

# COSMOSPHERE

KANSAS COSMOSPHERE & SPACE CENTER

September 8, 2011

Mr. David L. Corliss  
City Manager  
Lawrence City Hall  
Post Office Box 708  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

**RECEIVED**

SEP 12 2011

CITY MANAGERS OFFICE  
LAWRENCE, KS

Dear Mr. Corliss:

I am writing to make a proposal to the city of Lawrence concerning the Polaris submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) on display at Centennial Park. Prior to assuming the President's position here at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center in 2007, I spent 20 years in the United States Navy as a Submarine Officer. Service in the Navy was what brought me to Kansas, and Lawrence specifically, in 2003. I served as the Executive and then Commanding Officer of the NROTC Unit at the University of Kansas. The Cosmosphere is currently converting the property across the street into a public space which will include a rocket and aircraft park. We currently have plans to place Corporal, Nike-Hercules, and Honest John missiles, as well as an Apollo-era Command Module capsule, Navy SH-3 recovery helicopter, and a NASA F-104 chase plane in this new green display area.

One aspect of the United States' rocket and space programs that is missing from the Cosmosphere's collection is a Navy SLBM. We have Army and Air Force rockets, but nothing from the Navy's heritage programs. The Polaris currently in Centennial Park was presented to Lawrence in October 1964 by the Lawrence Navy League. It was, and is, a fitting tribute to the member's of our nation's military who served during the Cold War. The Cosmosphere hosts over 150,000 visitors per year who are interested in space and military history. I would like to propose to the city of Lawrence that the Polaris be transferred to the Cosmosphere for restoration and permanent display in the new rocket park across from our internationally-acclaimed space museum. I believe this would be a marvelous and fitting continuance of the tribute started in 1964 by community members from your fine city.

I welcome the opportunity to speak with you and the Council about this proposal. I will contact you soon to speak about this idea and see if there is the possibility of moving forward.

Sincerely,



Christopher D. Orwoll  
President and CEO

1100 n. plum street  
hutchinson, ks 67501-1499  
tel: 620.662.2305  
fax: 620.662.3693  
[www.cosmo.org](http://www.cosmo.org)