

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the City Council,

My name is Lesley Hunt, and I am a parent in Kansas City. Both my young children attend Border Star Montessori and we live in Waldo. I am writing in opposition to the affordable housing changes included in Ordinance 260286.

Reducing the “in-lieu-of” fee from \$100,000 to \$5,000 per unit would significantly weaken one of our city’s most important tools for ensuring that public incentives create real community benefit.

I noticed that this change was introduced without meaningful input from the public or housing experts. To me the lack of transparency is deeply concerning—especially for a decision that will directly impact housing affordability (which I will tell you, our family personally struggles with and sees amongst our neighbors regularly) and, in turn, KCPS students & families like ours, and teachers.

Housing is already unaffordable and when you make it that much more so, families are pushed out (Again, my family is seeing this with a neighbor. They rent next door to us a very small 2BR/1B, not well kept property at \$1500 and rising, so our neighbors are having to move to Lone Jack, when they would much rather stay in KC. They have 2 students.)

This also means students like our neighbors are forced to change schools, and educators struggle to remain in the communities they serve. I was reading an article just today that said Missouri teachers are among the worst paid in the country and KCMO starting salary is \$48,000. That's what I made coming out of school in 2009 as a graphic designer. 71% of them have to work a second job to just survive.

These are real people and consequences of city policy decisions.

I urge you to remove the affordable housing provisions from this ordinance and allow time for proper public engagement and review.

Kansas City residents deserve transparency, accountability, and policies that put community first.

--

Lesley Hunt / she, her, hers

Brand + Visual Designer

6th District, Waldo KCMO - 705 W 84th St.

m 316.640.4305