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# Memorandum

## City of Lawrence

### City Manager's Office

TO: Mayor and City Commission  
FROM: Thomas M. Markus   
DATE: November 14, 2016  
RE: Request for Standing Rock donations

At the regular city commission meeting of Tuesday, November 8, 2016, Ms. Ashlyn Schwartz, claiming to speak on behalf of the community, requested the City of Lawrence to make a donation of funds and goods (list attached) to support the protesters efforts while protesting the pipeline project at Standing Rock. Ms. Schwartz reviewed the budget looking for discretionary funding to support her request. While contingency funds may be available, the question really is does the city commission wish to provide those funds and in what amount. Philosophically, I do not support the use of funds for purposes of protest activities believing that taxpayers funds are generally intended for local municipal purposes and that protest funding would be better sourced from those who actively support the social cause for which a protest is being made. In other words, the funds should be solicited from the general public. As you will also recall, I made a strong point of sticking with your budget once adopted and not getting off the adopted budget when individual requests are made throughout the course of the year. Obviously, emergencies do occur and we need to address them when they do, however I do not believe the requested funds would be an emergency under our budget for local government needs and services. I would also question whether the financial request to support this protest is something our general public would support. If the general public is supportive, the supporters of such activities will be able to raise money by soliciting the public. In fact, a public fundraising rally called "Lawrence Stands with Standing Rock" was held on Saturday, November 12 at the South Park Gazebo, and was sponsored by three local organizations. One of the purposes of the rally was to collect supplies for the benefit of the Sacred Stone Camp associated with the Standing Rock Sioux.

If the commission is inclined to help, I would suggest that a drop box be placed in City Hall where members of the public could donate items. We will make arrangements with Haskell or other members of the rally to ensure the items get to Standing Rock.

Further, in review of the list of requested items, it does not appear that the City has an available inventory of the requested items, and it would be difficult to obtain the majority of the items that are listed as the City has purchasing procedures that need to be followed.

Here's an additional supplies list from the Sacred Stone website

BANNERS, SHEETS (WE LOVE IT WHEN YOU MAKE BANNERS AND SEND THEM TO US!)

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BATTERY PACKS FOR CHARGING PHONES

CANVAS - HEAVY DUTY ONLY PLEASE

CAR PORTS

CARTS AND WHEELBARROWS FOR HAULING WOOD

CIGARETTES-MARLBORO REDS AND CAMELS

COME ALONGS

FIREWOOD (PREFERABLY OAK, MAPLE, ASH) <<< THIS IS ONE OF OUR BIGGEST WINTER NEEDS

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

PROPANE

FUR BLANKETS

TESORO GAS CARDS

GAS GENERATORS

GIFT CARDS - LOWES/MENARDS, AMAZON, VERIZON

INSULATED CARHARTT TYPE COVERALLS, OVERALLS, COATS

LIGHTERS

MATERIAL FOR TOBACCO TIES (ALL COLORS)

MONEY

PAINT (INC. SPRAY PAINT)

PICK UP TRUCK

POWER INVERTER

PROPANE HEATERS (SMALL)

ROPES, TIE DOWNS

SHIPPING CONTAINER 20 FT

SLEEPING BAGS (FOR 0 DEGREES F AND LOWER - PLEASE NO WARM WEATHER BAGS AT THIS TIME)

SNOWMOBILES

SNOW TIRES (INQUIRE FOR SIZES)

SOLAR CHARGERS FOR ELECTRONIC DEVICES

SOLAR PANELS, INVERTER

STORAGE BINS - HEAVY DUTY - ALL SIZES

TARPS - HEAVY DUTY ONLY

TIRE CHAINS

TENTS (THAT CAN STAND UP TO HIGH WINDS, SNOW, SUBZERO TEMPS)

THERMAL BED ROLLS

TIPIS AND TIPI POLES

TIPI LINERS FOR WINTER

TOW STRAPS

WALKIE TALKIES WITH LONG RANGE, CB RADIOS

WATER BUFFALO (TANK)

WATER TANK WITH HEATER

WINTER COATS (FOR VERY COLD TEMPS, GOOD CONDITION ONLY PLEASE)

WINTER SALT FOR ROADS

WOOD STOVES (MOSTLY SMALL ONES FOR TIPIS)