

Bobbie Walthall

To: steven c. watts
Subject: RE: The Vox Populi....

From: steven c. watts [mailto:scajj@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Monday, September 04, 2017 8:13 PM

To: Leslie Soden <lsoden@lawrenceks.org>; Lisa Larsen <llarsen@lawrenceks.org>; Matthew Herbert <matthewjherbert@gmail.com>; Stuart Boley <sbole@lawrenceks.org>

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Subject: The Vox Populi....

Greetings Lawrence City Commission:

....seems to mean very little in our town. Please refer

to: <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2017/sep/04/lawrence-city-commission-consider-changes-handling/>
which appeared in the

Sept. 4, 2017 LJWorld. The critical board I quote:

"One of the sticking points of those meetings appears to have been the ability for the board to accept public comment. As is, the ordinance allows public comment during board meetings as long as it does not include comments regarding individual officer misconduct. City Manager Tom Markus previously told the commission that format creates a forum for discussion that doesn't necessarily exist currently.

"But *the LPOA has suggested editing the ordinance to disallow general public comment and instead only allow the board to accept public comment on regular agenda items unrelated to a complaint, according to the memo.*"

So, patrolmen and women want to silence the public? That group has fought, tooth and nail, a citizen's review panel of the police department for over 40+ years. The group has only reluctantly "allowed" the discussion as to a real review panel and why is that? Because they can take out the teeth of the entire concept by removing citizen comment.....the voice of the people....or the Vox Populi. Lawrence as an open and free environment for open thinking which leads to synthesis really doesn't exist. Time after time 180° of thought is what exists on most boards and committees. "Polite" conversation which amounts little more than pabulum is what we end up with and thus we are the problem in continuing to turn Lawrence into a college town full of rigid, concrete thinking by so called "academics". However, the man and woman in the street DO and WILL speak openly and with a blunt openness that is beyond refreshing. However, these are the very people the "LPOA" seek to silence. Why is that?

The answer is clear and plain: "They" know they've a lot to hide and to explain and want the process dragged out in redacted paragraphs and, if "they" had "their"....wipe the entire slate of the internal operations of the LKPD clean. DELETE. "They" want to scrub and wash the hard drive.

Eliminating the ability of the public to comment on the matters any review cmte. might review neuters the entire idea of having a review panel.

We've a target rich environment here in Lawrence when it comes to the real public.....not the monied and those "in control"the real public.....those who actually are required to work and also run a household which pretty much negates participation due to familial demands which clearly come before attending meetings.....which would be a waste of time to attend if citizen participation wasn't permitted. The cogent questions are: WHAT ARE POLICE TYPES AFRAID OF? WHAT ARE THEY HIDING? I've others if you'd like them. Let me stress, the "problem" is not with the regular patrolman or patrolwoman. Nope. The problem is with the lkpd administration. Chief Burns confronts an organization in a state of deep disarray and confusion. Police administration has for too long been permitted by our town to be running our police department. We must stop that stupidity and take the lkpd back.

I urge the Commission to retain the aspect of the proposed board to allow, permit and, yes, even ENCOURAGE citizen input, participation, and involvement.

Thank you

Steven C. Watts, MSW
Lawrence, Kansas