

Mike Amyx
Vice-Mayor
City of Lawrence

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CITY MANAGERS OFFICE
LAWRENCE, KS

Dear Sir,

My name is James Hemphill and I would like to offer, for your consideration, my family's position on the proposed development of Lots 1 and 3 of the Elsie Hemphill Addition. My daughter and son in law, Gretchen and Tim Windholz, now own, and wish to develop this property. He is an established builder and in addition owns rentals in this and other areas.

This real estate has been owned by my family since around 1930. For the past eighty years we have cut the grass, cleared the ditch of brush and paid the property tax. The open space the pasture provided was of value to the neighborhood and personally I would rather it not change, but we are now to the point that we must derive some income to help with the real estate taxes. which have increased to over \$800 a year. We have installed a sewer and had the land platted and rezoned. This action took place before you in May 2009 and it passed 5-0 with no person voicing opposition. We have paid for a design, by an Architect and a site plan laid out by him. He placed the buildings on the site based on our instructions to preserve the trees, have a minimum of pavement, present an attractive appearance from Learnard Street and still provide access to the unplatted land occupied by the historic cow barn, which dates to the early 1900's. Despite the lots having a large square foot area, the floodplain restrictions and unusual dimensions severely limit building placement.

Vocal opposition to this project has come from the manager of the William Burroughs Estate. He does not live in the Burroughs house or even in the historic district. No other opposition for this site plan has surfaced as of this date. From what I have been able to ascertain, he is concerned that the view from the front porch of Mr. Burroughs's house will be changed, and will not be the same as when Mr. Burroughs was alive. We have worked on several other site plans with our planner and in his, and our, opinion the original plan works best and will present the most attractive appearance from the West.

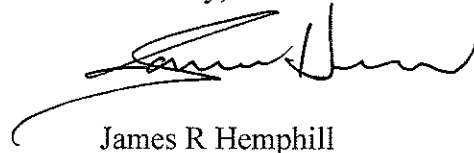
We feel that we have been jerked around in our construction plans by what we consider excessive delay and red tape. When the Burroughs Historic District was being proposed I did not oppose it. The concept seemed rather strange to me, however, as both sides of my family have lived in and around Lawrence for over 100 years **before** Mr. Burroughs arrival. I was not acquainted with Mr. Burroughs during his life and did not know of his contribution to American literature or his most different life style. At the time of the establishment of the Burroughs Historic District I did not see how it would have an impact on me or our property. **I was wrong!** I appreciate the service given by the many people serving on the various appointed advisory boards, and the fact that they serve for no financial gain. I do, however, think that some time limit for this process should be established. Our going ahead with this project will provide employment for several

people for months, increase the number of moderately priced rental apartments on the east side of town and perhaps, of greater importance to you, produce additional taxes. We are ready to break ground. **We were ready last Fall!** Please drive by the site and try to picture the placement of the buildings that we propose. While you are there check out the appearance of and how we maintain our three duplexes, which were built in 1955 and 1956. The request for approval of our site plan has been before the Historic Sites Commission and their sub committee, the Architectural Review Board since last September. We just received notification of denial. I cannot think of any reason for the process to take this long. We would now like to have the **elected** members of our City Commission rule on this matter in a timely manner.

I have always lived by the principal that if you can't say something good about someone, keep quiet, however it is now necessary that I ask you to Google "William Burroughs" for information about his life and writings. He lived his life from a position of wealth, his family having founded the Burroughs Adding Machine Company. They, according to online sources, supported him in his many adventures. I have tried to read some of his "thoughts" but apparently I do not have a taste for his style. I do not think that any of us would aspire to have done what he did, or would encourage our children or grandchildren to lead such an existence!

Please, let's move on! Vote on this as an issue of what is best for the neighborhood and not as how to please the literary fringe of the counter culture. Why put him forward as an example of a productive life well lived. We are not talking Walden Pond here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R Hemphill", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

James R Hemphill

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