



June 23, 2015

Art is what you see. Jobs are what we do.

Mayor Jeremy Farmer
Lawrence City Commission
6 East 6th Street
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Dear Mayor Farmer and Commissioners,

Please know that Van Go wishes to continue pursuing City of Lawrence vendor status, preferring funding in that category, rather than the Social Service category, currently recommended by the SSAB at \$31,000. It is our contention that being a vendor better fits our agency, as described by interim city manager Stoddard: 'a vendor is an outside agency who provides governmental services that the City doesn't or can't directly provide.'

Because Van Go hires at risk teens 14-21 and provides employment to unemployable youth in our community, the City doesn't have to. These young people are individuals who would otherwise be the recipient of the City's scarce social services.

As the below websites indicate, nationwide, local governments are actively engaged in providing employment to high needs teens and young adults.

<http://www.usmayors.org/pressreleases/uploads/2013/0119-release-dollarwise.pdf>

<http://nextcity.org/daily/entry/workforce-development-programs-successful-future>

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/dol-hhs-joint-letter-on-summer-jobs-for-at-risk-youth>

<http://citiesunited.org/resources-for-cities/technical-assistance/what-cities-can-do/>

Thank you so much for your consideration!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynne Green", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Lynne Green,
Executive Director,
Van Go Inc.

