Captioning Transcript of Public Works Committee Meeting – November 15, 2022

"Chair George"
Good afternoon, and welcome to the public works committee. This meeting is being held person to KRA, 61 dot 826 and in accordance with Council rule 5A I'm Nicole George Committee Chair and I'm joined today by Committee Members Ackerson, Dorsey , Flood and Hollander
I'm also joined by Council Members, Rick Blackwell and Robin Engel

We have a full agenda today and 3 pieces of legislation and 1 special discussion item. Number 3 is being held at the request of the sponsor. Council Member Dorsey was here, and she will be back in just a minute. And as we get going, if we can have all council members, please turn on their camera.
That would be most appreciated.
I will be calling items number 2,4 and 5 in that order and then doubling back on the special discussion items.

To start, we have item number 2.
Oh, Dash, 182 Dash, 22 an ordinance, amending the loyal Jefferson County, Metro government code of ordinances, chapter 119 regarding the registration of rental housing to include,
and assign the director of metro codes and regulations or designee further administration of enforcement duties regarding the registry of rental housing units as amended may have a motion to unstable.
may have a motion to unstable
Motion by Committee Member Flood and 2nd, by Committee Member Hollander
the ordinance is before us colleagues at our last meeting,
you'll remember we circulated an faq in response to the questions that we had collected over the last few months.
In turn, we identified 6 amendments that looked to strengthen the ordinance.
We approved 4 of those amendments last time the 1st amendment added language to the affidavit clarifying that information being provided by the owner is to the best of their knowledge.
It also requires code enforcement to provide a list of the top 5, most common infractions. And this is really just a demonstrate, a commitment and focus but without concerns of someone unknowingly perjuring themselves.
The 2nd amendment narrows down the number of proactive inspections, any rental unit are complex down to have 2 exterior violations must be made available for an interior and the interior inspections shall total.
No more than the annual 10% of random inspections. inspections
The 3rd amendment, we passed struck language, excluding newly built and renovated housing. We already refined what falls into that 10%.
And then we heard from Director Kirchdorfer around the limitations of tracking newly renovated. renovated
Properties code enforcement already has the discretion to use the affidavit in lieu of inspections and so that should satisfy.
And then the 4th amendment addresses the equity issue involving the registration fee, between single family and multi family units we sell to resolve that through incremental increases based on the permitted maximum

density that we see in zoning allowances. We have been joined back Council Members Dorsey and Piagentini
So, today we have 2 more amendments.
And we will start with the 5th amendment, which will be on page 8. this was made at the request of the revenue commission as the county Attorney's office to read it into the record.

"Jason Fowler"
Thank you Councilwoman Jason Fowler Assistant County Attorney.
Amending section 1994.
We are removing the current language and replacing that language with the following.
Pursuant to chapter 110 owners operating as a business entity, other than an individual.
Are required to register with the metro revenue commission.
The director shall not accept from owners operating as a business entity, other than an individual.
A rental registration until the director receives sufficient evidence from owner. The owner is registered with global revenue commission amendment, read in full.

"Chair George"
May I have a motion 2nd motion by Councilman Hollander, seconded by Council Member Dorsey.
That amendment is before us is there any discussion.
Councilman Piagentini

"Committee Member Piagentini"
thank you, Madam chair.
So she'll make sure I'm clear on this. It does exclude.
By individuals, I'm assuming, you mean anybody organized as a sole proprietorship partnership or anything that is not.
Established in a business manner, which would be an LLC escort escorp.
S. Corp or C. Corp correct?

"Jason Fowler"
That's correct. Councilman

"Committee Member Piagentini"
Okay, and then why.
Are we doing this? In other words, I would assume the revenue commission already has.Laws on the books are rules right that if your business you have to register with the revenue commission.
So, is the intent here to now use the registry as.
I'm just trying to play this out in my head, so I'm trying to comply with the registry.
um it's going to block me from being compliant with that until i've registered with the revenue commission that's the intent of this language is that correct

"Jason Fowler"
Councilman I, I can't say that there is already an exception within our, our revenue commission.

Though I'm not an expert with regard to tax law that exempts someone from.
50,000 dollars of income or less, and the notion would be that individuals.
They do not receive that type of revenue.
Would already be exempt and therefore this is in compliance with that.

"Committee Member Piagentini"
And then it says, until the director, and I'm sorry, I'm sure I can back up and figure this out. Who's the director in this case?
Receive sufficient evidence and directors capitalized.

"Jason Fowler"
The director would be the director of codes.

"Committee Member Piagentini"
Okay.
Or their designation, right? Whoever is and then what is sufficient evidence that the registered with the local revenue met the removal metro revenue commission what is sufficient evidence?

"Jason Fowler"
that would be left to the director however just you know
Anything in writing from the revenue commission would likely be considered sufficient.

"Committee Member Piagentini"
Don't we give out and maybe don't mean to defer to another council member in this committee, or put them on the spot but don't doesn't the revenue commission give out some sort of registration number when you registered.
Is that a Council Member Dorsey

"Committee Member Dorsey"
so I actually brought this up because when we were doing our fiscal impact study, what I was interested in was understanding how many businesses that made over 50 K in revenue, which is where that exclusion line stops.
If we had ever looked at the registry to say, hey, are those folks are we actually receiving the revenue from that through the revenue commission?
What a little bit of research showed us was that typically folks are paying their taxes, et cetera. It doesn't always.
Get caught by our local revenue commission and so oftentimes you can have businesses operating that don't necessarily know that they still own local metro in regard to the revenue commission. So this is just another checkpoint.
It's not meant to block them. It's another checkpoint in regard to us being a little bit more fiscal responsible. So it's more of an internal control to say, hey, between 2 departments. If we have these registered list, why aren't we reviewing this list to say, hey, should we notify these folks?
Or before they.
Registered and say, hey, did you know that you have outstanding, um, city taxes in regard to revenue commission that you oh, so it's not meant to block or prohibit?

It's it's more of an internal control between 2 departments

"Committee Member Piagentini"
and I get it. I guess my concern is we, I think the last committee hearing, we heard there were 2000 properties that aren't currently registered on the existing registry and now we're going to create a step that makes it even harder to register in the registry. None of. of
This seems to be addressing 1 of the main problems is that we have an existing registry that we have thousands of units that aren't registered.
And so to me creating steps that make it even more difficult versus.
Creating it making it as easy as possible for people to get registered and then handing that list over the revenue commission. Then make outbound phone calls.
Because again, I'm playing this out. I tried to register they tell me you're not registered with revenue commission until you've done that you can't register. I had to heck with it.
And now we don't have anybody registered, and they're not on the revenue commission and good luck finding them.

"Committee Member Dorsey"
So I'd like to address that Madam chair I think if there are making more than 50,000 dollars a year, I think we should be looking for those folks in getting them to register. I don't think if you're making more than 50,000 dollars in regard to this particular rule.
Um. rule um
If you haven't done it that it makes that additional step more burdensome. I think that's the cost of doing business, especially when you're in excess of over 50,000 dollars a year. And to me, it's the fiscal responsible thing for us to do as a city.
It's going to cost us money to implement this. It's going to cost us money to add different code enforcement officer or various code enforcement officers to increase capacity to do this work. And so I think we already have the laws on the books. Essentially. All we're doing is reinforcing.
The existing revenue commissions, you know, laws is basically it's an internal control.

"Committee Member Piagentini"
Okay.
Once again, don't disagree with any of the intention or anything of what you're saying counsel endorsing and of course counsel chairman, chairman George my, my issue is.
I still come back to.
As you just stated, we have laws on the books related to both registering rental property and registering with the revenue commission.
We already sort of stink at enforcing it.
And and making sure we have as much possible doing it.
And now we're doing, you know, really a fairly colossal rewrite of the renter registry.
Um, in a pretty significant operational change, when we can't even prove that we can operate the much smaller law that we currently have on the books. So I don't see.
How we're solving a problem, I I see potentially creating more problems, right?

Where again, if I'm a rent and not to mention my more philosophical problem with creating more layers of issues for for legitimate rental property owners, as opposed to going after some alerts, right?
So, you know, I just think the more layers we add.
The more likely we are to see more rental property owners.
Doing what these other 2000 property owners doing nothing and then where are we? What have we done? We've rewritten a law. Really nice. Well, written law.
That nobody's complying with so and I don't know if you've achieved anything if that's what happens. So, I, but but I totally understand your arguments and understand where this is coming from. Thank you.

"Chair George"
thank you. Councilman
Guess what I would just say is, I would hope that we would look at the reforms we seek to make in this ordinance in their entirety as it relates to how we want to move the system. So when you say that.
We're adding multiple layers, I would just encourage us all to look at what this does and its entirety around increasing transparency, accountability and focus and how that will hopefully translate with higher quality housing Councilman Blackwell.

"Council Member Blackwell"
You and I'm sure I would also add to that. Um, I don't we keep getting into this good or bad actor and I think you've made a great point on numerous occasions that it's not as clear as good.
Um, but I would say that if we have someone who is running a business. Who is not paying taxes to the city? Um, they're not, um, that I don't think that would.
Um, I'm not sure that puts them in a good actor category or good actors only they're not paying taxes and now we're going to keep them from being good actors and getting into this registry. You know, at some point, we're just going to just agree to disagree.
Um, to say that we have, you know, we're not doing a good job of enforcing the registry as it is. Right now.
What's clearly we're not and the reason that we're not is because it's not transparent because from the very beginning, you as a council person couldn't even see if if.
Hey, um.
If if someone is registered in your district, and you are the ones council members, are the ones with your boots underground, you know, the, you know, the neighborhoods, you know, folks, and you weren't even able to do that either.
It was what we were able to be get 14 votes for the last time. It was insufficient from the very beginning. We knew it was and lots of issues and lots of problems. And, um, and then come to find out what it ended up.
Having was lots of issues and lots of profitable.
So, you know, W, W, we set ourselves up when we had something that was completely and totally lacked transparency.
And then when we were, and I don't know if more Council voted on on the short term rental.

But then when we, when we were able to take a look at short term models, which were causing a lot of folks, um, council members, issues in their areas.
And we addressed that pretty quickly, and we're able to address that 1 and and said 1 of the big pieces of that was, it needs to be transparent. Persons running a business, they're not they're no longer if they're not in the house are no longer. Just your neighbor. Um, and then we don't need secrecy with this and if they're running a business in your neighborhood, you need to be able to know that. They're running in business and you need to be able to contact a business owner.
We said it pretty clearly as a council with short term rentals and the same thing applies here. Once we get this in place. I believe we will have some of the results to the short term rental industry and that. Council members will know neighbors will know people will be able to say, hey, this is a rental and then be able to look and say.
Are they on the registry? No, they're not let me call it. Code enforcement. Let me call my accounting person whatever, and let's get this.
Let's get, let's get businesses on the books and and let's get, you know, if folks are not paying taxes, let's get, em, get them paying their, their fair share and paying their taxes as well.
Thanks

"Chair George"
Thank you. Okay, so the amendment is before us.
All those in favor, please say, aye aye.
Any opposed? No. Okay. Uh, we have.
[Vote Taken]
Five yes votes and 2 no
Did you my math, right? Yes.
Okay, okay. All right the amendment passes.
The final amendment we have is on page 9 under section 5 and it seeks to give.
More time before this takes effect, and so it reads the provision of this ordinance regarding the online rental registry, it's application and affidavit shall take effect within 6 months of its passage with all remaining provisions,
to take effect 9 months after its passage or otherwise becoming a law may I have a motion.
Motion by Council Member Dorsey, seconded by Council Member Hollander.
Are there any questions? This is pretty straightforward. It's just giving code enforcement enough time to be able to get this implemented.
There are no questions all those in favor. Please say I.
All right, the amendment is approved.

Now, we go back to the full ordinance. Um.
Again, I want to highlight that we have done everything we can in the way of due diligence to hear from, from folks in the community to answer questions. Again.
My colleagues will have the, that we've worked hard to collect the questions and found responses and then look at the amendments that were proposed all 6 of them to try and address the challenges and to strengthen the ordinance.
See, Councilman Piagentini is in the queue

“Committee Member Piagentini”
Thank you Madam Chair Yeah, I just want to, you know, usually when I'm voting. No, I like to make it clear. Why am I'm going to be voting? No on this. I do. Think again. I'm going to come back to you.
I do not disparage anybody's intent and I know the frustrations that your Council BLACKWELL has talked about Council Member George and Council Member Dorsey, right? You've all talked about and I understand.
And, uh, I agree with some of your frustrations, but I feel like.
Uh, in looking at this and reviewing it in detail.
That we are trying to legislatively solve.
a execution gap
And I'm hopeful with this with our new Mayor coming on board that, you know, 1 of the messages that I've had for him is.
We've been very poor and execution across the board, including in this area. If we were tweaking the current ordinance, making minor changes. I'd probably be on board with some of the additional transparency, but we are taking a huge leap here.
I have particularly large exceptions to the 10% audit, or the 10% inspection, and the fact that we removed what I believe to be, at least some attempt at exemptions for renovated property.
And for new construction. new construction
And once that's out, I think what we have here is a situation where somebody could build a property in 2 minutes later, get inspected in the random inspection when they've already had a bevy of inspectors, walk in the door, just to get them a certificate of occupancy.
And that's not a good use of taxpayer dollars. In my opinion. This is a significant commitment and future dollars and again, I may support some incremental change to see code enforcement bring on some new officers, but bringing on 20 something officers bluntly and this is no hit to any specific person.
I'm not convinced there's any department in this, you know.
Oh, we can't we've been trying to bring on police officers for God knows how long uh, we can't we're struggling to get that done.
I don't know what department can bring on this many officers in any, you know, certainly in 6 to 9 months, and even manage them effectively.
So, if we were saying, hey, let's bring on 5 more officers next fiscal year, to make some incremental improvement in the current ordinance, I'd be, for it, I think this is too much. I'm extremely concerned that we're essentially setting up a very well well, written piece of legislation.
That we're going to be out of compliance with 5 minutes after it passes and it's going to.
And this not just this, it, it's impacted because there's 3 or 4 different things happening simultaneously that are impacting multi family housing owners.
And I, and without thinking about the impact that that's going to have in the market, when we already have a housing.
Shortage issue, interest rates are through the roof. So development is going to slow down in in housing building, due to financing costs.
I don't know if we're helping the real problems.
Um, and focusing enough on the bad actors I feel like we're casting a very, very large net and to me, that's inefficient government. So I'm going to be a no on this, but I appreciate the efforts of my colleagues.
Thank you Madam chair.

"Chair George"
Thank you and I would just remind everyone we are going to vote on this today.
However, as it relates to finding additional language, as we spoke of last committee related with the new lead renovated and constructed units, I'm certainly more than happy to entertain.
And we did look at the lead ordinance did not feel like that language would line up with this. But again, certainly want to get this to the best product possible. Thank you. Councilman BLACKWELL.

"Council Member Blackwell"
Thank you, I do have a question, and if possible um, real quick amendment and clarifying, and then if, if needed, uh, on on 9a, um, where it talks about the registration allows the inspection of units.
Um, and I know our, our intent was that when.
Wh, when someone registers their units there, they are given an implied consent then for interior inspections,
because that's 1 of our problems that we have is right right now the way that we do things you can come, you can get reported from an interior inspection but unless there is, um,
there isn't any thing they can tell you to allow an interior inspection.
So that was 1 of the pieces that we wanted to make sure that we had. I just want to check with the county Attorney's office to make sure.
9 A or somewhere else and maybe I'm missing it somewhere else where we make sure that that's clear. I know that it's clear when you have the 2. um. Exterior violations, but I don't know if that's.
Um, if that makes us a good point at this point.
If so then we'll move on thanks.

"Jason Fowler"
Councilman, I'm happy to address the question if you could please rephrase it briefly. I don't yeah,

"Council Member Blackwell"
it was just when we 1st, put it together, we wanted to make sure that the inspections when you.
Um, when you registered that that automatically.
Gave permission for interior inspections as well.
So, I don't see where that is spelled out, but maybe it doesn't need to be.

"Jason Fowler"
Um, thank you Councilman. Um, I believe I understand the question now in in 9.A. The department must follow the same notice requirements under the uniform landlord residential tenant act.
I can't recall that from memory to now, but that does require notice.
To the template, so it's not an automatic inspection.
And the, the department can also utilize the affidavit in lieu of an interior inspection.
Okay, so both of those, both of those, I guess guidelines can.
Prevent what would be an automatic inspection.
Does that sufficiently answer the question councilman?

"Council Member Blackwell"
Yeah, yes. That's fine. Yes, thank you.

"Chair George"
Thank you.
Council Member Dorsey thank you.

"Committee Member Dorsey"
Thank you Madam chair as a sponsor of this. I do want to speak to a few things.
I go back to the Y of this,
and that's where I'm going to start if you or anyone in this committee anyone in the public has ever driven around West Louisville or South Louisville. I actually even encourage you.
I can send you right down 7 street.
Um. And you look at the apartments, you look at the buildings that that people are living in I'm talking about multi family.
I'm not even talking about the single family apartments we have seen time after time, even though it's come before the committee to talk about the living conditions of different institutions that they're living in there has to be something different.
There is a point in which enough is enough.
Where I agree with Councilman Piagentini is that this legislation is in many ways, an attempt to enhance execution,
but nonetheless it is our best faith efforts as legislators. There's there are many times in which people come to me and say council will you and I have to constantly reiterate. That's not my job.
That's on the administrative side. This is 1 time I get to pick up the torch and say oh.
This is my job and there is something I can do about this from a policy perspective. This is a very difficult balance in order to make it seamless for those that are good actors.
And I think we have to work together as, as, as a team to figure out how do we enhance the process how do we make it seamless for those? That are are not only great actors, but are are really assets to this community.
But then also, how do we crack down on those.
Who have allowed folks to live in squalor and the justification that we use is, what, where else are they going to live?
When is that ever acceptable? Especially when we already have the laws on the books what's a little bit confusing to me is the fact that these laws exist all we're doing is changing the process in which we govern the laws.
We haven't changed anything about the code enforcement specifications.
This is strictly saying, how do we go about doing it more efficiently?
So the fact that we have allow people to live subs in substandard conditions.
Under the code is appalling, and we have the right as government officials. We have the right as legislators to say, okay, this is not working.

Clearly, what we have specified as the code is not being enforced in such a way in, which we are seeing the change that we need to see and our low income communities and our fringe communities.

So, today, these legislators have come together and said, listen, we got to find a way to do things differently. We're going to.
Specify some of the execution. That's exactly what this is now to Councilman Piagentini' s point. This will still require execution, innovation and leadership when this is implemented from an administrative perspective.
Nonetheless, I think we have set good guidelines, maybe to even the point of slight over legislation, but it's based on what we have seen as pattern and practice in these communities, not for 1 or 2 years, but systemically for decades.
The other thing is, if we talk about affording code enforcement officers, if that's what it takes to bring this city back up to code to make global beautiful. I just came from Turks and the model was beautiful by nature, clean by design.
If that's what it takes in order to bring the city up to code, but it's by far high time we get to work because if we need to hire 20 more code enforcement officers, that's what we're.
Supposed to do as a legislative body budget it and make it happen if that's what this community needs.
So, if if Director Kirchdorfer is saying, this is the capacity that we need to expand this, I think it's high time we implement it and we gotta find the money.
But when we talk about raising taxes, when we talk about revenue generation, I'd like to go back to my community and say, here is the quid pro quo. Here's the exchange that you're getting for an increase in tax. Here's the exchange that you're getting for an increase in whatever.
Or we choose, this is what we're doing to improve the health and safety of your community.
to me this is again common sense legislation it's enforcing what's already on the books it's providing better guidance and if it takes more personnel to do it than i say we find the time and we find the money to do it but this is the basics of government
housing is the number one it's the number one thing on maslow's hierarchy of needs we can't address anything else until we address housing we put a lot in homelessness we've put a lot in eviction prevention i say it's high time that we put a lot and investing in
long term sustainability of our community by insuring those that cannot afford to buy that they have at least a minimum standard that is already on the books that we adhere to that and we as the city say we're going to support you in it
if landlords want to threaten us or people want to threaten us we'll pass the cost onto consumers who's paying the costs now
When those kids have to go to the emergency room, or when there's asbestos or when there are other issues, we're still paying the cost as taxpayers through. If it's low income we're paying for Medicaid and Medicare.
So, I say that we be proactive and go upstream and invest. This is proactive legislation. This is public health. This is public safety. It's equity and I, I encourage all of our committee members to support this legislation moving forward.

Thank you Madam chair.

“Chair George”
Thank you Councilman Benson

“Vice Chair Benson”
Thank you. Madam chair. Um.
I'm trying to be quick. Um, we had this number 2, President John Adam says laws are made for moral people.
I don't know what moral is. There's a lot of people he's done. You want to do what's right I've never thought a shotgun approach was the right way to solve a problem. If I had the problem.
And let's get the problem solved years ago. There was a girl young lady on on the council. Her name is Judy Rocky Adams, and she went after deadbeat dads.
People who weren't paying her child support and so I got the names of all these people we published the names and all of a sudden people are starting getting paid their child support.
You know, anybody who sees the house.
That's run down and the person's living in it and squalor. Hey, you know, if I see something.
I had mentioned it, I don't mind mentioned on TV. Sometimes there's a guy 1 time throughout a bridge with 1 of my residents with some sewer pipes.
And and I told him, I said, you're pipes, tore out this bridge, you need to repair it.
He's an act of God, I said, I believe, God can make anything. I've never seen him make white pipes off, but.
I think you're wrong. He said, could you come over to my office and let's talk about it. So I go over to his office. I sit down at this table with 10 lawyers.
I went by myself, somebody said I shouldn't do that, but if I think I'm right I don't mind doing it. So I turned to him and I said, let me tell you something. I believe most, everybody's got a mom and dad.
And they teach you right from wrong.
And somehow or another, you thought what you're doing is right? I think you're wrong. And let me tell you what I'm going to do every time. I'm on TV.
I'm going to try to mention your name and make sure we don't do business with people like you and what's going to happen is you're going to have to sue me.
So, the County Attorney's going to have to represent me. I might get kicked out of office. I don't care when I'm going to do. What's right I want to do. What's right.
And so I'm not going to try to to punish everybody for a few people, but if we get together and look for the people who's doing wrong.
We can straighten it up, help the enforcement help other people, you know, use our eyes. I told her a porter 1 time I said, what's going on in the community? So what do you mean? I said, well, you see a lot of things can you help us? Well, that's not my job.
I said you are a citizen of Jefferson County, aren't you? Or city of Louisville and he said, yes, I said, well, everybody should be helping. Everybody should make this a better place.
We don't need, you know, I I don't know how many people on the council rent property I do, but pretty soon, I won't be I'm going to sell everything. I rent 1 piece of property probably 4 or 500 dollars lower than it should be.

The guys had cancer is that a lot of trouble had trouble paying random times.
But it's my choice not to collect when I don't want to. It's my choice.
But for somebody to come along and say, I want to check your property.
I know I got the wrong attitude, but I try to do was right and I don't like to be pushed around by a government.
But we gotta have government, and our goal is to to help people.
And so, if we allow people who live in bad position, and we finally make that person, fix their property up, probably that person will now want to rent for a little bit more.
We need to think what we're going to do with that person who that's all they can pay. Is that property.
We had to have some kind of heart. I don't know if we can take it over our neighborhood funds or whatever to help people with their. So, they're not in dire straits of our great action of trying to help everybody get better.
And in the process.
We hurt em, and so we got to think hard and long and I know what I said nobody pays attention and I think I'm nuts anyway. That's okay.
But sometimes the shotgun approach, trying to get everybody at the same time. Just doesn't work.
Thank you you,

"Chair George"
we have 2 people in the queue and remind everyone. We have 2 additional pieces of legislation today Councilman Ackerson

"Committee Member Ackerson"
I give me a chair to my colleagues. I say that are supported this. I say.
I understand where you're coming from, but I disagree with you tonight.
I'm a belief that our problem is.
The lack of ability to enforce, which is already on the books now.
And that is an administration problem my hope is with an incoming new mayor and new administration.
That we might be able to address that and that might mean.
Hiring more officers it might mean.
Focusing more financial resources on the problems.
But I'm not in agreement with creating more legislation when we cannot.
Handle and deal with legislation we have presently I do believe this comes back to good actress versus bad actors.
And the end result is for those folks who aren't complying with the present laws.
We need to bring down penalties upon them, but to throw more on the backs of those, who are I just disagree with? I recognize there is a problem.
I just do not think this is a solution. I think this compounds the problem in my opinion humble as it is.
And, uh, because of that, I will be a no vote tonight. Uh, I will be a yes. Vote.
Or anything else that we can do to further financially support codes and regs to enforce the laws that are in our books. Now.
Thank you Madam chair.

"Chair George"
Thank you. Council Blackwell

“Council Member Blackwell”
Thank you, um, just try to be quick. Um.
It was well, 2 things. So, counseling Stuart Benson, thank you. Um, I, I agree with you wholeheartedly that we need to be able to call these folks out. The problem is right now, you can't do that. You can get an address. And you can call out that address, but you can't call out the person. Who's there anything that you can't call out the landlord cause you, even as a council person can't identify that person.
Only code enforcement can and the Councilman Ackerson, and is the reason that code enforcement's not able to do that just because then they don't have any help Councilman Benson pointed out, you know, we need to be in this together.
We need to all be doing this together to help this happen if you've got it completely. And if you totally and completely lacks transparency, which is what the current.
Item does the 1 that we're changing lacks total. There's 0.
0, transparency you cannot your public cannot you can no, that's a rental down there. You can't get you can't get on the registry rental to see who that person is to give them a call to say, hey, you got this problem or that problem or whatever.
I think I find it very interesting that when we did the short term rental, which affects different folks and our community more, when we did that short term rental, I didn't hear a single counsel person. Say, you know what we made it.
We need to make this thing non transparent. We need to take this thing totally off the record so that neighbors can't even see if this is so short term rental. I heard not 1 person argue in favor of that, because it's ludicrous.
And it's ludicrous on a long term rental as well. Once the person is no longer living there but they are renting. It is now business and we have a right and the neighbors have a right? And the community has a right to know who's running that business.
And to know who they contacted the businesses and isn't performing up to our codes and our regulations, that's how we help code enforcement. That's how we help them do their job.
So I would encourage, uh, uh, yes, hold tonight. Yes hold tonight is for transparency. Which many of you love all of us love. I suppose it's a yes. Vote for Councilman Stuart Benson's plea for us to help everyone else, because you can't help right now, because you can't find out the information. It's, it's an opportunity for us all to be in together to make this a better ordinance and to make this a better registry that actually works.
This time the reason it didn't work is because we set it up for failure by having it.
Locked transparency, this changes that thanks.

“Chair George”
Thank you, we heard Council Member Dorsey mentioned the cost of poor quality housing to those individuals and families we heard about health concerns and the cost of that, I also want us to consider the cost of erosion of communities.
Because that's what we see, we see that based on where we live.

So, for my colleagues who don't have the same reality of living in neighborhoods with disinvestment, I would encourage you to come and live. Or invest, it's not about punishment. It's not about pushing people around. It's not about more legislation.
And I've said this before, but I wish it were as simple as good actors and bad actors.
That is not the reality of human behavior. Most of us.
Most of us want to do the right thing and we're inspired to do the right thing when we're nudged in that way when we know someone else is watching when we have interactions with people,
and we increase those interactions and we understand the impact.
That's what changes behavior. So, with that, I would just say it's about accountability. Transparency.
I'm most proud of the proactive inspection piece, which is I know what makes a lot of my colleagues nervous but I will say, shifting the responsibility away from those with less disposable capacity. Is where we stand to make the most gains.
My neighbors and South side do not need 1 more thing to do.
That is making 311 reports to help manage someone else's property. They don't need that. Life is hard enough. There.
And so, with that, I would just say, I'm really proud to be a sponsor. I'm going to be a proud yes.
Vote and most importantly proud of the work that I've seen the 6 other sponsors on this do over the last few months to really produce the best legislative product and to try and satisfy as many of the concerns as possible.
Thank you with that. Madam clerk. Will you please open the voting?
[Vote Taken]
we have 4 yes votes 3 no votes. This will go to old business for next committee meeting.

"Chair George"
Next on the agenda, we have item number 4,
our dash 175 dash 22 a resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into a grant agreement up to a total of 70,000 dollars with the Kentucky transportation cabinet Department of highways to execute any documents necessary to facilitate and administer the Department
of public works and assets, the acceptance of funds to design and construct realigned old bardstown road to align with the entrance to a walgreen's. entrance to a walgreen's
Drive in Jefferson County may I have a motion?
And the 2nd, pushing by Councilman Hollander, seconded by Councilman Piagentini this resolution is sponsored by Councilman Engel. So councilman go thanks for being patient today and please share a little bit about what we can expect.

"Council Member Engel"
Thank you very much Madam chair colleagues. Very excited about this particular funding stream geographically.
This is an area located south of the gene Snyder freeway on bardstown road very congested and this is the old bardstown road piece, which is about a quarter half mile.
Uh, from the gene Snyder freeway on your right hand side.

Uh, this intersection has been an absolute disaster, and it is, it's combined with a carwash, a drug store and everything trying to spill out onto bardstown road, 3 entities there.
So this is a realignment and it's great to see my good friend. Jeff is here. This builds into our larger efforts to address, dress traffic congestion on an old bardstown road. This project is funded by the state. The local public works will maintain the project. Very unique. Construction could begin tentatively in the spring of 2024. I'm going to be brief, Madam chair, because we have the expert here to also address address this issue. Thank you.

"Chair George"
Thank you. Thank you for being here. Please introduce yourself and share a little bit about what public works will be doing to help manage.

"Jeff Brown"
Thank you. Madam chair. Jeff brown assistant director, Metro public works and assets. I'd send over a little schematic.
I don't know if we can pull that up.
Or if it was included in the packets so, yeah, this is funding the state made available so that we could begin design for a realignment of a portion of old bardstown road near the hill drive intersection. Or do I need to do.
Um, this will get us through design once that's complete then we'll go into utility relocation's and finally construction, which the state has funding available. But of course, we'll be back to ask for approval from Metro Council, and here was, I don't know if that may give you a better description of what this project entails because it is a complicated intersection. So this is 1, that's been on the books for a long time, too small to really benefit from most of the federal funding opportunities, and too big to fund locally.
So, this was a great opportunity. This state made available for us.

"Chair George"
So this is a good example of those medium size projects that we know we need to find innovative ways to fund. And it sounds like we'll have a real impact in the way of addressing congestion in the area.
Are there any questions? Um, Councilman Ackerson

"Committee Member Ackerson"
No, but I'm sure that request is on the last item that you went ahead and voted on.

"Chair George"
Okay, very good. Thank you. I don't see any 1 in the queue.
This resolution allows for a voice vote, all those in favor please say, aye.
Any opposed all right the resolution will go to the consent calendar and thanks for being here. [vote taken]

"Chair George"
Item number 5 dash 389 dash 22 an ordinance, amending the loyal metro code of ordinances sections. 51 dot 101 and 51 dot 102 regarding waste.

Management district board. May have a motion motion by Council Member Dorsey and seconded by Council Member Hollander
Council Member Hollander is the sponsor Councilman Hollander take it away. Pete flood is here to speak to this also if there are questions, but this is a, this is an ordinance change that really comes about because of hospital 246. it was passed in 2017.
A portion of that Bill was declared unconstitutional.
But the section that we're dealing with here today was not challenged and and became law.
We have our own metro code of ordinance section that talks about the waste management board.
Commonly referred to as the 109 board, and it is not consistent with state law.
So, state law said that in Jefferson County, we would have these number of members, and the other changes that are here where the members come from everything that's in this ordinance.
We have not updated our ordinance to deal with the change in. the change in
The state law from hospital 246, and that's really the entire purpose of this legislation. Pete is here. You may want to elaborate on that. If I've said anything incorrectly and there may be questions for Pete as well.

"Pete Flood"
No, sir. I believe that. Everything he said was accurate.
he said was accurate

"Chair George"
Share who you are in the important role that you have within solid ways.

"Pete Flood"
Okay. Yes. My name is Pete Flood. I am a compliance enforcement manager with the Department of public works and the executive director of the waste management district.

"Chair George"
Excellent, thank you for being here. Councilman Piagentini

"Committee Member Piagentini"
Just a, thank Thank you for the explanation Councilman Hollander just a quick question. Is there any part of the amendment today?
Um, that is.
How do I say this that is extra the state legislation in other words, you know, I get that we're complying with the state legislation. Is there any amendment in here?
Um, that is not directly reflected in the state legislation, but was amended. Uh.
Um, based on their ideas or direction outside of that legislation.

"Pete Flood"
The only other section in this is the fact that it, uh.
Decides how a, the, uh, 1 on on board chair selected.

"Committee Member Hollander"

And if I may respond to that, there obviously is a choice there, which is not required by the statute as I understand it.
I'm the 1 who said that the board should annually select a chairman from its members.
So, that's why we put it in that way. The other alternative, frankly would be the mayor selects the chair as happens in some boards. I didn't think that was what.
People would want and therefore I've written.
The board shall I knew annually elected chair person from its members.

"Committee Member Piagentini"
But just be clear that that that's section day. That's the only part that's that's that's not reflected in the statute.

"Committee Member Hollander"
That's correct. That's my understanding. Yes.

"Committee Member Piagentini"
Okay.
Thank you thank you Madam chair.

"Chair George"
Thank you. Council Member Dorsey

"Committee Member Dorsey"
Obvious, but maybe I'm just going to ask the obvious question out of these. I think 7. um.
Different buckets in which residents or community members should be drawn. If there is a member who meets more than 1 criteria in, which. Maybe 2 of the 7 are met by 1 particular person. Does that just create a free space? Or do we go and pick an additional person? And I just want to be super duper.
Clear about that, that if you, if someone from item 1 or bucket 1 meets bucket 2,
they also live within the urban services district that we're just not assigning any random person as the separate member by saying we have met all 7 criteria. And so then we can just assign a.
A random person that I just want to be very clear about that.

"Pete Flood"
While our goal obviously is to make sure that everyone is represented at least through.
What the legislation recommends I don't believe that I ever envisioned a situation where I would count 1 person as counting as as multiple.

"Committee Member Dorsey"
That's exactly what I needed. Thank you.

"Chair George"
Thank you. I'm checking. I don't see anyone else in the queue. Let me. I will check my text messages as well. Okay. Um.
This is an ordinance that requires a roll call vote. Madame clerk. Will you please open the voting?

[Vote Taken]
Okay, we have 7 yes votes and this will go to the consent calendar.

"Chair George"
Next we have special discussion item, number 122 Dash, 167, bipartisan infrastructure law.
We have Chief O'Brien here with develop Louisville, and I'm having a Groundhog Day experience because when he was here, last time we had about 7 minutes left on the agenda. left on the agenda
Certainly not intentional, and this is such an important update and last time, when he was here in October,
we extended him another invite to come back to answer questions and I've seen some questions that my colleagues have sent him and so I know you have a short PowerPoint, maybe if we want to start that and.
Go through, go through updates as quickly as possible. You are always welcome back, sir.

"Jeff O'Brien"
I appreciate that chairwoman, Jeff O'Brien I'm the Chief of Develop Louisville and I've, I've gave this presentation. We don't have any updates to it.
I will say I know there are questions from council members on a breakdown for a district by district on infrastructure, spending, related to transportation.
So this is something that we are pulling together I think I showed this last time I will just kind of roll through here. We are building a map tool right now we have a com under contract to help us.
Help us look at our overall bipartisan infrastructure plan and how we leverage.
Uh, those funds and bring more of those funds into the city. So this tool is being put together and we are working on this tool to identify all the projects that we currently have in our.
In our planning pipeline and working on the funding for that. So we're pulling from multiple sources both.
Federal sources, state sources and local sources to do that. So we are, we're going through that right now, but really, for what I wanted to do with the community today is really what questions you had for me we will have a tool that.
We will not just publish internally for our metro staff and for metro council to review. But we also hope to have an interactive component for this, where the public can can give us input on projects and thoughts.
And then again, 1 of the big things on the bipartisan infrastructure act is these individual discretionary funding buckets.
That are coming through and so what we, what we do here, we have to match up projects we have in the pipeline.
With, um, opportunities in the no photos. So we're trying to pick projects that are going to score best.
In the no phone. I know there's a question about.
What projects score better the urban projects are the suburban projects, and this is a globally unique piece, because we have both a lot of need in the urban and suburban parts of our community. And so this is really where we try to take each.

Program and match up projects that we have in the in those programs to the requirements of the of the grant. So 1 of the things we look at, like a safe streets.
For all is really going to be looking at, how do we improve our, our intersection so that they are safer for our residents that's going to that is really going to look at pedestrian safety, bicycle, safety, transit, user safety.
So those are, those are going to be more urban focused. We look at something like a smart grant, where we look at our I. T. infrastructure that is going to help places where we have complex intersections.
So, we just saw a very complex intersection in Councilman Engel's district here a few minutes ago. That's going to be something where. Technology can help help those signals operate more efficiently. So those are going to be projects that work. Well, there.
1 bucket, we've not gone after a lot. Which little has a lot of need around is freight. There's a couple of really big project buckets there. I think 1 is actually called Mega. The other is called enfra
So these are projects where we are pulling together users in the community, identify what their, what their needs are, and what their hopes are for those funding projects.
So, I've left you 4 minutes to ask me questions on a very massive bill. And so I will be quiet and let you ask me those questions.

"Committee Member Hollander"
Thank you have a comment. Not a question. I always like it when the White House, but that's something they put out today fact, sheets for every state in the country and I'm very pleased to see logo mentioned on the Kentucky fact, sheet for the 15.6Million dollar.
Re, imagine 9 street project and 7.4Million dollars for electric buses and that's just the start. So good work there. And. start so good work there and
Keep it coming Thank you.

"Chair George"
I have a question about the dashboard.
What is the cost of a tool like this and will it be used beyond the work of Bill?

"Jeff O'Brien"
It's the cost of so we've got a contract that we've been using some of our staff savings, and the total cost of the overall contract, which is providing us with project management and grant writing services as well as that contract was 197,000 dollars.
and ninety seven thousand dollars
So that that contract, this is, this project is being built into that into that into that contract costs we don't have an exact cost of what this is doing,
but we're really just leveraging the resources that we have because we have quite a bit of capacity and project management on that on that on that contract and just in full disclosure, we did use our.
Our ability to leverage the statewide contract to procure that. So, it was competitively. It was competitively prepared.

"Chair George"

Excellent, well, this is the 1st, I would say this is 1 of the most exciting things I've seen in a long time, and I would imagine that it would have a lot of announcement.
Councilman Benson is laughing at me, but I would imagine that it would have a lot of just the need for transparency would have a lot of interest beyond the life of the contract with the project management.

"Jeff O'Brien"
Yeah and I'm sorry, I failed to answer your 2nd question there.
We would absolutely see this as living a life beyond the, the bipartisan infrastructure law.
In our contract, this is something that uses our traditional geographic information system tools. So we will we have experts on our staff that will be able to use this once it is built out for us and be able to update it.

"Chair George"
Okay, excellent. Then I heard you mentioned the Mega component with freight and how we can better meet the needs of of.
Our industry that provides.
Carrier services I'm interested to know. Will that also include a component for the community to manage freight as we see more and more heavy trucks in our neighborhoods?

"Jeff O'Brien"
Yes.
The idea with both Mega and emphasize that we are making improvements on a regional roadway network that we are moving freight.
On those networks overwhelming, that's going to be the interstates and the divided highways that we have around our community and get them out of neighborhoods again.
I think there's some smart technology that we can use as well, in terms of making sure that we are properly identifying freight routes for truck drivers.
I think the classic example is the, the project off of minor lane and outer loop, where we have large trucks that routinely enter into the residential neighborhood, just to the North East of that site. So we, we. Want to avoid that, because that not only creates problems for our neighbors, but it creates problems for freight deliveries and it's very hard to turn a semi truck around on an 18 foot wide roadway. So, we, we are, we're very much looking at these opportunities to ensure that.
Drivers have logical ways around our community and have we have intersections that have enough capacity to handle large amount volumes of truck traffic, which will discourage them from using these smaller streets.
The drivers and companies overwhelmingly want to use these larger, these larger intersections in the streets. With larger capacity.

"Chair George"
Friendly question around how the community can help get better connected with this, stay informed and also provide input in the most productive way. Possible.
"Jeff O'Brien"

Yeah. So 2 ways 1st thing I'll say, it's very early still on this project.
This legislation just turned a year old. I believe that's for the.
Fact, she came from the Councilman Hollander was referencing so I think that the other that's something to keep in mind the way that you can connect with it right now is via our MPO process or metropolitan planning organization,
which is they have a couple of public meetings a month 1 is the technical transportation coordinating committee. That's a big alphabet soup. And the other is our transportation policy committee.
They're the ones that will manage the formula funds that come into the.
Global area every year that's about 25Million dollars every year that comes into the global region.
That's not just the Metro, but our surrounding counties and then the other way that we are hoping to get people more connected to city government in the future is via the map tool that I've got up on the screen now. And I think there's always. there's always
We are out in the community talking about projects as they come online and we tried our very best to do community engagement and get our and certainly pass the pandemic, get our staff in front of our neighbors to make sure that we are hearing them and hearing their concerns,
we're always happy to come to your town hall meetings, or your quarterly meetings, whatever you have. We will absolutely come and have a table and have a way for people to get sign up and get involved and give us their input on these projects.

"Chair George"
Excellent, well, we are very appreciative of your willingness to come and sit through the meeting and provide an update and I'm certain there will be more questions as we move through the process. So thank you.

"Jeff O'Brien"
Thank you for the opportunity. Well, we have had a predicted.

"Chair George"
We are at the end of the meeting.so a motion to Adjourned
All right we return, thank you.