
Amend Zoning Code for Data Centers

From Brooke Bowlin <brooke98morgan@gmail.com>

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Dear Neighborhoods Planning and Development Committee,

My name is Brooke and I'm a KC resident in the 3rd District.

Please seek amendments to the 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 Kansas Citians.

I am a climate writer and deeply invested in Kansas City following through on its climate commitments. Building more data centers are the antithesis of what we need to be doing to build climate resiliency in KC. We are in a climate crisis and data centers, especially unregulated and poorly-defined data centers, exacerbate the climate crisis. I am worried about energy rate hikes—an impact seen nationwide as more data centers are built. I'm worried about increased pollution and resource extraction. **The research is clear—data centers harm the communities they are built in while that same community sees no real benefit from that development.** Maybe there's a short term uptick in jobs for the build, but long term, data centers are a disaster.

Please 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,

Brooke Bowlin
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