

## Bobbie Walthall

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**To:** Tom Markus  
**Subject:** RE: animal shelter

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Bureau of Lecuture <[bureau@assemblyline.com](mailto:bureau@assemblyline.com)>  
**Date:** April 11, 2017 at 10:50:46 AM CDT  
**To:** <[lsoden@lawrenceks.org](mailto:lsoden@lawrenceks.org)>, <[sboley@lawrenceks.org](mailto:sboley@lawrenceks.org)>, <[mamyx@lawrenceks.org](mailto:mamyx@lawrenceks.org)>, <[mathewjherbert@lawrenceks.org](mailto:mathewjherbert@lawrenceks.org)>, <[llarsen@lawrenceks.org](mailto:llarsen@lawrenceks.org)>  
**Subject:** animal shelter

Commissioners:

I just read the article in the paper that indicated the city commission was going to “give” \$2,500,000 towards the building of a new animal shelter. The article also mentioned that the city would also “loan” another \$2,500,000 at low interest rate for the project. It is very interesting (and hard to digest) that the city would give that amount of money to help move a shelter for ANIMALS and refused in years past to give ANY money to help locate a new shelter for HUMANS. When we made that move, it was the city’s stance that they didn’t think we could raise the money necessary to make the move to the new location, and also made it as difficult as possible to get the site approved, the manner of operation approved, and in general was “hands off” during the entire effort. (except for telling us how to run the facility) That effort raised over \$4,000,000 but still came out somewhere (to the best of my memory) in the neighborhood of \$400,000-\$500,000 short of paying off the entire amount needed for the land, the building, the move, the furnishings, etc as well as the added expense of operating a larger facility. The city “loaned” us that amount and the Shelter Board is presently paying that “off”.

I am writing this letter as a first-effort polite request to have the city forgive that amount of loan in light of what you are doing for the animals shelter. It is hurtful to me that you would give that kind of money for animals when there was absolutely nothing given to the human need. I would really rather not take the public avenue of bringing this discrepancy to the public but can guarantee that I will do that if you do not seriously do the right thing with the outstanding loan the Homeless Shelter now has with the city. I am not opposed to the city helping with the animals shelter, but am more than upset that you would do so after refusing to help monetarily with any of the huge effort in moving the Homeless Shelter. The Homeless Shelter has done an amazing job with the transition to it’s new location and all the issues that surround such a move. They have made huge strides in getting clients into jobs and into affordable housing. They deserve at least 1/5 of the concrete “help” or funding that you have decided to give the animal shelter and I would hope you would address this discrepancy in the near future before the last phase of fund-raising is taken on by the animal shelter group. The people of Douglas County, and potential donors, would not react too favorably by finding out about this discrepancy.

I am NOT against the money given to the animal shelter---I AM totally of the opinion that people matter more than animals and that fair is fair. Do the right thing. Forgive the balance of the loan you have with the Homeless Shelter and allow them to provide more care and assistance to the humans they encounter on a daily, 365 day of the year, basis.

Sincerely,

John A. Tacha (Sr)

Chair of the Homeless Shelter (2005-13)