

January 30, 2019

Lisa Larsen
Mayor of the City of Lawrence
City Hall
6 E 6th St.
Lawrence, KS 66044

RE: Historic Resources Commission support for development of
East Lawrence Design Guidelines

Dear Mayor Larsen,

As the current Chair and Vice Chair of the Historic Resources Commission (“HRC”), we are writing you on behalf of the HRC to express support for the development of Design Guidelines for East Lawrence.

The purpose of Design Guidelines is multi-faceted. Design Guidelines identify character defining elements that support a neighborhood’s unique sense of place. Design Guidelines provide the following:

- Help protect the city’s valuable cultural and historic resources
- Establish a common understanding of expectations for new development in a neighborhood. This allows applicants to design projects that will meet the purpose of the review, thus reducing the amount of time the applicant spends in the review process
- Increase consistency during the review process by City Staff and the HRC, and any other review board
- Bring a neighborhood together to identify and establish common goals

The HRC has seen an increase in development projects in East Lawrence over the past few years. A common goal of Design Guidelines is to build upon the historic character of Lawrence and foster diversity by guiding development that is differentiated from the historic properties but still compatible with the character and goals of the neighborhood.

There has been a lot of work and effort put into preserving East Lawrence. The *Living in East Lawrence* context document which includes 42 properties and an overall Architectural and Historic Significance statement for the neighborhood was used to list

12 properties in the East Lawrence neighborhood to the Lawrence Register of Historic Places in 2014. Also, in the *2000 East Lawrence Revitalization Plan* establishing Design Guidelines was identified as a goal for the neighborhood, see Appendix D. Design Guidelines would consolidate, expand and enrich the suggested design guidelines in Appendix D plus consolidate and synthesize many other existing resources.

Most of all, Design Guidelines provide an accurate account of what exists and what is important, which frames the basis of understanding and sets expectations bridging all possible stakeholders and project reviewers together to achieve a common goal.

The HRC supports the development of Design Guidelines for East Lawrence, and hopes the City Commission will also provide support for this effort by providing assistance and city staffing, if and when deemed appropriate.



Aaron R. Bailey
Chair



Brenna Buchanan Young
Vice Chair