

RECEIVED

JAN 29 2008

Dear Ms. Hack,

CITY MANAGERS OFFICE  
LAWRENCE, KS

As a proud employee of Community Wireless Communications, data provider for Lawrence Freenet, I would like to ask for your support of the Freenet-Kids proposal that will be discussed this Tuesday.

As an IT professional under the age of 30, I can attest first-hand to the impact the Internet has had on education and the younger generations. I grew up in a very small town in rural Kansas where we didn't have Internet at home or at my elementary school. By 6<sup>th</sup> grade I only had a vague idea of what the Internet was, but our district was adapting quickly. By my 8<sup>th</sup> grade year, our rural 2A school district partnered with four others to create a communications network over which we could share educational resources such as online encyclopedias and interactive classroom video feeds. By the time I was a sophomore, our newly built high school housed all of the 56k modems that the small town of about 1,500 used to connect to the Internet, as well as the closed circuit television channel used by the city to broadcast pertinent community information. In working with these new tools my interest in technology and the Internet began to grow and I started working with the school's technology department as a student aid. By my senior year, I applied and was accepted to Kansas State to pursue a degree in Computer Science. Now, after being in the software industry for the past 4 years, I find the Internet to be the most valuable tool in my profession and continuing education.

Looking back at those initial five years of education, from first signing in to a "chat room", to realizing that I could actually earn a living in Cyberspace, I sometimes wonder where I would be today if the school board and the administration had not had the vision, if the teachers had not had the encouragement and instruction, or if the community had not shown their support in passing the bond issue it took to turn mere ideas into fruition. Had I not had the privilege of access to technologies that I now use every day, how would my life be different? What opportunities would I have missed? What direction would I have taken instead? When thinking about it I realize how much credit should be given to all of those who saw the importance of opportunity for young students, and worked to make those opportunities available.

I know that it is not an easy task to keep up with the pace of technology, which is growing in sophistication and usage on an exponential scale. Anyone who can remember Commodore 64 or cell phones that came in a bag has some idea of this accelerated growth. But just to put it into some perspective, take this: In the 1980's, over a two year period, Internet usage jumped from 20,000 to 80,000 users. A decade later, over another two year period, usage jumped from 20 million to 80 million. Move ahead another decade to 2007 and in North America alone there are over 237 million users online. Evidence suggests this exponential rate of growth will most likely continue in the foreseeable future.

Unfortunately, this means that, unless preventive measures are taken, the digital divide will continue to grow at a comparable rate. Despite the vast increases in usage, it would be naïve for us to believe that access is equal for all. Indeed the more that the Internet

becomes a vital role in our everyday lives, the more important it is for us to see that everyone is staying educated and savvy. That is why it is better to act sooner than later to build bridges across the digital divide. With your support of the Freenet-Kids project, you will be investing in the future of our community by allowing the next generation of Lawrencians to better realize their full potential. In granting *every child* free access to the resources they need to excel in the classroom, Freenet-Kids is aimed at ensuring a resource rich environment in which all Lawrence kids can develop, while simultaneously allowing them to freely exercise and familiarize themselves with new technologies and possibilities.

We at CWC and LFN recognize that cooperation from the city commission has played a vital role in our current and ongoing success; a cooperation for which we are thankful and appreciative. We also recognize that this cooperation, the collective ambition of our dedicated staff, and the vision shared by the company and its members, can together turn the Freenet-Kids proposal into a magnificent victory for the city of Lawrence, and for its future generations, on whose innovations and leadership we will all one day rely as we move further ahead into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Please join us in setting this precedent.

Sincerely,

Andrew Myers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Myers", written over the printed name.

RECEIVED

JAN 29 2008

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008

CITY MANAGERS OFFICE  
LAWRENCE, KS

Dear City Commissioners,

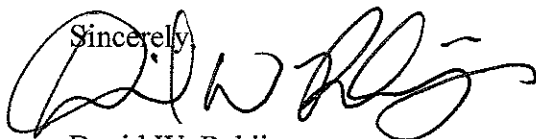
I've lived in or around Lawrence all of my life and believe that it is a very unique town. It's the one place in Kansas that isn't like the rest of Kansas. It's unique in many ways from the people who live here, to the businesses here as well.

The reason for my letter is that I want to voice my support for Lawrence Freenet, and the Freenet Kids proposal they are working on. As a member of the IT community there are not many jobs in the Lawrence community for those of us who live here. Many of my friends in the IT community commute to and from Kansas City or Topeka for their work. It is great to see a tech company in the Lawrence area that is growing and will be opening up the doors for more IT jobs in this town.

Specifically I want to commend the commission on their support of the Lawrence Freenet initiative. Growing up in the era of the internet it is hard for me to conceive how I would function without access to the information the internet provides. The internet has replaced my phonebooks, maps, encyclopedias, dictionaries, newspaper, television, and so much more. I feel the goal of Lawrence Freenet to provide Universal Internet access is a wonderful thing. Just as the data on pages of books is freely available via the library, so should the data on the web be freely available via the internet.

As a father of two with my third child on the way I believe the Freenet Kids project is a great idea. As schools are continually integrating the internet into their curriculums for turning in homework, checking grades, correspondence, announcements, and news, the availability of the internet to our students becomes paramount. However, with the internet comes a great danger as well. Just today I was reading in the Journal World about a man who attempted to meet a 13 year old girl. As a parent I want to protect my children from these dangers. Fortunately as an IT professional I have a base of knowledge and skills to work from, but that is not the case for the average parent. Most parents know less about their computers than their children do. As that is the case, it is increasingly important that parents have the assistance they need in insuring a safe internet experience for their children.

It is a relief for me to know that companies like Lawrence Freenet are working hard to make safe access to this information available for all children in our community. Thus far, the city has had little expense in supporting the initiatives of Lawrence Freenet. Keeping in that tradition, their Freenet Kids proposal being revenue neutral once again allows them to do great things without asking the taxpayers to make it a reality. I encourage you to support the Lawrence Freenet initiative.

Sincerely,  


David W. Rahija  
1012 Jana Drive  
Lawrence, KS 66049  
785.218.9454

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**From:** Tyra Blew [mailto:tyra.blew@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 25, 2008 3:10 PM  
**To:** suehack@sunflower.com; mdever@sunflower.com; robchestnut@sunflower.com;  
%20boog@lawrence.ikxs.com; mikeamx515@hotmail.com; Bobbie Walthall  
**Subject:** Lawrence Freenet Support

The City Commission City Hall 6 E 6th St. Lawrence, Kansas

To whom it may concern,

While I will be unable to attend the City Commission meeting on Tuesday January 29th, I hope that this e-mail can convey to you my support for universal broadband access for the city of Lawrence.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tyra Blew  
University of Kansas

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Li, Yong [mailto:liyong@ku.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 25, 2008 6:06 PM  
**To:** Bobbie Walthall  
**Subject:** support Freenet

Dear leaders of Lawrence,

I'm a visiting scholar of KU, Andy Li. I live outside the campus. The Freenet Internet is so convenient for me. I should say thank you very much to you leaders of Lawrence. You gave us the excellent wireless Internet. Recently, I knew that Freenet will be greatly improved in 2008. I think it's really a piece of good news for the residents including the kids. The kids should be free as they will be the future of this world and our world is information society. Everyone needs information through the wireless Internet and improving the wireless Internet will save large number of wires. So I definitely support the Freenet to be improved by our government. Thank you again!

Best wishes!

\*\*\*\*\*

Yong Li (Andy Li)  
University of Kansas  
Dept. of Civil, Environmental & Architectural Eng.  
Learned Hall  
1530 West 15th Street  
Lawrence, KS 66045-7609, U.S.A

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**From:** john fackler [mailto:johnfackler@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 25, 2008 11:04 PM  
**To:** suehack@sunflower.com; mdever@sunflower.com; robchestnut@sunflower.com;  
boog@lawrence.ixks.com; mikeamyx515@hotmail.com; Bobbie Walthall  
**Subject:** Lawrence Freenet Support

The City Commission  
City Hall  
6 E 6th St.  
Lawrence, Kansas

I support Freenet and universal broadband access in Lawrence.  
Thank You,  
John Fackler

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**From:** Danielle Vanderbilt [mailto:vanderbilts@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 28, 2008 1:50 PM  
**To:** uehack@sunflower.com; mdever@sunflower.com; robchestnut@sunflower.com;  
%20boog@lawrence.ixks.com; mikeamyx515@hotmail.com; Bobbie Walthall  
**Subject:** Lawrence Freenet Support

The City Commission  
City Hall  
E 6th St. Lawrence, Kansas

Good Afternoon,

I am unable to attend the City Commission meeting tomorrow, but I wanted to send an email to voice my support for one of the agenda items. I give my full support to Lawrence Freenet's Freenet-Kids initiative to serve the children in our community.

Sincerely,  
Danielle Vanderbilt

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**From:** Chad [mailto:solutions@sunflower.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2008 7:43 AM  
**To:** suehack@sunflower.com; mdever@sunflower.com; robchestnut@sunflower.com;  
boog@lawrence.ixks.com; mikeamyx515@hotmail.com; Bobbie Walthall  
**Subject:** Lawrence Freenet Support

The City Commission  
City Hall  
6 E 6th St.  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

I support Freenet Kids because with the increased influence of technology in education every child has the right to have the same tools available for learning.

Thank you,  
Chad LaFever  
Lawrence Kansas

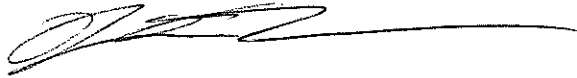
Dear City Commissioners,

I am writing to ask for your support of Lawrence Freenet, and specifically their proposal for a revenue neutral financing plan to help launch the "Freenet-Kids" network.

I was an early adopter and supporter of the Freenet project and I have been very pleased with the results. I am happy to have an alternative high-speed internet provider, and especially happy that it is a provider whose main purpose is to provide affordable, universal access. Without the efforts of this organization, many families in Lawrence would not have internet access, which is becoming more and more important in today's society and economy.

Again, I urge you to support the efforts of Lawrence Freenet in bringing internet access to all parts of our community.

Sincerely,  
Brian Thomas, PhD  
441 Illinois St.  
Lawrence, KS 66044



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**JAN 15 2008**

**CITY MANAGERS OFFICE  
LAWRENCE, KS**

Christopher E. Holmquist

412 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St.

Lawrence, KS 66044

**RECEIVED**

**JAN 14 2008**

**CITY MANAGERS OFFICE  
LAWRENCE, KS**

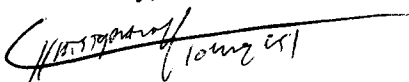
To the Lawrence City Commission,

I am writing this letter to the city of Lawrence as a customer of Lawrence Freenet and to impart my attitudes concerning their service and its place in our town.

First and foremost, Freenet is adding much needed competition in the local internet market; finally providing an alternative to Sunflower Broadband. Competition like this can only help a city and will hopefully lead to prices that are more reasonable, coverage that is more complete and a service that is more reliable. Both companies have value in this city, but I believe Lawrence Freenet is on the cutting edge of internet service. Having a system that is based off a wireless network is much more flexible and advantageous to a customer than a cable connection that is only useful in or near your home. The idea of a city-wide wireless internet connection is an exciting one, and as technology grows and the popularity of mobile devices (such as laptops and PDA's) increases, the need and benefit of a service like Lawrence Freenet's will become invaluable.

Right now, Lawrence Freenet is an up and coming business that needs support from customers as well as the community. I urge the city of Lawrence to consider what a product like Freenet can offer and in turn, to support them in their endeavors. Freenet has made it clear through their philanthropic efforts and innovative service that they are working towards the greater good of the Lawrence community and are a local business that we can take pride in.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Holmquist", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Holmquist



Dan Pollitt

01/14/08

To Whom It May Concern:

I urge you to support the Lawrence FreeNet Kids revenue neutral initiative being proposed to the city. It is extremely important for our city's children to have access to information and this helps ensure it. As a student at KU pursuing a PhD in education, I know the value of educating one's self. Please support this universal internet access proposal.

Sincerely  
Dan Pollitt

RECEIVED

JAN 16 2008

CITY MANAGERS OFFICE  
LAWRENCE, KS



Mr. Daniel T. Pollitt  
2300 Wakarusa Dr. Apt. 433  
Lawrence, KS 66047

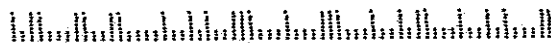
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15 JAN 2008 PM 8 T



Lawrence City Commission  
P.O. Box 708  
Lawrence, KS 66044

66044-0708



RECEIVED

JAN 16 2008

CITY MANAGERS OFFICE  
LAWRENCE, KS



14 Jan 08

I'm writing to briefly  
express my support  
of the Lawrence  
"Freenet-kids" program.

I would have  
benefitted from  
free internet access  
in my youth; I want  
to ensure local  
youth enjoy the  
conveniences  
technology brings!

Thank you,

Mary Melton

Gail Martin (B)

Melton / web gateway 4. B3 / web 9