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To:
City Clerk's Office
clerk@kcmo.org

Cc:
Jennifer Reinhardt
Jennifer.Reinhardt@kcmo.org

RE: CD-CPC-2025-00143: Text Amendments – Section 88-420, Parking & Loading

Dear Members of the Neighborhood Planning & Development Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed updates to Kansas City's parking standards. As a planner who works closely with community members, small-scale developers, and local organizations, I have seen firsthand how our current parking requirements often limit the types of housing and mixed-use projects that neighborhoods want and need.

These amendments represent a critical step toward implementing the vision outlined in the KC Spirit Playbook, particularly our shared goals of expanding housing affordability, encouraging walkable and transit-supportive neighborhoods, and promoting more efficient and productive land use. Modernizing outdated parking minimums is essential if we want to foster infill development, support smaller and emerging builders, and lower barriers to creating the kinds of incremental, context-sensitive projects that strengthen community fabric.

Reducing or right-sizing parking requirements is not only aligned with national best practices; it is also responsive to local conditions. Many of Kansas City's historic neighborhoods were built long before parking mandates, and they continue to thrive with a diverse mix of building types, small businesses, and housing options. Updating our regulations will allow today's residents and builders to carry forward that tradition while improving affordability and sustainability for future generations.

Community voices have consistently emphasized the need for more flexible and people-centered development standards. This proposal reflects that feedback. I encourage the Committee to adopt these changes and help ensure that Kansas City remains competitive, equitable, and welcoming to a wider range of development approaches.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing work to modernize the development code in ways that benefit our entire city. I appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,



Abby Newsham, AICP
Senior Planner