From: Kiley Sutter
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Please Oppose Ordinance #230092
Date: Monday, January 30, 2023 6:02:43 AM

Dear City Council City Council,

I am asking you to oppose Ordinance 230092. The Truman Road protected bike lanes deserve to be preserved and completed.

It is fitting that there is a debate about the right way to implement and install the bike lane and any road dieting infrastructure, and from what I can tell the city has identified ways that it can better communicate with business stakeholders when it comes to Vision Zero design implementations. However, the debate that is occurring right now has jumped the shark, so to speak. It has been spear headed by a person who has used vitriol towards bicyclists, city workers, and others as a methodology to achieve the ends he and other business owners like him want.
On the surface this situation looks like a debate over six feet of physical space designated for traffic other than cars. But now, this debate has spilled over into the metaphorical space we allow individuals who wield vitriol, rudeness, misinformation, and even the potential of physical violence (yes, violence) to achieve their ends. The city council needs to be very careful about creating space for this kind of over the top, one sided, thumb in the ear dialogue to steer policy that makes KC safer and better for all citizens. Not to mention that the biggest complainer of the bike lanes who has spearheaded the rudeness and intimidation towards those who do not agree with him has no desire about slowing traffic. He only wishes to use public city streets as his business parking once again. This is what was removed with the implementation of the bike lanes. Let's not kid ourselves. If the council allows the methodology used to bring this vote before the council, where do you draw the line. What kind of pandora's box and precedent have you opened? It will not be easily shut. We have witnessed this in spades on a national scale. The intimidation tactic of strongarming and creating fear to gain a foothold in a democratic process here should be given no space to take root in Kansas City politics. If you think I am overreacting, please take note that the biggest proponent of the current negativity and intimidation tactics from Atomic Body Shop has locked down his social media. His tag line on his now private instagram account is/was "Federal and local government are the virus. The second amendment is the vaccine." How much space do you want to provide for this kind of mentality that relies on willful disregard for the municipality and society in which he does business?

Regards,
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