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Carports in Wyandotte County

Kansas City, Kan., residents have found that ignorance isn't always bliss, especially when it has legal consequences.

According to the article "Carport violators upset with city rules" (7/7, Local), several homeowners built structures such as carports on their property without seeking the city's permission and may face punishment. This situation reveals problems with the proliferation of zoning laws: the difficulties consumers face trying to keep up with new laws, the costs of compliance, and the infringement upon liberty and property rights.

Now is the time for the Kansas City area to take zoning lessons from other cities. Houston is well-known for its affordable housing and ability to attract businesses, due in large part to its lack of zoning laws, while Portland, Ore., struggles in these areas, despite planning efforts from city administrators.

In this instance, ignorance isn't bliss. It's costly for the city and its residents.

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