

Bobbie Walthall

To: steven c. watts
Subject: RE: The New Horizons Family Housing Program

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: steven c. watts <scaji@sbcglobal.net>
To: Commissioner Leslie Soden <lsoden@lawrenceks.org>; Commissioner Stuart Boley <sboley@lawrenceks.org>; Commissioner Matthew Herbert <matthewjherbert@gmail.com>; Commissioner Leslie Larsen <llarsen@lawrenceks.org>; Commissioner Mayor Mike Amyx <mikeamyx515@hotmail.com>
Cc: Tom Markus <tmarkus@lawrenceks.org>
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 2:10 PM
Subject: Fw: The New Horizons Family Housing Program

PS:

PLEASE INQUIRE, if the money is allocated, WHAT PLANS ARE IN PLACE FOR SELF SUFFICIENCY SUCH THAT YET ANOTHER \$100k is GONE/NECESSARY TO KEEP THIS NEW PROGRAM AFLOAT.

Thank you

scw

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Cc: Tom Markus <tmarkus@lawrenceks.org>
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 7:52 AM
Subject: The New Horizons Family Housing Program

Mr. Mayor and Commissioners:

\$100,000.00 here. \$100,000.00 there. These requests from the Housing Authority are baffling. Providing "seed monies" for programs like The New Horizons Family Housing Program has merit. However, Lawrence, Kansas has a long standing history of creating lackluster programs which NEVER become self sufficient and rely heavily if not exclusively on City and County funding. Their boards and highly paid "executive directors" seemingly do relative nothing (let alone aggressively) to seek out independent financing through grants and other funding sources. These "sacred cows" of Lawrence do pitiful fundraising which are mere social events in the final analysis.

My question relative to granting yet another \$100,000.00 to Ms. Oury and her housing authority.....an individual paid well over \$120,000.00 per annum plus an almost 30% fringe package and who has achieved ZERO in creating any self funded activities.....is **could the \$100,000.00 that the Commission wasted to purchase an over priced piece of property (1025 NH???) have been used for a program like what is being proposed for this The New Horizons Family Housing Program; or, did HUD regulations MANDATE the money be spent on physical property??** I believe HUD would have approved the "extra" \$100,000.00 the housing authority had been sitting on; doing nothing; planning nothing; and running the "risk" of having HUD re-

allocate the funds to more aggressive communities which are creating lasting and real housing assistance on a self-sufficient basis to be expended to fund this The New Horizons Family Housing Program. I could be wrong.

The issue centers around the significant failure of leadership from the "blue ribbon boards"; the same group of musical chair playing hapless snobs who do a lot of hand wringing and clucking, but really accomplish very little. We only need to look at the wonderful events which took place relative to the Just Food "program" to but scratch the veneer of a hapless social service community which says a lot but does very little when one gets right down to it.

So, again, **could that \$100,000.00 that the City wasted in purchasing a property at a price much, much higher than an independent appraisal not to mention the County of Douglas official appraisal have been used for this The New Horizons Family Housing Program? If not, why not?**

Respectfully,

Steven C. Watts, MSW
Lawrence, Kansas

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