

From: [Jimmy Fitzner](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Testimony for ordinance 260219
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To the Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Jimmy Fitzner and I live in the 4th district, in the Indian Mound neighborhood of Historic Northeast KC. I serve as president of our neighborhood association.

I am writing to **support** a reduction in parking minimums required by new developments **but with a caveat:** abolishing parking minimums entirely should be restricted only to those districts that have asked for such a thing to spur development, including River Market, Downtown, and Crossroads, along where our new streetcar runs. There are dozens of urban core neighborhoods that have **not** asked for such a thing, and backlash to this ordinance by neighborhoods in Northeast and across the city could be severe enough to sink this entire plan.

I strongly suggest reducing minimums in the urban core to the identical numbers suggested for the Northland but **not down to zero entirely**. Again, only robust and fare-free transit provided by our streetcar supports such a thing. In Northeast (where we already know the burden of having little to no off-street parking for our housing stock), this would be nothing more than a giveaway to developers who could save up to \$60,000 per parking stall. This cost, as Donald Shoup has taught us in *The High Cost of Free Parking*, wouldn't go away and rather it would be transferred to the low income and working-class people in the neighborhoods. There is no such thing as "free parking"; the development provides it, or the taxpayers and residents shoulder the burden of on-street parking.

Our parking minimums are too high for a 21st century Kansas City. If we want this to succeed without massive backlash, please consider reducing minimums in the urban core, and abolishing them entirely only along the streetcar line. Having worked alongside many neighborhoods in our city, I am fairly confident that a drastic shift of parking cost burden to residents who don't have adequate, fare-free public transit will just look like another unfair policy hoisted upon the less wealthy parts of town. I truly believe this city council is our most fair and equitable yet and I would like to see it succeed yet again in this endeavor. Let's get this right out of respect for our council, and for our neighborhoods.

In Community,
Jimmy Fitzner