

**From:** [Drew Arends](#)  
**To:** [Bunch, Eric](#); [Willett, Nathan](#); [Melissa Patterson Hazley](#); [Parks-Shaw, Ryana](#)  
**Cc:** [Yearwood, DJ](#); [Williamson, Annie](#); [Iden, Marissa](#); [McCoy, Keema](#); [Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Data Center & Zoning Codes  
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Hello! If you're reading this before attending the Neighborhoods Planning and Development committee on Dec. 9th, thanks for checking your email before attending a meeting that has many implications for our community. I'm writing to ask you to please consider adding amendments to the zoning code that is proposed for data centers. As it is currently drafted, is insufficient in protecting the interests and health of everyday Kansas Citians.

Please consider: the noise pollution, rising electric costs, and environmental risks data centers pose ( <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/with-ai-on-the-rise-what-will-be-the-environmental-impacts-of-data-centers-180987379/>), the threats to water ( <https://www.forbes.com/sites/cindygordon/2024/02/25/ai-is-accelerating-the-loss-of-our-scarcest-natural-resource-water/>) and the implications for human jobs ( <https://www.cnbc.com/amp/2025/10/22/ai-taking-white-collar-jobs-economists-warn-much-more-in-the-tank.html>).

With these considerations in mind, I ask for you to consider the following amendments to be made to the zoning code:

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

Thank you and best regards, Drew