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JAN 10 2007

NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCES

*Building
houses,
building
hope*

January 9, 2007

Mayor and City Commissioners
City of Lawrence
6 E. 6th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Mayor Amyx and City Commissioners,

Lawrence Habitat for Humanity and the City of Lawrence have had many opportunities to work together to provide the opportunity of homeownership of a simple, decent home to low income working families since 1989. We have experienced a lot of support from the City of Lawrence and have built 60 homes in the City over that period of time.

It has been a good working relationship! As you know over the last 18 years providing affordable homes to low income families has experienced enormous challenges as the cost of property in this community has skyrocketed to record highs. Lawrence Habitat has been fortunate to receive funding from the City through the Housing Trust Fund, HOME Grants and CDBG Grants and we thank you for the ongoing support.

As we move forward in our program and continue to grow in serving more families, I would like to request that the City consider waiving tap fees for water and wastewater systems for each home to further support affordable housing. Over the last couple of years we have experienced an increase in cost of these services, which are now over \$3000 per home.

With our current building program between six and seven homes per year, we are asking only for \$18,000 to \$21,000 each year to support our building program. This is one third our current cost of construction of one home. With the help of the city, we can increase our building program to meet the needs of the ever growing low income population of our City and provide them the opportunity of homeownership. In the end, the city will get a return on this investment through the property taxes that Habitat families will pay over the years.

As the City proceeds into a new year, please take this request into consideration as a way to continue to help programs like Lawrence Habitat's continue to grow!

Please call me if you have any questions concerning this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean Lilley".

Jean Lilley

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Cc: Neighborhood Resources Advisory Committee