From: Chandra Gordon
To: Public Testimony
Subject: Opposition to Ordinance No. 250889 and 250890
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Good afternoon.

My name is Chandra Gordon. I am a Kansas City native and current resident, and I've had the privilege of serving this community as a social worker for the past 20 years. I'm here today to oppose Ordinance No. 250889 — the proposal to spend nearly $19 million of taxpayer funds to build so-called temporary jails ahead of the 2026 World Cup.

I understand the desire to prepare our city for a global event — Kansas City will be in the spotlight. But once the games end, life here goes back to normal. Those jails will remain, and it will be our own community members and loved ones who end up filling them.

This ordinance misuses taxpayer dollars that were intended for city improvement — dollars that could instead be used to address food deserts, expand mental-health services, create safe and affordable housing, and invest in youth programs that build true safety and opportunity.

After two decades working alongside families and individuals in crisis, I can tell you: incarceration is not a solution to struggle. The causes are systemic — poverty, trauma, and lack of access to care. We all have loved ones who've faced hard times; what they need are resources, not cages.

If we truly want the world to see Kansas City at its best, let's invest in what makes us strong — healing, opportunity, and community. Not incarceration infrastructure that will outlast the event and harm those we're meant to serve.

I urge you to vote against Ordinance 250889 and redirect those funds toward lasting, community-centered solutions that create safety, dignity, and hope for all Kansas Citians.

Thank you.

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