

February 16, 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:

The West Plaza Neighborhood Association (WPNA) 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 or bike. It doesn't 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.

The West Plaza Neighborhood Association consists of a vibrant, historic neighborhood nestled west of the Plaza and south of Westport - our members consist of homeowners, renters, and locally-owned businesses. We are committed to driving positive change in Kansas City, so our members are devoted to the health, safety, and wellbeing of our neighborhood and neighbors.

Our neighborhood is sandwiched between Country Club Plaza, Westport, Hyde Park, and Midtown, so our residents are diverse and consist of high-earning professionals, long-time residents, students, and young families. We celebrate our parks and green spaces and want neighbors to feel safe and welcome in these spaces. Our streets and sidewalks are filled with folks biking, running, pushing strollers, and enjoying the outdoors; however, studies show that statistically, Black and Brown people carry a heightened risk of being stopped, searched, ticketed, and arrested engaging in these activities.

The WPNA believes that our neighborhood and all neighborhoods across Kansas City should allow folks to engage in outdoor recreation without fear of over-policing. We support the adoption of this measure and ask the City Council to do the same.

Thank you,

Board of Directors for the West Plaza Neighborhood Association