



February 1, 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 Health Forward Foundation, I am offering the following letter in **support** of the proposed legislation to decriminalize walking and biking in Kansas City. Our organization supports this measure for the following reasons:

- **We are committed to fighting health injustices in this city and throughout the region.** In our 2021-2022 policy agenda, we have stated our intent to advance race and health equity in policy. It is important for us to support legislative efforts which protect Black and Brown people in Kansas City. That not only means advancing new policies, but dismantling existing laws which have the potential to harm those communities.
- **This legislation does nothing to make biking or walking safer.** The portions of the municipal code identified thus far, including jaywalking, dirty tires, and arbitrary inspections of bicycles, have not made our streets safer. This is not only evidenced by the need to adopt a Vision Zero resolution last year, but by the continued lack of data around the enforcement of these laws. If we cannot prove these measures are actually protecting the road users covered under the scope, how can we justify keeping them on the books?
- **Addressing this issue is key to building a healthier community.** The Health Forward Foundation wants to help build a city where everyone, but especially our most vulnerable residents, have the opportunity to engage in regular physical activities like walking and biking. We can't fully realize that goal if people fear being over-policed for doing those things. Safe, robust facilities must be aligned with an ease of comfortably moving through those spaces, and adopting this legislation is one way to help make that happen.

In conclusion, the Health Forward Foundation **supports** this effort to decriminalize walking and biking and strongly urges the full City Council to do the same.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adriana M. Pecina".

Adriana Pecina
Senior Program Officer
Health Forward Foundation