
Amend Zoning Code for Data Centers

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Dear Neighborhoods Planning and Development Committee,

I urge you to ask for amendments to the currently proposed zoning code being brought to the Neighborhoods Planning and Development committee on Dec. 9th. The zoning code proposed for data centers, as currently drafted, is insufficient in protecting the interests and health of everyday Kansas Citians.

I have been following the national trend of data centers and it's clear that there will be significant negative impacts to utility costs due to energy demand and water usage. This has been clearly documented across many media outlets. In addition, the downstream effects of more large impervious surfaces created by parking and rooftops will cause additional storm-water run-off that will negatively affect the Independence-Sugar Watershed of the Northland -- Weatherby Lake in particular. Additional run-off from the inter-modal distribution center, the Park Hill Transportation Depot and additional housing communities are several builds that have already stressed our community.

I urge you to be proactive about minimizing these harms by creating a zoning code that allows for more oversight in the following ways. The data center zoning code should:

1. Be its own zoning code rather than lumped in with Large Format Uses.
2. Require special-use permits for data centers that are voted on and approved by the city council.
3. Include environmental impact studies.
4. Include environmental protections such as limiting water usage/cooling requirements and limiting fossil-fuel generators (including back-ups).
5. Require utility demand disclosure.
6. Require ample distance from residential neighborhoods.

If data center development is allowed to continue as is, Kansas Citians will be forced to bear the brunt of the cost of utility rate increases, resource extraction, and pollution. Do right by Kansas Citians and demand a more thorough zoning code for data centers.

Thank you,