

Aviation Advisory Board

May 6, 2009

Mayor Rob Chestnut
Vice Mayor Mike Amyx
Mike Dever
Aron Cromwell
Lance Johnson
City of Lawrence
6 E. 6th St.
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

Thank you for your recent approval of a contract with BG Consultants to conduct a feasibility study to bring needed sewer and water services to the Lawrence Municipal Airport. Your commission-appointed Aviation Advisory Board has been advocating for these services to enhance our airport for more than a decade.

Presently, the city has two area companies making plans to locate and build new facilities at the airport: Hawkeye Helicopter, relocating from Ottawa, and DAR Corp., a long-standing Lawrence aviation design enterprise.

It has come to our attention that DAR executive management has had preliminary conversations with representatives of the Salina Airport Authority, which manages the Salina Municipal Airport. In 1999, Lawrence lost another developing company to Salina for the same issues we face today – lack of city infrastructure to support business activities at the Lawrence Municipal Airport.

Salina will be an extremely aggressive and competitive suitor for DAR. The Commission and city staff can't count on DAR's desire to remain in Lawrence based solely on avoiding business and employee relocation preferences. Business is business and DAR will do what is best for their company. We believe that DAR has articulated their timeline very clearly to the city of Lawrence.

The Aviation Advisory Board is urging you and the commission to make an infrastructure commitment today that will benefit the airport and community for years to come. Today, the Lawrence Municipal Airport generates more than \$10 million annually in economic impact to the city and region. Imagine what adding new businesses at the airport will do for economic growth for the community? While city and county leadership posture and discuss investing millions for the Farmland property, our airport property will generate an immediate return for a \$3 million infrastructure investment.

Please provide the necessary funding to build sewer and water service to the Lawrence Municipal Airport and authorize the City Manager to demonstrate to DAR that Lawrence really wants to keep them in town. This is one of the few remaining locations inside the city limits not served by city infrastructure and the upgrade is long overdue.

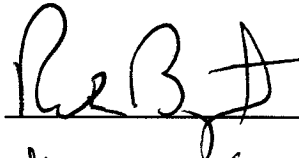
The clock is ticking.

As our commission mandate is to advise you on all issues related to services and operations at the Lawrence Municipal Airport, we believe this letter is appropriate to advise you of current situations and our position toward airport and community job growth.

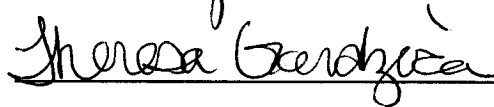
Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to the Commission.

Sincerely,

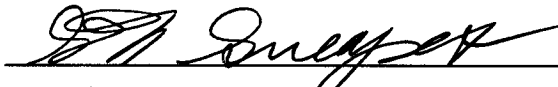
Rick Bryant, chair



Theresa Gordzica, vice chair




Stan Sneegas, secretary



Gary Fish




Richard Haig



Bob Newton



Tom Rainbolt



Cc: David Corliss, City Manager
Chuck Soules, Airport Manager / Director of Public Works