

From: [Michael Wolfe](#)
To: [Public Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for Ordinance 240284
Date: Monday, March 18, 2024 12:36:18 PM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the kcmo.org organization. Use caution and examine the sender address before replying or clicking links.

My name is Michael Wolfe. I'm a resident of KC in the 4th district. I am writing to ask you to support Ordinance 240284 to establish and fund a new alternative response program within the Health Department.

I have lived in KCMO's Volker neighborhood for over three years. In that time, I have never been seriously concerned about my safety and to the extent that I have had any problems, it has been with unhoused folks who need access to housing and resources, not police. Just recently, an unhoused person "broke" into my apartment building and when I asked him to leave, he explicitly said "I'm not dangerous, please don't call the police." It was so clear that what he needed was housing, and I wanted to call someone but knew the police would just arrest him, and for what, the crime of not being able to afford to live in Kansas City and needing somewhere warm to sleep?

REACH would change this. I would be proud to live in a city that has real hotlines that just bring armed officers with guns to intimidate our most vulnerable community members that I don't have the resources to support myself.

This program provides a chance for Kansas Citians to get connected to resources, care, and long-term support before they are arrested and jailed. I want to see Kansas City invest in solutions that address root causes, and provide people with access to what they need to live healthy lives.

As council members, the power is in your hands to make this transformative program a reality, and show Kansas Citians that you support responding with care and empathy as an alternative to the endless cycle of incarceration.

Michael Wolfe

he/him/they/them