

March 9, 2007

Mayor Mike Amyx 515 Lindley Drive Lawrence, KS 66049

RE: City adoption of International Building Codes

Dear Mayor Amyx:

I am an architect with a long-time practice here in Lawrence. I design projects built in Lawrence and numerous communities in Kansas. In doing so, I have contact with Codes Officials in many other municipalities. In my experience, almost the "entire world" (at least in Kansas and Missouri) has long since adopted the International Building Code system of codes. This is not to say that Lawrence "has to jump off the bridge just because everyone else has," but it *would* put us in pretty good company.

I am aware that there are a few groups of players who are voicing objections to the adoption of the entire suite of IBC Codes, but my impression is that they are representing only particular segments of the building community, and are not identifying with the majority of the industry. I believe architects have a relatively unique role in the design and construction process, in that they are the professionals charged with coordinating all of the various professional disciplines in order to produce a completely safe, healthy, and beneficial project for the community.

In my opinion, if Lawrence were to adopt the entire suite of International Building Codes, it would not only make life less harried for design professionals, but it would also reduce the number of code conflicts and the resulting "interpretations" currently required of the City's Plans Examiners and Building Inspectors in using a set of "blended" codes.

Again, I recommend the adoption of the suite of International Building Codes by the City of Lawrence. Thank you for your consideration of this important decision.

Sincerely,

J. Stephen Lane, AIA Member City of Lawrence Board of Zoning Appeals Member Douglas County Board of Building Code Appeals

C: Victor Torres, Neighborhood Resources Director
Barry Walthall, Codes Enforcement Manager

