

Note/Message



Coalition Update

Need Help?

Dear {{CFirstName}}

Thank you for attending the **First Suburbs Coalition** meeting on Friday, January 19, 2024. In case you missed it, here is a quick synopsis.

#### **New Kansas Co-Chair**

Missouri co-chair Theresa Garza (Raytown, MO) introduced the new Kansas co-chair Ian Graves (Prairie Village, KS). Chair Garza also recognized outgoing Kansas co-chair Bonnie Limbird for her service.

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#### **Communities for All Ages Recognition Program**

Westwood, KS and Liberty, MO were recognized for gold level achievement. Congratulations to these communities for their ongoing commitment to age-friendly plans, policies and programs.

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#### **Panel Discussion: Building Effective Relationships Between Landlords and Local Governments to Support and Sustain Affordable Housing**

Moderator Rachel Russell set the stage for the discussion by reminding us that Martin Luther King, Jr. was a leader in civil rights AND equitable and fair housing. [Click here](#) for more information.

A theme from the conversation was that it is important for local governments to proactively outreach to build relationships with landlords and engage them in policymaking. Landlords can

attention to build relationships with landlords and engage them in policymaking. Landlords can provide context to help governments with their important role to create and enforce appropriate regulations to protect renters as housing consumers.

Special thanks to the panelists:

Stacey Johnson-Cosby, Founding Member/President/Volunteer, KC Regional Housing Alliance  
Bridget McCandless, City Council Member, City of Independence, MO  
Jessa Molina, Landlord Liaison, Johnson County, KS  
Brendon Pishny, President, Landlords of Johnson County

Additional resources that came up during the conversation:

[Strong Towns](#) - strategies to replace America's post-war pattern of suburban development to development that is financially strong and resilient.

[ADUs](#) - catalog of accessory dwelling unit ordinances in the Kansas City region.

[Investor ownership](#) - analysis from the Regional Housing Partnership about investor impact on single-family housing in the Kansas City region.

[Johnson County Landlord Incentives](#) - resources for landlords in Johnson County to encourage more participation in the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

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## Save the Date!

Please join us for our next meeting on Friday, April 19, 2024, in Wyandotte County, KS. Watch your emails for more information about the program and registration.

Best,  
Lauren

### Lauren Palmer

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The Mid-America Regional Council is the nonprofit association of local governments and the metropolitan planning organization for the bistate Kansas City region.

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