

RECEIVED

APR 07 2006

CITY MANAGERS OFFICE
LAWRENCE, KS

April 7, 2006

Dear Commissioner,

Over a hundred and fifty years ago freed blacks and poor immigrant whites fulfilled their visions of a new life by building their humble homes on a bend in the Kaw river, later to be called the East Bottoms. Before them Kansa and Osage Indians had different visions. Later Mexican workers settled in the bottoms with their simple visions of a better life. All these peoples hopes who called this part of town home are lost to us today. Men came with their vision of a road to make it faster for cars to get to our downtown. Through imminent domain they evicted this last wave of settlers.

Now a new group of men have come with their vision. It is not a vision of buffalo grazing or simple homes, but of high density, critical mass and new urbanism. Theirs' unfortunately, is not very "visionary" instead it is the same old Johnson county model. The basic idea is to cram as many bodies into the smallest space as possible to generate the largest profit possible. The fact that the architecture doesn't fit in the neighborhood is of no concern. The massive increase in traffic doesn't seem to be addressed either. This development is more suitable for Shanghai!

Who will pay for the expansion of the sewer lines to accommodate this project? And the traffic signals that will be necessary to handle the increased traffic? What are the long term costs to the city so Cinco Hombres can make a buck. Not to mention to the detriment to the quality of life for those in the environs who have been "blessed" with this new "vision".

The problem with developers is they keep wanting to develop at the tax payers expense just like sharks have to keep feeding. The job of the planning commission is to plan responsibly and not allow these "good ole boy networks" that Lawrence has been victimized by over and over again thru ex-parte contacts to continue unchecked. And I would very much appreciate if Cinco Hombres would quit pissing in my boots and telling me its raining.

Respectfully, 

R. J. Myers