
Robeson Middle School testimony

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To Public Testimony <Public.Testimony@kcmo.org>

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Good afternoon. I live at 8131 Holmes Rd, Kansas City, MO 64131. We have worked steadily to clean up the neglected property we purchased and take pride in our community. However, Robeson Middle School is a blight on the neighborhood and it makes living here tough. At any given time, people are in the building. It is common to see groups climbing onto the front roof and walking back along the roof to an upper access point. At my home we commonly hear gunshots coming from that general location. There is also a pathway from the entry of Robeson, walking straight behind the houses directly across the street and through an empty, incredibly overgrown lot that runs from behind our house and the blue condos at 8137 Holmes, over to Troost. At night, we have seen fires, heard yelling and screams occasionally, and the ever-present gunshots. It is not uncommon to walk outside and pick up spent bullet casings in our driveway. As we pass this building daily, we see downed trees, passed out individuals, bags of trash and furniture dumped at the site; one evening I saw several campsites with the people watching tablets while they ate. During my first year here, I drove by a car on-fire that had rolled across the street from Robeson and stopped against the adjacent curb to burn. The level of neglect is astonishing. I've spoken with the police and they won't allow their members to enter the building any longer due to the deterioration, and they can't do more than patrol the streets surrounding it.

When we bought our unique property on Holmes, we had hoped it would be a place we could retire in. We love Waldo. But I have found the neighborhood to be frightening enough that I fear having my grandchildren spend the night. While removing Robeson won't fix everything, it would be a huge start to making our area safe. I implore the city to intervene and force the developer to either make good on his stale promises or find someone else willing to support Waldo's values and desire for growth.

Thank you.

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