



September 10, 2012

Mr. David Corliss  
City Manager – City of Lawrence, Kansas  
6 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Dear Dave,

The oldest active Title IX open case in the Office of Civil Rights, Kansas City area district, involves the University of Kansas. It alleges that KU denies equal athletics opportunities to female athletes when compared to male athletes. This case is now entering its 20th year, and serious concerns still remain, i.e., facilities for our softball and soccer teams. In addition, Kansas Athletics is one of the last remaining schools among BCS institutions with a running track surrounding its football field. The combination of these three facility issues is an embarrassment to KU alumni and student-athletes, past and present.

I am sharing this background with you because as you know, in April of this year a proposal was presented to KU, the 'West of the Bypass' proposal, through the generosity of three parties: the Schwada family, the City of Lawrence, and Thomas and Dru Fritzel. This proposal provided an opportunity to solve two of our three facility deficiencies: soccer and track. Kansas Athletics was grateful for the proposal. However, the last remaining facility issue, softball, was left unsolved for the foreseeable future. Unfortunately, the softball facility is also the one that needs the most immediate attention.

In the time since the 'West of the Bypass' idea was presented and considered, Kansas Athletics has continued the quest to address the softball stadium issue. In recent weeks, with the help of the Kansas University Endowment Association (KUEA), we were presented with a realistic opportunity that addressed all three facility needs. This proposition is exciting to us on several levels because it would solve our aged Title IX open case.

Accepting this KUEA opportunity removes Kansas Athletics from the 'West of the Bypass' proposal. It is our hope that all parties understand that solving three facility issues, and the myriad of collateral issues that come with them, is first and foremost the mission of the University of Kansas.

Additionally, since the inception of the 'West of the Bypass' discussions, it has been noted publicly and privately that Kansas Athletics was not significantly invested in the project. This notion was not lost on us; KUEA's investment and proposal now positions the University of Kansas as partners in this project.

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Re: City/University Partnership opportunity

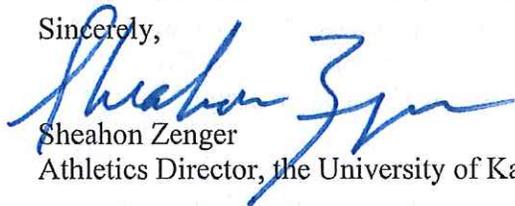
The tract of land proposed for the soccer, softball, and track complexes is commonly referred to as the Stultz property. This land will be purchased by KUEA and be dedicated and earmarked for the development of athletics complexes. In addition to this property solving its competition-venue shortcomings, Kansas Athletics believes it could be a viable option for the location of the City of Lawrence's planned recreation facility.

Kansas Athletics would like to invite the City of Lawrence to investigate its options regarding its proposed recreation center and consider partnering with Athletics and KUEA to build it on the newly proposed site. We recognize that although there are many variables and considerations surrounding the City's proposed recreation center, it is our opinion that the City's and Athletics' facilities belong together. The City, KUEA, and Athletics already have proven partnerships, such as KUEA and the City for a Fire House, and Athletics and the City for the Kansas River Boat House. This new proposal provides an additional synergy; it would also aid in cost-savings, foster an atmosphere of athletic wellness for the entire city and make a national impact.

Finally, the City should consider the following information when reviewing its options: KU is invested in and excited about this new opportunity; the utility infrastructure is readily available at this proposed site; and, since the land will be dedicated for athletic usage, there is an opportunity for growth – future growth for other possible City and University athletic needs, including walking or biking trails in the plentiful wooded area, tennis, or other facilities not yet known. Perhaps the most compelling reason for the move to this site is the lack of neighborhood concerns regarding lights, sound and traffic. Lastly, this location, on the east side of the bypass, is a safer location for student-athletes, families, and City guests, and is closer to the City of Lawrence and its many amenities.

In summary, as KU and Kansas Athletics move their state-of-the-art facilities to a new location, we invite the City to join us and forge new opportunities to make the City of Lawrence and the University of Kansas national leaders in providing athletics opportunities to its residents and student-athletes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sheahon Zenger".

Sheahon Zenger  
Athletics Director, the University of Kansas