



City of Lawrence

CITY COMMISSION

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STUART BOLEY

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DRAFT

December 4, 2018

Douglas County Board of County Commissioners
c/o Nancy Thellman, Chair
1100 Massachusetts Street, Unit 203
Lawrence, KS 66044-3064

Dear Commissioners Thellman, Gaughan and Derusseau:

Thank you for your correspondence dated October 10, 2018, sent in follow up to the Joint County/City/USD meeting in September. On behalf of the Lawrence City Commission, I am providing a response to the requests that you outline in that correspondence.

1. You request that the City appoint an elected official and a staff person to serve on a group forming to study youth behavioral issues. While this topic was mentioned at the joint meeting and briefly outlined in your letter, it is still unclear to us the scope of the issues being studied and the overall outcome desired and the time requirements for this study. We would ask for more specificity regarding this request.
2. You request that the City appoint a staff member to study operational issues at the Lawrence Community Shelter to review sustainability issues. We appreciate the work undertaken by the Lawrence Community Shelter regarding our most vulnerable populations. The City continues to provide funding for the Shelter as it has in the past. In fact, the City increased its budget for the Shelter to \$195,000 in 2019 from \$184,000 in 2018. We understand, from budget information provided on your website, that the County reduced its support for the Shelter from \$169,059 in 2018 to \$115,000 for 2019. Additionally, the Constitution of the State of Kansas, in Article 7 Section 4, provides that "the respective counties of the state shall provide, as may be prescribed by law, for those inhabitants who, by reason of age, infirmity or other misfortune, may have claims upon the aid of society." As we continue to gain a better understanding of our respective roles, we believe that the County should take the lead on studying these issues and report back to the City at a later date.
3. You request that the City designate a staff person to work with County staff to develop a work plan for our shared service arrangements. The City Manager has appointed Diane Stoddard, Assistant City Manager, to lead these efforts on behalf of the City with the first priority being to address the emergency medical services agreement between the City and the County. While we agree that it is important to examine all of these shared services agreements, we want the first step to be the detailed review of that service agreement. As you suggested in your letter, Commissioner Gaughan and I may be able



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to resolve some issues around joint board appointments, and then suggest amendments to the underlying agreements. I am prepared to begin those discussions. It would also be useful to exchange lists of agreements that may possibly be included in future staff discussions. The City Manager will be providing the City Commission with regular updates on these discussions and the City Commission will consider any necessary revisions to the agreements related to the discussions.

Sincerely,

Stuart Boley
Mayor

C: City Commission
Thomas M. Markus, City Manager