



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, December 17, 2020

## **Statement by Historic Kansas City**

### **Proposed QuikTrip at 39<sup>th</sup> Street & SW Trafficway**

#### **TO FRIENDS OF HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOODS AND PRESERVATION**

For over 45 years, Historic Kansas City has worked for the advancement and protection of the scenic and historic assets of Kansas City. The community and economic revival power of historic places is demonstrated and real, and in the bedrock of it all is historic neighborhoods. Beginning with the back-to-the-city movement of the 1970s and over ensuing decades, the City's prospects and future have greatly depended on the health of our neighborhoods.

Intrusions and disruptive uses in or adjacent to our prized neighborhoods are to be avoided at all costs. One recurrent source of concern in this vein is QuikTrip. Repeatedly Midtown neighbors have contended with this company to avoid adverse impacts to the community. Following a proposal for a new QuikTrip at 33rd and Southwest Trafficway -- successfully resisted -- we are now confronted with an even more confounding suggestion that QuikTrip locate a new facility at 39th Street and the Trafficway, already one of the most congested and dysfunctional intersections in the City -- already so poorly functioning that arterial traffic is displacing into neighborhoods. Yet, QuikTrip has no less than 3 longtime, expanded facilities within 5 minutes of this location.

We join with the adjacent residents and no less than three historic neighborhoods in opposition to this proposal. They are writing letters and gathering petitions. The Roanoke, Coleman-Highlands and Valentine neighborhoods have been to battle with QuikTrip before and are prepared to resist again. And it is a matter of city-wide concern that Southwest Trafficway and 39th Street serve the arterial purposes for which they have clearly evolved and been designed to serve over many decades. To consider any additional source of congestion at or near this intersection is beyond comprehension.

And there is further need to establish as basic planning principle that no additional grab-and-go retail is appropriate in this Midtown corridor. Impairments to traffic where it is supposed to flow too often result in traffic moving where it does not belong. And gaining momentum in Midtown is a demonstrated desire to restrain the seeming dominance of motor vehicles.

We look to City government to join with so many citizens who reject this proposal. QuikTrip has untapped markets and unmet demand many places in the City -- they need not be a menace to historic places. We applaud the neighborhoods for their leadership and urge all who love this City to lend their support.

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