To the Neighborhoods Planning and Development Committee,

As you heard in today's meeting, there are significant concerns regarding the health and safety of Kansas City residents, as well as the ecological impacts facing our community. I strongly urge you to seek amendments to the zoning code. As written, the proposed zoning language for data centers does not adequately protect the interests, well-being, or long-term sustainability of Kansas City and its residents.

I am particularly concerned about how this zoning code will affect the citizens and the surrounding area. Data centers demand enormous amounts of energy and water, with the burden of the costs ultimately falling on residents. We are already facing rising utility rates, and allowing data centers to expand without strong safeguards will further burden households who are struggling to keep up. In addition, high water consumption threatens access to clean water, particularly during drought periods or infrastructure strain. I am also deeply concerned about environmental justice issues: these facilities are often sited in or near vulnerable neighborhoods, concentrating pollution, noise, and resource depletion in communities that already face disproportionate environmental and economic challenges.

I encourage you to take proactive steps to reduce these risks by ensuring that the zoning code includes stronger oversight and accountability. A responsible data center zoning code should:

- Be its own zoning code rather than lumped in with Large Format Uses.

- Require special-use permits for data centers that are voted on and approved by the city council.

- Include environmental impact studies.

- Include environmental protections such as limiting water usage/cooling requirements and limiting fossil-fuel generators (including back-ups).

- Require utility demand disclosure.

- Require ample distance from residential neighborhoods.

If data center development proceeds under the current framework, Kansas Citians will be left to absorb the costs--both environmental and economic. Please act in the best

interest of our community by demanding a more thorough and forward-thinking zoning code for data centers.

Thank you,
Al Freeman