

To the City Council Housing Committee,

I am a Kansas City resident, voter, and leader with KC Tenants. At the beginning of the pandemic in March, myself and others within the KC Tenants organization started a hotline to try to address the onslaught of housing crises that arose as an effect of the pandemic. We aren't service providers and so we would just refer people to services like Healthy Homes. Often though we heard from tenants who had long standing unhealthy and unlivable conditions—mold, insects, leaks, etc.

Something we've heard again and again on the hotline is how ineffectual Healthy Homes is. Even if tenants are able to get an inspection, there is little motivating a landlord to do much more than put a band-aid on the problem. There is no mechanism within Healthy Homes to enforce standards and tenants are left without options.

Throughout this time we have also seen an inordinate number of people lose their jobs and become unable to pay rent for the first time. People have been evicted as a direct result of this pandemic. Putting people on the streets during a pandemic is a failure to preserve public health and safety.

Ordinance 210055 is necessary to get people who have been displaced due to the pandemic back into homes. Landlords' current ability to discriminate against tenants who are impacted the most by the global pandemic and accompanying recession does nothing but tear communities apart. It keeps families unhoused. It forces tenants to sleep in hotels and cars OR to leave Kansas City altogether. 814 evictions have happened in Jackson County during this pandemic so far. At least 618 are on the docket for next month. We expect hundreds of more evictions to happen throughout the rest of the pandemic. Are we a city who defends our people? Or are we a city who defends our property? The \$1000 per day fine is an essential mechanism to enforce this.

We must do everything we can to keep people housed (end evictions) and get people re-housed (including ending discrimination against prior evictions, especially during COVID). I urge you to vote yes on Ordinance 210055. People are dying.

Andrea DiCarlo, Fourth District KCMO