undertaken annually by the Committee to ensure funds are distributed responsibly and strategically.

The NTDF exists to support nonprofit organizations that elevate Kansas City as a destination for neighbors and tourists alike. Maintaining a consistent, merit-based process is essential to achieving that mission. The committee faced significant demand this year — over \$9 million in requests with only \$2 million to distribute — and considerable effort to developing equitable decision-making frameworks for allocation of funds.

The Committee respectfully urges that all NTDF funding decisions are made through the established application and review process, and that exceptions of this nature do not become precedent moving forward.

On behalf of the NTDF Committee,

Representing	Member
Mayor's Office	Will Gregory, Chair
Mayor's Office	Kaleena James
Mayor's Office	Keli O'Neill Wenzel
1st District-at-Large	Bill Wall
1st District	Kira Montuori
2nd District-at-Large	Sharen Hunt
2nd District	Geony Rucker

3rd District-at-Large	Bonita Powell
3rd District	Robin Humphrey
4th District-at-Large	Mark A Rodriguez
5th District-at-Large	Dr. Marjorie Williams
5th District	Carl Stafford
6th District-at-Large	Lauren Weinhold
6th District	Rachel Ohlhausen