

From: [Shields, Katheryn](#)
To: [Public Testimony](#)
Subject: Fwd: Pass Res. 220596 with NO weakening amendments
Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 11:54:33 PM

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From: Ryan Dickey <ryand@sunrisemovementkc.org>
Date: Aug 23, 2022 11:51 PM
Subject: Pass Res. 220596 with NO weakening amendments
To: "Robinson, Melissa" <Melissa.Robinson@kcmo.org>, "Bunch, Eric" <Eric.Bunch@kcmo.org>, "Loar, Teresa" <Teresa.Loar@kcmo.org>, "Shields, Katheryn" <Katheryn.Shields@kcmo.org>, "ONeill, Kevin" <Kevin.ONeill@kcmo.org>
Cc:

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To the Members of the TIO Committee:

Good morning, my name is Ryan and I live in the 4th district. I'm writing today as a leader with Sunrise Movement KC and the Midtown Tenants' Union to call on City Council to pass Resolution 220596 without any weakening amendments.

When I read the first draft of this plan, I was concerned to the point of panic. It endorsed false solutions, relied on the good will of developers and fossil fuel profiteers, and seemed to think equity was something to be acknowledged in a prologue, versus a lens all climate action should be viewed and applied through. It relied on adapting a broad regional climate plan in the hands of out of state consultants who failed to address most key issues specific to Kansas City. One thing was clear: the community was not engaged with this plan.

So, we got to work. We ran an (ultimately unsuccessful) campaign to get two dedicated climate leaders appointed to the Steering Committee. We hosted the People's Climate Town Hall, where community members and organizers across a variety of perspectives designed the climate framework KC deserves. As a result, dozens of people who understand the livability crisis in Kansas City all too well submitted comment that ended up giving the plan its highlights today; building decarbonization centered on communities that need it most, improving our bus system with reliable wait times and extra mobility for redlined neighborhoods, permanently affordable social housing, and closure of Hawthorn coal plant by 2025. However, it should be said many of the community's most important demands were left on the cutting room floor: no new fossil fuel infrastructure, community control over our utilities, the right to a home and protections from displacement, and redirection of our bloated police budget into the neighborhoods and schools. So when I hear Evergy and Spire complain about not having a seat at the table, I ask: who owns the table? Who had a guaranteed seat on the steering committee before anyone from our communities? Whose employees kept a watchful eye on the meetings, and flooded public comment with pro-gas comments? Whose names are plastered across our city, sports, and politics? Who has access to your offices in ways we never will?

I want to be clear: we are not here to make your lives harder. We are here because we fear for our own. The action laid out in this plan will need to be taken with commitment and deliberation, but will also need to be supplemented with grit and accountability not included in this resolution. Please, take what the community has given you and implement it faithfully.

Today, inaction would only cost councilmembers our votes next April. In our lifetimes, it would cost us our home as we know it.

Please pass this resolution with its full intent and community-oriented strategies. Thank you.