

January 27, 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

On behalf of the Bluehills Neighborhood Association, **I have written this letter to ask you to vote in favor of the proposed measure to decriminalize walking and biking.** We support this measure because it will help to protect some of our most vulnerable road users, but also because in doing so, it will make our neighborhood safer.

Initially, we support this measure because it protects people who want to walk and bike. The pieces of the municipal code that are identified in this legislation deserve to be struck since they do nothing to actually protect people who walk and bike. As a member of the Vision Zero Task Force, we are responsible for identifying ways to develop a more *equitable* transportation system. That means dismantling elements that don't protect road users as much as it means building new portions that do.

Additionally, we support this measure because it can help to make our neighborhood safer if it is adopted. In my capacity with Ivanhoe, I have worked to develop spaces where people can walk and ride safely for exercise and other purposes. However, I remain concerned that residents won't be able to fully enjoy these activities if they must constantly worry about being punished for such frivolous violations as those identified in this legislation. Regardless of whether they are walking or biking, my neighbors deserve to feel safe.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you all to vote in **favor** of this measure.

Thank you,

Linda Brown
President, Bluehills Neighborhood Association
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