



November 14, 2016

Lawrence City Commissioners
6 E. 6th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

City Commissioners and Staff,

On the November 15, 2016 agenda, is the adoption of the proposed economic development agreement between the City of Lawrence and The Chamber of Lawrence, Kansas. We are grateful for the work of Diane Stoddard and City staff, who worked in tandem with The Chamber staff to create the proposed agreement. We believe that it will serve to clarify to the citizens of Lawrence the relationship between our organizations.

We, as an organization, greatly value the relationship that The Chamber has with our economic development partners, including the City of Lawrence, Douglas County, and the University of Kansas. We believe that these partnerships and the community between the partners, such as our monthly joint meeting, are critical to both the economic and overall health of the Lawrence community.

Late last week, we announced the hiring of Steve Kelly as our Vice President of Economic Development. We believe that he will add significant value to our efforts and that his familiarity with our community will allow him to be easily incorporated into our staff and our partnerships. With Steve leading our economic development efforts, along with support from Adam Handsby, Bonnie Lowe, and myself, our team will work in concert for many economic development gains and win.

We support this agreement to further solidify the partnership between The Chamber and the City of Lawrence and urge your adoption.

Sincerely,

Larry K. McElwain, President/CEO