
Amend Zoning Code for Data Centers

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Dear Neighborhoods Planning and Development Committee,

I urge you to ask for amendments to the currently proposed zoning code being brought to the Neighborhoods Planning and Development committee on Dec. 9th. The zoning code proposed for data centers, as currently drafted, is insufficient in protecting the interests and health of everyday Kansas Citians.

My name is Amelia Rouyer and live in 64123, in the northeast. Just 2 miles from the Hawthorne plant, whose pollution already negatively impacts the health and wellness of myself and neighbors. I know firsthand we cannot afford any more pollution in our city. I also am concerned about being able to afford utilities if there are not protections in place ensuring data centers will not drive consumer prices up. And I am just one of many in Kansas City who will be harmed by data centers if protections are not put in place moving forward.

I urge you to be proactive about minimizing these harms by creating a zoning code that allows for more oversight in the following ways. The data center zoning code should:

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

If data center development is allowed to continue as is, Kansas Citians will be forced to bear the brunt of the cost of utility rate increases, resource extraction, and pollution. Do right by Kansas Citians and demand a more thorough zoning code for data centers.

Thank you,

Amelia Rouyer