



Welcome House
Est. 1971

February 6, 2020

Mr. Robbie Makinen, CEO
Kansas City Area Transportation Authority / KCATA
1200 E. 18th Street
Kansas City, MO 64108

Dear Mr. Makinen,

I am writing this letter to you in support of the Zero Fare initiative proposed for RideKC and to thank you for the great benefit that its Pilot Program has provided for us to date. The impact that ongoing Zero Fare would have for our organization and for the individual residents we serve would be tremendous.

Our program is dedicated to returning men to society as clean and sober, productive and individually responsible members of the community. Just two of the attendant challenges associated with the diseases of alcoholism and addiction for our residents include (1) making a return to the workplace and (2) the establishment and continued connection with their own external support networks, not only while they are with us as residents but also after they complete our program.

All of our members are required to secure gainful employment and to pay a weekly program fee in partial support of their own recovery. For most of our residents, transportation is a primary challenge as they do not have driver's licenses and are limited to public transportation to get to and from work. Zero Fare would allow our residents to take advantage of the opportunities in the Northland and the greater Kansas City Metro area.

Many residents also have behavioral health issues that require regular appointments at clinics and outpatient programs, the maintenance of which is a critical element for success, both while here at Welcome House and later, after graduation.

Transportation is a basic need for everyone. For our residents, it is a significant challenge and one that must be met if they are to have any chance of success moving forward and on with their lives in recovery. Thank you for making Free Fare a possibility for these men and for all members of the community who need this help.

Very Sincerely,

Micah Haen
Director of Operations

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