

October 18, 2025

Neighborhood Planning and Development Committee

Mayor Pro Tem Ryana Parks-Shaw, Chairperson

4th District Councilmember Eric Bunch, Vice Chairperson

1st District Councilmember Nathan Willett, Committee Member

3rd District At Large Councilmember, Melissa Patterson-Hazley, Committee Member

Supplemental Copy to City Clerk at public.testimony@kcmo.org

Re: **Ordinance No. 250871 – Norman School Historic District**

Dear Mayor Pro Tem and Committee Members:

*The Plaza Westport Neighborhood Association (PWNA) supports the Valentine Neighborhood Association's seeking a rezoning of an area of about 15 acres generally located at West 35th Street to the north, Pennsylvania Avenue to the east, Valentine Road to the south, and Summit Street to the west to UR /HO in order to designate the area as a local Historic District on the Kansas City Register of Historic Places. We ask that you support Ordinance No. 250871 to achieve that goal. We share the perspective of our fellow Midtown neighborhood that the single-family residences and smaller scale multi-family residential structures of the proposed **Norman School Historic District** tell a unique and important story and should be preserved to provide tangible reminders of the past that create a unique sense of place for both current and future residents. Without the safeguards with the approval of Ordinance No. 250871, these residences and structures will likely be lost to the detriment of the Valentine Neighborhood, but also other surrounding Midtown neighborhoods. Demolition creeps and doesn't recognize neighborhood boundaries.*

Our own Plaza Westport Neighborhood has seen too many single-family residences demolished by developers so that more dense multi-family projects can be built. Those multi-family projects have begun to dominate our neighborhood, eroding the quality of life and character of our neighborhood for those who previously invested in their homes, and continue to reside there. Once the fabric of historic homes and structures is torn by such demolition, that which remain become vulnerable as their numbers no longer will sustain a viable historic designation or even prevent demolition of such historic structures. What is even worse, our Plaza Westport Neighborhood's experience is that often those redevelopment efforts stall, *even with incentives*, so that affordable housing is demolished, but nothing replaces it.

PWNA asks that you recommend Ordinance No. 250871 for passage.

Sincerely,



By Robert K. Martin, President

Plaza Westport Neighborhood Association

Email: plazawestport.association@gmail.com

Cc: Andrea Bough, 6th District At-Large Councilmember

Johnathan Duncan, 6th District Councilmember

Robert K Martin, President – PWNA

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