

**FW: Ordinance 260283**

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**From** Clerk <Clerk@KCMO.org>  
**Date** Tue 3/31/2026 8:14 AM  
**To** West, Daliah <Daliah.West@kcmo.org>  
**Cc** Sanders, Marilyn <Marilyn.Sanders@kcmo.org>

Public Testimony

Monica Sanders  
Chief Deputy City Clerk  
Office: 816-513-6407

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Christy Maddux <christymaddux@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2026 6:51 PM  
**To:** Clerk <Clerk@KCMO.org>  
**Cc:** John E. Bordeau <j.bordeau@swrllp.com>; Chambi, Larisa <Larisa.Chambi@kcmo.org>  
**Subject:** Ordinance 260283

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Dear Kansas City Leadership,

Please consider the detrimental effect that taking down Leonard Smith Hall would have on the Historic Integrity of the Historic Northeast, Pendleton Heights, and Kansas City before making your decision. Pendleton Heights is a designated historic district, and many of us have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to live in the most historic Part of Kansas City which becomes less historic with every passing year, largely at the hands of KCU and city leadership.

Leadership of the city, over the years, has consistently allowed the historic character of this area to be degraded and it is significant less historic now than it was 15 years ago. Please help us stop this degradation.

Before making your decision on Leonard Smith Hall - please consider what the loss of that landmark building would mean to those of us who live in the Historic Northeast, and in Kansas City proper. We will be devastated.

The loss will be felt by future visitors, too, as they travel to the area and feel, somehow, that there should be more buildings considering the rich history of Kansas City.

Please consider that KCU will most likely build a new structure with its back to the street, forcing residents and visitors to pass along the backs of buildings for many blocks before reaching home. The feeling of driving along the backs of buildings lowers morale. There is a reason the fronts of buildings and homes face the street. KCU places the backs of their buildings to the street. They could build entrances on both sides, but they choose to put the back toward us.

Please consider the effect that turning the buildings away from a Main Street has on the overall crime. Without natural surveillance, crime will rise. There is less natural surveillance when the back of buildings face the street.

KCU refused to discuss the new building design with us last fall. Historically, KCU has turned all their buildings away from the street, turning their back to the area they claim to be part of. KCU has been building an institution that is not welcoming as we drive home and pass along the backside of their fortress and the tall spikey fence abs as residents who live here, we feel that effect. Future potential residents will also feel it, possibly affecting the real estate value of the area.

Leonard Smith Hall is one of the few buildings that we pass while driving on Independence Avenue that still faces the street and that has an effect on all of us residents who live here.

Please consider that once it's demolished , it can never be resurrected.

Please consider the multiple cool opportunities for reuse that lie within Leonard Smith Hall before allowing it to be torn down.

There are whole blocks of grass in Pendleton Heights that are owned by KCU on which they could build a new structure. Please recommend of the last beautiful buildings on Independence Avenue to be added to the historic register.

Sincerely,  
Christy Maddux  
508 Garfield Avenue

PS. I fractured a bone in my knee and therefore cannot attend the meeting tomorrow, have the later email.

Sent from my iPhone