

Think Global | Act Local

Dear Friend of JCRB|AJC,

We have heard from so many of you who share our outrage and grief at not only the murder of George Floyd, but the racism inherent in our current systems which led to this horrific event, and too many others like it. We are listening to and learning from our partners about how we can best support important reforms, and today **offer an urgent, tangible way to use your voice to make a difference – and strongly urge you to do so.**

Tomorrow, the City Council of Kansas City, MO will deliberate Ordinance 200390, which would **explicitly provide the right of people to record via audio or video their interactions with police officers and some emergency personnel.** It is frankly shocking that this is not already the case; this is a practical layer of safeguard, accountability, and transparency that must be implemented without delay. Particularly amidst the civil unrest occurring in Kansas City and around the country, every moment without this ordinance creates an opportunity for further conflict and tragedy.

The ordinance was passed through committee today, and **will be deliberated on by the Council tomorrow afternoon.**

We urge you to quickly email or call the Mayor's office and members of the City Council to add your voice in support of this ordinance. Please scroll down to see phone numbers, email addresses, and a sample email or phone script. We have also included the language of the ordinance below for your reference.

We are indebted to our partners at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) for taking the time to educate us on these pressing issues. **There are several other important reforms that we will be asking you to advocate on in the coming days, but this is the most timely.**

To learn in more detail about those issues, we encourage you to join JCRB|AJC and Congregation Beth Shalom this coming Sunday, June 7th, at 7:30 pm. We will welcome Rev. Dr. Vernon Howard, President of SCLC, to discuss our next steps for reform and how we can all help. You will be able to watch that live on [JCRB|AJC's](#) and [Beth Shalom's](#) Facebook pages.

Best,



Gavriela Geller
Executive Director
Bert Berkley Chair for Community Relations

Phone and email addresses to contact:

Mayor Quinton Lucas: 816-513-3500; MayorQ@kcmo.org
Councilwoman Heather Hall (1st district): (816) 513-6505;
heather.hall@kcmo.org
Councilman Kevin O'Neill (1st district at large): 816-513-6503;
Kevin.ONeill@kcmo.org
Councilman Dan Fowler (2nd district): (816) 513-6509; amy.justis@kcmo.org
(Legislative Aide)
Councilwoman Teresa Loar (2nd district at large): 816-513-6507;
Teresa.Loar@kcmo.org
Councilwoman Melissa Robinson (3rd district): 816-513-6513;
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Councilman Brandon Ellington (3rd district at large): 816-513-6511;
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Councilman Eric Bunch (4th district): 816-513-6517; Eric.Bunch@kcmo.org
Councilwoman Katheryn Shields (4th district at large): 816-513-6515;
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Councilwoman Ryana Parks-Shaw (5th district): 816-513-6521;
Angela.Pearson@kcmo.org
Councilman Lee Barnes (5th district at large): 816-513-6519;
Keema.McCoy@kcmo.org (Legislative Aide)
Mayor Pro Tem Kevin McManus (6th district): 816-513-6525;
fred.wickham@kcmo.org (Legislative Aide)

Councilwoman Andrea Bough (6th district at large): 816-513-6523;
Katrina.Foster@kcmo.org (Legislative Aide)

Sample email or phone call script:

Dear Mayor Lucas and the Members of the City Council,

As a resident of Greater Kansas City, I stand with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Jewish Community Relations Bureau|AJC, and many others in full support of ordinance 200390, which would ensure that all people may lawfully protect their rights by recording with their phone device the audio or video interactions they have with certain emergency or safety officials.

The current lack of this practical layer of safeguard, accountability, and transparency must be remedied. I urge you to advance and pass this ordinance as quickly as possible. Although this is only one step towards furthering justice and accountability, it is an important one and should not be delayed. Particularly amidst the civil unrest occurring in Kansas City and around the country, every moment without this ordinance creates an opportunity for further conflict and tragedy.

Thank you for considering my viewpoint.

Best,

Your name

The proposed ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 200390

Amending Chapter 70, Code of Ordinances, by repealing Section 70-73, Obedience to police and fire department officers, and enacting in lieu thereof a new section of like number and subject matter, to include a definition of the term lawful order or direction.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

Section 1. That Chapter 70, Code of Ordinances of the City of Kansas City, Missouri, is hereby amended by repealing Sections 70-73, Obedience to police and fire department officers, and enacting in lieu thereof one new section of like number and subject matter, to read as follows:

Sec. 70-73. Obedience to police and fire department officers.

No person shall willfully fail or refuse to comply with any lawful order or direction of any police officer, parking control officer, firefighter or uniformed adult school crossing guard with authority to direct, control or regulate traffic. The term “lawful order or direction” shall not include any order or direction that prevents or impedes the witnessing or documenting (by video or otherwise) of the actions of such officer, firefighter or crossing guard unless such act of witnessing or documenting substantially physically impedes the officer, firefighter or crossing guard from official duties.

