

TO THE CITY OF LAWRENCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION

Good Evening,

On behalf of my Daughter and Granddaughter, Erin and Mazey Berg, who were taken too early in life due to domestic violence, I am composing this letter to support artist Margo Day.

Margo has presented a drawing which represents Erin and Mazey's life in the form of peace, support, comfort, love and vibrant energy that so inspired the Lawrence community. I feel very empowered by the mural's message Margo has artfully depicted of my Erin & Mazey's lives. Erin had such compassion for everyone that she encountered which made her infectiously known by the downtown culture of Lawrence. I feel like this mural is so much more than just a symbol of their shining lives, but an icon of hope for the community she so fervently loved. Again, my purpose for this letter is to wholeheartedly support this beautiful idea. I fully endorse Margo's ambitions to express Erin & Mazey's presence by her own artistic abilities and designs.

I am asking for your approval for this beautiful gesture of love.

With fervent regards,

Kim Thomason



October 11, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the mural project proposed by Margot Day, which would highlight mental and physical health resources available to the community from local non-profit organizations around town. While city ordinances generally prohibit letters and numbers as they constitute signage, we would ask that this be reviewed in this case. The purpose of the mural is to create artwork which raises social awareness of organizations that provide life-saving services to our community. These services, most of which are in some part founded by the city, are only going to be as effective as the knowledge which the community has about them. The purpose of art is to enrich, inspire, and educate the community. The purpose of a sign is to sell a product.

These are not groups seeking to sell a project, and this artwork is inspired by the tragic loss of Erin and Mazey Berg, which made the artist reflect on what help may have been available. Conversations which the artist have revealed that she herself was unaware of the scope of services available when she began this project, which makes the point of it even more important—community members are unlikely to seek out these services until they are needed, by which time they may be in crisis and not in the best place to gather information. By providing an artistic rendering of organizations which the city already supports, we can together help raise awareness of both the services that are available, and the reasons why they are necessary. This highly visible mural would then be in a place to strike up discussion, to inspire research, to move members of the community to understand and possibly to use these services of which they might otherwise be unaware.

Therefore, we, the undersigned, ask you to consider allowing this project to continue, as a work of art first and foremost, but also as an important investment by the city in promoting resources which strive every day to help our community live safe, healthy, and happy lives.

We appreciate your investment and efforts on behalf of the Lawrence community,

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P.O. Box 633 • Lawrence, KS 66044 • www.willowdvcenter.org

Office Phone: 785.331.2034 • 24 Hour Crisis Line: 785.843.3333 / 800.770.3030

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