

League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County

P.O. Box 1072, Lawrence, Kansas 66044

July 20, 2009

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JUL 21 2009

CITY MANAGERS OFFICE
LAWRENCE, KS

Mayor Rob Chestnut
Lawrence City Commission
City Hall
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Mayor Chestnut and City Commissioners:

We respectfully request that you remove from the Consent Agenda the Item No. 10, the first reading of Ordinance No. 8429, Text Amendment TA-5-5-09 so that our League representative may discuss this with you.

This text amendment was heard by the Planning Commission at their June 24, 2009 meeting. The League studied this proposed amendment at their June 19 Land Use Committee meeting, and subsequently wrote to the Planning Commission on this issue. Included is a scan of the letter that we submitted to them on June 21, 2009.

We trust that you will hear our concerns about this text amendment.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Alan Black, Chairman
Land Use Committee

Attachment

League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County

P.O. Box 1072, Lawrence, Kansas 66044

June 21, 2009

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JUN 22 2009

City County Planning Office
Lawrence, Kansas

Mr. Brad Finkeldei, Chairman
Members
Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Commission
City Hall
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

RE: ITEM NO. 11; TA-5-5-09-TEXT AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 20 DEVELOPMENT CODE (SDM)
REVISION TO INTERIOR PARKING LOT STANDARDS

Dear Chairman Finkeldei and Planning Commissioners:

We ask that you deny the change to the interior parking lot standards to double the number of parking spaces that require separating landscaped areas. After considerable discussion we realized that increasing the number of parking spaces per landscaped interval from 5 to 11 would not substantially reduce the area devoted to parking or reduce the impact on neighboring property. On the contrary, it would increase substantially the amount of heat build-up because of the increased paved surface area and reduction in shade.

Also, we ask that you *not* eliminate the requirement for interior landscaping on parking areas of 150 feet or less by allowing it as an "Alternative Compliance procedure." We further need to point out that the wording here is not clear as to whether it refers to the *parking* lot or to the single platted ownership lot. A parking lot of 150 feet deep is larger than the average residential lot, and this new standard alone would tend to create much greater heat build-up in the city because of the increase in paved surfaces and reduced shade.

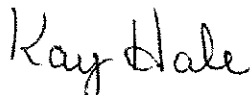
"(b) Applicability

The interior parking lot Landscaping standards of this section apply to all off-street parking lots containing **5 11** or more off-street Parking Spaces; provided, however, that for Lots that are less than one hundred fifty (150) feet deep, the interior Landscaping requirements may be waived in conformance with the Alternative Compliance procedure provided in Section 20-1007. ~~For Lots less than one hundred fifty (150) feet deep, with all Landscaping shall being concentrated in the Setback from public rights of way or from residentially zoned property."~~

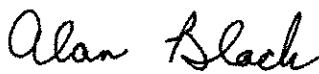
We repeat our support for encouraging more trees except in areas where screening is necessary.

We hope that you will seriously consider our comments. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Kale Hale
Co-president



Alan Black, Chairman
Land Use Committee