

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ORDINANCE NO. 260262

Declaring a moratorium until January 15, 2031, on all City approvals for detention facilities, to evaluate the effectiveness of the regional criminal justice ecosystem, and re-evaluate the approval process for detention facilities.

WHEREAS, Kansas City is currently developing new facilities to effectuate criminal justice goals safely, efficiently, and effectively; and

WHEREAS, a period of time to evaluate the effectiveness of these facilities without the introduction of new similar facilities is necessary to accurately determine whether the City needs more or different facilities; and

WHEREAS, detention facilities approved by special use permit must currently be approved by the Board of Zoning Adjustment; and

WHEREAS, the existence and operation of detention facilities significantly impact the health, safety, happiness, and general well-being of residents surrounding such facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Council is considering whether the approval of the construction or expansion of detention facilities should be determined by the Council rather than an unelected body; and

WHEREAS, pausing the approval process for the construction or expansion of detention facilities is necessary while re-evaluating this approval process; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

Section 1. That the Mayor and Council hereby declare that there is a moratorium on the issuance of permits, licenses, zoning, and any other approvals allowing the acquisition, construction, facilitation, operation, or expansion of an existing project or initiation of a new project when the application for such approvals was filed on or after January 15, 2026, and where the subject matter of the project is for any purpose relating or incidental to detention, corrections, or other carceral activities. This moratorium shall not apply to detention facilities approved by a development plan on or before November 13, 2025, or any amendments to such plans, or approvals associated with such plans.

Section 2. This moratorium shall remain until January 15, 2031.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was duly advertised, and public hearings were held.

Sara Galand  
Secretary, City Plan Commission

Approved as to form:

Sarah Baxter  
Sarah Baxter  
Senior Associate City Attorney



Authenticated as Passed

Quinton Lucas  
Quinton Lucas, Mayor

Marilyn Sanders  
Marilyn Sanders, City Clerk

APR 02 2026

Date Passed