
Amend Zoning Code for Data Centers

From Adam B <adamsamkt@gmail.com>

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To Melissa Patterson Hazley <Melissa.Patterson-Hazley@kcmo.org>; Willett, Nathan <Nathan.Willett@kcmo.org>; Bunch, Eric <Eric.Bunch@kcmo.org>; Parks-Shaw, Ryana <Ryana.Parks-Shaw@kcmo.org>

Cc Yearwood, DJ <Darvius.Yearwood@kcmo.org>; Williamson, Annie <Annie.Williamson@kcmo.org>; Iden, Marissa <Marissa.Iden@kcmo.org>; McCoy, Keema <Keema.McCoy@kcmo.org>; Clerk <Clerk@KCMO.org>

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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.

I personally am against it for a multitude of reasons. I am lucky enough not to be as affected by the rise of electricity rates as others but I still don't want that for me or the many who it would really hurt. The pollution it will cause is not some imaginary environmental issue but will be a real and immediate problem for the entire community. And especially if they are allowed to be anywhere near residences.

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,

Adam Benckeser