



October 6, 2017

Mayor Leslie Soden
City of Lawrence
6 East 6th Street, PO Box 708
Lawrence, KS 66044-3205

Dear Mayor Soden,

I am writing in response to the Lawrence City Commission's request for input from the Lawrence Board of Education regarding the Commission's intent to eliminate the JEDC, fold its responsibilities into the Public Incentive Review Committee, and eliminate the assignment of the Mayor and an additional member of the Commission to serve on the PIRC advisory board. More information about the PIRC may be found on the City's website: <https://lawrenceks.org/boards/public-incentives-review-committee/>.

I understand the Commission's general concerns with its representatives voting on an advisory recommendation, and then considering the recommendation again in their capacity on the Commission. However, with regard to this particular body it would be a mistake to remove all of the city commissioners from the Committee. The task of this Committee is inherently different than that of other advisory boards because of the multi-governmental nature of its work. Because the City, Douglas County, and Board of Education all have to vote on tax abatement issues, it would be detrimental to the roles and responsibilities of all three bodies if the PIRC were to include members from the County Commission and School Board, but not the City Commission.

Removing City Commission representation from the PIRC also creates a missed opportunity for relationship building among the three governmental bodies around economic and other development issues. I believe that the City, County, and Board of Education need more rather than fewer of these opportunities.

Having sat on the PIRC for a number of years, I found participation in this Committee's discussions invaluable in helping my board to understand the nature of the requested incentives and the recommendation of the PIRC to the Board before it voted on an incentive request. Continuing to have at least one City Commissioner as a member of the PIRC is important for the same reasons, as well as for respecting the parity of the three governmental bodies in the incentive review and approval process.

I appreciate the positive relationship that exists between the City Commission and Lawrence Board of Education. Thank you for considering this feedback when weighing changes to the Public Incentive Review Committee.

Sincerely,

Shannon Kimball, president
Lawrence Board of Education

cc: Members, Lawrence Board of Education
Interim Superintendent Anna Stubblefield
Tom Markus, City Manager
Lawrence City Commissioners