

January 29, 2021

Mayor Quinton Lucas and
Members of the City Council
KCMO City Hall
414 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, MO 64106

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the City Council:

Black Men Run Kansas City wishes to submit the following letter in support of the proposed legislation to decriminalize walking and biking in Kansas City.

We support this measure as a step to limit the over-policing of Black and Brown people in Kansas City. The measures targeted in this legislation, including jaywalking, dirty tires, and bike inspection, do nothing to actually make our streets safer for people who walk, run or bike. It does not make sense for us to allow these measures to remain in place, especially if there is no evidence they protect the people who fall under their scope.

At Black Men Run Kansas City we encourage health and wellness by promoting a culture of running to stay fit. We know that African American men are at high risk for having heart disease, diabetes, & even a stroke. We believe walking & running can help change these trends. Though there are several reasons why someone might be hesitant to take charge of their health, fear of harassment should not be one of them.

That is why Black Men Run Kansas City supports the adoption of this measure and asks the City Council to do the same.

Thank you,

Brian Jones
Captain
Black Men Run Kansas City