

From: [Charles-Elizabeth Boyles](#)
To: [Public Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for Ordinance 240284
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Hello! My name is Charlie Boyles. I'm a resident of the 6th District, and I'm writing to support the adoption and full funding of Ordinance 240284. This program would be incredibly impactful for many Kansas Citians who might otherwise face incarceration, instead helping them connect with the resources they really need.

I am a private security worker at a large institution, though I here I speak only for myself and not my employer. It's not uncommon for me to encounter people in distress in some way: they may be unhoused, or suffering a mental health crisis, or some combination of factors that leaves them at risk and without shelter. At present, my only recourse when I truly cannot find a solution for them is, functionally, to call the police, since KCPD appears with every 911 call. Police presence, unfortunately, often serves to escalate the problem: people have often had traumatic encounters with law enforcement, and it's frankly unreasonable to expect KCPD to deal with the issues people face. Diversion is also cheaper than incarceration, which also disproportionately impacts Black people and people of color; KCPD has itself noted that they are often not equipped, whether for staff reasons or training reasons, to respond to these calls. If this program were implemented, it would help to alleviate many sources of strain at many levels, and would provide a better recourse to help divert people from incarceration.

Furthermore, we have an opportunity here to be create new methods of care and community support, and I think it behooves us to address the root causes of municipal ordinance violations. I urge you once again to adopt and fully fund Ordinance 240284.

Thank you for your time.

Yours, Charlie Boyles