
Ordinance 260440 - NPD Committee

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Date Tue 5/12/2026 11:54 AM

To Clerk <Clerk@KCMO.org>

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May 12, 2026

Neighborhood Planning and Development Committee

City of Kansas City, Missouri

414 E. 12th Street, City Hall

Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Submitted via: clerk@kcmo.org

Dear Chair Parks-Shaw and Members of the NPD Committee,

On behalf of Kanbe's Markets, a Kansas City-based nonprofit perishable logistics organization, I am pleased to submit this written testimony in strong support of Ordinance 260440 and the SWIFR funding. Kanbe's Markets exists at the intersection of food access and food waste reduction. We believe this ordinance represents exactly the kind of systems-level investment that Kansas City needs to lead on both fronts.

Kanbe's Markets operates the nation's only full-stack perishable logistics network, managing surplus produce from wholesaler recovery through neighborhood retail distribution, with secondary pathways to animal feed and composting for material that cannot reach human consumption. In 2025 alone, we redirected over one million pounds of produce into the emergency food system — a contribution valued at nearly \$2 million in donated fresh food for Kansas City's hunger relief efforts. Today, our Healthy Corner Store program provides 67% of Kansas City's Low Income, Low Access census tracts with reliable access to fresh, perishable food through locally owned neighborhood stores.

Our novel, end-to-end model is a unique Kansas City asset — one capable of serving as a natural backbone for a hub-and-spoke food recovery system that addresses large-generator fresh food diversion, cold-chain expansion, and last-mile fresh food access in neighborhoods where traditional grocery retail has proven unsustainable. SWIFR powers building the framework conditions that can activate and accelerate what Kanbe's has already built to feed more of our residents than we could have previously dreamed possible.

Kansas City's forward-thinking approach to circular food systems is not a well-kept secret, and it should not be! When we had the opportunity to host EPA Administrator Zeldin alongside Pete's Garden and KC Can Compost as part of the Feed It Onward initiative — the EPA's contribution to America's 250th Birthday celebration — we made a point of demonstrating that Kansas City is not simply keeping pace with national best practices. We are setting them. Ordinance 260440 and the SWIFR funding are the next chapter of that story that deserves to be told on the national stage.

Kanbe's stands ready as a committed implementation partner. The opportunity before this Committee is not simply about solid waste infrastructure; it is about building a more inclusive, resilient, and equitable food system for all Kansas Citians. With the right policy framework in place, the partnerships required to deliver that future are already here. We see significant potential in a coordinated \$5 million investment that brings together the City, Kanbe's, and our network of community health, food recovery, and neighborhood retail partners to formalize and scale Kansas City's circular food economy from pilot to permanent infrastructure.

We are grateful to Jensen Adams and Stephanie Dresen at the Office of Environmental Quality, and the members of this Committee for your leadership and for the opportunity to be part of this work. We urge your support of Ordinance 260440.

Respectfully submitted,

Casey Claps

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