
Amend Zoning Code for Data Centers

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Dear Neighborhoods Planning and Development Committee,

I urge you to ask for amendments to the currently proposed zoning code being brought to the Neighborhoods Planning and Development Committee on December 9th. The zoning code proposed for data centers, as currently drafted, is insufficient in protecting the interests and health of everyday Kansas Citians.

I am concerned about data centers and this zoning code because these facilities consume enormous amounts of electricity and water, and the lack of oversight will directly impact local residents through higher utility rates, increased strain on our infrastructure, and potential environmental harm. Without clear safeguards, Kansas City families—especially those already vulnerable—could end up footing the bill for corporate development.

I urge you to 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:

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 backups).

Require utility demand disclosure.

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 for your time and consideration