

Goodell

# East Lawrence Improvement Association

P.O Box 442393, Lawrence, Kansas 66044

July 21, 1994

Bob Siqueros & Fred Sherman  
City of Lawrence  
Planning Department  
City Hall  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Dear Bob and Fred:

Thank you for your participation in the excellent session on East Lawrence transportation issues Wednesday night. We were able to discuss a number of vital issues, and reached many important conclusions that should be included in the new neighborhood plan.

As you know, there was unanimous agreement that the plan should explicitly prohibit construction of the Eastern Parkway. Only 18.1% of neighborhood residents supported the Parkway, when asked as part of the recent neighborhood survey. In addition, ELIA is on record opposing the project. Clearly, then, the neighborhood plan must exclude the possibility of its completion.

This issue is a vital concern to us, because of the disastrous long-term effects the road would have on East Lawrence. As we discussed, the Parkway would promote the expansion of commercial and industrial uses in and around the neighborhood. In our view, the road will generate irresistible development pressures, much as we've recently seen in the Nieder Acres situation. These incompatible land uses, which encircle the neighborhood north of 9th street would soon close like a bear trap on 12 - 15 blocks of homes, while most of our lateral streets fill up with cars and trucks.

This also ties into our concerns about inadequate downtown parking facilities, particularly in light of the current plans for commercial expansion along the 700 block of Rhode Island, and the 1000 block of New Hampshire. Additional traffic flow and parking must be restricted all along Rhode Island, in order to protect our vital western boundary with the Central Business District.

As we discussed, stricter enforcement of the city's truck route ordinance, improved facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, better maintenance of sidewalks, streets and alleys, as well as improvement of public transportation, are all important issues. In our view, however, if the Eastern Parkway were to be built, all the other improvements would be for nought, since the road would destroy the neighborhood's livability.

The Eastern Parkway has represented an unnecessary obstacle to

cooperation among East Lawrence, the City, Downtown Lawrence, and other entities. In addition, planning for the Parkway continues to consume large sums of public money.

At Wednesday's meeting, you asked us to think about our collective vision for the future of East Lawrence.

Our neighborhood has survived for well over a century as an ethnically diverse and culturally rich urban community. As an amateur historian and urbanologist, I know of no other neighborhood in the country that has thrived on racial integration since the 1850s. I know of few neighborhoods with such a diverse assemblage of 19th Century working-class residential architecture. In a city with the highest housing costs in Kansas, East Lawrence still presents an opportunity for moderate income residents to realize the dream of home ownership. It would be tragic, in this more enlightened time, that a city-sponsored project should wreck such a community.

We hope that the misguided Eastern Parkway project can soon be put behind us, so that we may together devote our energy and resources to preserving and improving this unique Lawrence neighborhood.

Thank you again for all of your hard work on the East Lawrence Neighborhood Plan. We look forward to carrying the project through to completion with your able assistance.

Sincerely,



Mark Kaplan,  
President

c: Lawrence City Commission  
Douglas County Commission  
Senator Robert Dole  
Representative Jan Meyers  
Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods  
Lawrence Journal-World  
KANU Radio  
KLWN Radio  
Pitch Weekly  
New Times  
Topeka Capital-Journal  
Sunflower Cablevision

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East Lawrence Improvement Association  
P. O. Box 442393  
Lawrence, KS 66044

July 19, 1994

Lawrence City Commission  
City Hall  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Dear Commissioners:

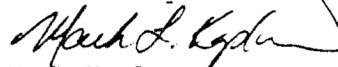
As you know, on April 18 of this year, the ELIA membership passed a resolution opposing construction of the proposed Eastern Parkway. At the time, we were hopeful that our elected officials would discuss with us the reasons for our opposition, and how we might proceed together to improve the city's transportation system without destroying the livability of neighborhoods such as ours. Since then, 60.6% of respondents to a City-sponsored survey in East Lawrence opposed the project. Only 18.1% supported its construction.

Regrettably, the City has not responded in any way to our position on the Parkway. Now, we find that the City proposes to spend additional taxpayer dollars on planning for the road. Moreover, we find that item listed in tonight's Consent Agenda -- a venue normally reserved for routine matters. We do not consider the Parkway a routine matter, as it would have major and lasting impacts on all of Lawrence's older neighborhoods.

So, is it any wonder that we sometimes feel our concerns are being ignored? Frankly, we find it outrageous that the City is proposing to allocate additional tax dollars to a project that is mired in controversy and delay.

I cannot attend tonight's City Commission meeting, but please accept this letter as a strong objection to any action that would facilitate construction of the Eastern Parkway.

Yours truly,



Mark Kaplan,  
President

cc: Senator Eck Dole  
Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum  
Representative Jan Meyers  
KDOT Secretary Michael Johnston



# City of Lawrence KANSAS

CITY COMMISSION  
MAYOR  
JOLENE ANDERSEN  
COMMISSIONERS  
BOB MOODY  
DOUG COMPTON  
JOHN NALBANDIAN  
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July 18, 1994

To: ELIA

From: Mayor Jo Andersen

Re: City Commission goals regarding the eastern part of Lawrence from the river to 23rd Street and Massachusetts to the eastern city limits

Dear Neighbors:

During the annual City Commission goal-setting session last May, one of the most important goals listed was to assess and meet the social and infrastructural needs of the eastern portion of Lawrence. As a result, we kicked up into highest priority on the wastewater capital improvement plan the East Lawrence Sewer Relief line, which should be completed sometime next summer. This will provide relief of overburdened sewer lines and hopefully will prevent many of the sewer back up situations experienced during rain events.

Identifying and solving some of the social problems is more complicated. Our attention to this area was piqued by the recent report by District Attorney Wells on the profile of the at risk juveniles in Lawrence. A large percentage (35%) live in this part of town. In addition, we keep hearing about substandard housing stock and the low ratio of homeowner occupancy which create additional problems for the neighborhoods involved.

It was suggested by John Nalbandian that we form a task force to define problems and solutions related to the above issues and to develop a plan of action to alleviate the problems. We envision the task force to be headed by staff from the Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development, and to include a coalition of people from the social welfare department of KU, city officials, and residents of the neighborhoods. The issues to be addressed will fall into these categories:

1. Public Safety. This will include further development of Community Oriented Policing strategies so that neighborhoods can work more effectively with law enforcement.





# City of Lawrence KANSAS

CITY COMMISSION  
MAYOR  
JOLENE ANDERSEN  
COMMISSIONERS  
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2. Stabilization of housing stock, including renovation, encouragement of homeowner occupancy, and historical preservation
3. Better coordination of social services, especially for low income citizens
4. Identifying other needed infrastructure improvements
5. Transportation issues, including public transportation and alternative forms such as pedestrian walkways and bicycle paths

Several members of the school of social welfare have participated in and/or orchestrated successful neighborhood projects in other cities that may be modified to serve our needs. We will begin preliminary discussions in August as soon as everyone gets back from vacations.

Among the first things we will look at are local success stories, such as the Mayor's youth advisory commission, the Teen Center, the very pro-active neighborhood association at Edgewood, and the East Lawrence historical preservation project. We envision recruiting neighborhood members of the task force from long-term residents who know the people and the challenges first hand.

Please contact me with any feedback you may have. These plans are very preliminary; I will keep you updated as they develop.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Andersen".

Mayor Jo Andersen

