

EWING MARION
KAUFFMAN
FOUNDATION

February 27, 2023

Mayor Quinton Lucas and the
City of Kansas City Councilmembers
414 East 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106

RE: Resolution [230129](#) and Ordinance [230160](#) Letter of Support

City of Kansas City Councilmembers and Mayor Lucas,

I am writing in support of Resolution 230129 and Ordinance 230160. The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation's Kansas City Civic team supports the City contribution of \$30 million over the next five years to fund community-based violence reduction strategies as outlined in the [KC Blueprint](#) for Violence Prevention.

Kansas City, Missouri, is the 37th largest United States city, yet suffers with the fifth highest violence crime rate per capita. Our city is at endemic levels of violence with each of the last three years having been the most violent on record. During this period, we have collectively lost 505 sons, daughters, and children to homicide.

This historic and significant multi-year public funding to address community-based violence reduction work is a critical first step to catalyzing additional investments. Local crime is an urgent matter. Therefore, mobilizing funds, leveraging public and private sources, are required to deploy proven violence reduction strategies in communities disproportionately impacted.

Beyond the numerous lives that can be saved, the quality of life and the economic prosperity of Kansas City, and our region will increase through ongoing investments into root causes of violence and prevention. Studies by the RAND Corporation and data from Cohen and Piquero (2009) and Miller, Cohen, and Wiersema (1996) indicate a single homicide results in more than \$8 million in costs to society. Over the next five years, if the conservative goal of reducing homicides by five percent annually is obtained, this would result in an overall societal savings of \$312 million. As Super Bowl winners, Kansas City is in the national spotlight. The anticipated NFL Draft, the 2026 FIFA World Cup, and several national museums attract visitors to our city. The new airport will also provide endless possibilities for Kansas City. We owe it to ourselves, and our visitors, to ensure that our city is a safe place.

Please accept this letter of support enabling our great city – and its leadership – to prioritize the expansion of community-led, evidence-based violence reduction measures. We appreciate your positive action and ongoing support to build the local capacity to reduce and prevent violence in Kansas City.

Respectfully,

Gloria Jackson-Leathers

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