



May 5, 2025

Re: Ordinance No 250202: Changing of the name Troost Ave to Truth Ave.

Dear KCMO City Council,

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Association would like to express its profound opposition to current process being undertaken to change the name of Troost Avenue, two miles of which are located within the Hyde Park neighborhood boundaries. While a name change itself isn't necessarily an immediate cause for concern, the complete and seemingly deliberate disregard of any sort of public engagement for such a change is. The city clearly outlines the requirements for public engagement for matters such as special use permits, rezoning or development plans, however the renaming of a major and historic thoroughfare is arguably equally if not more impactful than these scenarios and should at least be treated similarly when it comes to such engagement with the community.

Some of the steps taken to date that indicate a complete disregard for public engagement include:

- 1) Sending non-certified mail to affected property owners of a public hearing, the only correspondence received to date.
- 2) Including inaccurate / fake CD-ROW case reference number on mail sent, leaving residents no ability to find additional information online.
- 3) If the first public hearing is to be considered a 'public engagement' meeting, then:
 - a. Not collaborating with affected property owners and neighborhood associations to schedule such public meeting.
 - b. Not providing at least seven calendar days notice of such public meeting.
 - c. Not holding such public meeting in an office / space unaffiliated with the applicant/sponsor.
 - d. Not holding such public meeting outside of normal business hours.
 - e. Not sending certified mail of such public meeting.

All of these steps taken to date seem intentional in limiting public engagement, primarily considering the first time our residents officially heard of such a change was through this non-certified mailer received only four days ago. There are over 700 properties along Troost Avenue represented by no less than 23 neighborhood

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associations. Of these 700 properties, 124 property owners (nearly 20%) are represented by the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association.

Our reasonable ask of you today is that this ordinance get tabled and only resumes after such properly coordinated and conducted public engagement meeting(s) has occurred. Please let our residents / community decide if a name change is desired and if so, what that name should be. We hope to avoid any similar circumstances to The Paseo name change process just a mere five years later, which wasted over \$100,000 of city funds. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Koch".

Christopher Koch, AIA
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