



City of Lawrence

The Flame | October 2022

"We Have
Tomorrow –
Bright Before
Us, Like A
Flame."

Langston Hughes

Introducing our Housing Initiatives Division

The City of Lawrence Housing Initiatives Division is a new team within the Planning & Development Services Department. Their work focuses on ending chronic homelessness, ensuring everyone has a safe and affordable home, and revitalizing neighborhoods for inclusive and equitable community development.

Ending Chronic Homelessness

Our work toward ending chronic homelessness is based on forming partnerships within our community. This includes residents, community leaders, human service providers and those with the lived experience of homelessness.

Collaborative work in this area allows our team to create and implement programs that best serve those experiencing homelessness. It also allows us to establish policy and services toward this initiative that ultimately serve our greater Lawrence community.

Team members in this effort include Jenn Wolsey, homeless programs coordinator; Cicely Thornton, homeless programs project specialist; and Mitch Young, homeless liaison.

Affordable housing

Our work in affordable housing focuses on increasing the amount of accessible and affordable housing in our community. This also relies on collaboration – like partnering with local affordable housing developers and providers – as well as advancing policy solutions, and engaging with the community on how best to address our housing crisis.

Lea Roselyn is our affordable housing administrator. In addition to the work mentioned above, she administers the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which supports local affordable housing programs and development, and serves as the staff liaison for the Affordable Housing Advisory Board.

Community development

The Housing Initiatives Division also works in the grant space for housing assistance and safe and equitable community development. Caitlyn Dolar is the housing initiatives project

specialist, and she administers grant and loan programs. Brad Karr is the community development analyst and provides technical assistance in the administration of the Community Development Block Grant and HOME investment partnerships program.

The final team member is Danelle Walters, housing initiatives manager, who oversees the team.

For more information on the Housing Initiatives Division, you can visit the City of Lawrence website: lawrenceks.org/pds/housing-initiatives.



Pictured (back row, left to right): Mitch Young, Jenn Wolsey, Lea Roselyn, Brad Karr
(front row, left to right): Danelle Walters, Cicely Thornton, Caitlyn Dolar

Get to know Lawrence–Douglas County Fire Medical Chief Rich Llewellyn

On August 15, Richard Llewellyn started his new role as the Chief of Lawrence–Douglas County Fire Medical (LDCFM). He comes to Lawrence from western Washington where he had served as the Assistant Chief of Administration for the Everett Fire Department since 2018.

The Chief oversees 156 LDCFM employees who work out of seven facilities. He answered a few of our questions to help the Lawrence community get to know him better.

Hometown: Naches, Washington

Places you have lived: Naches; Boulder, Montana; Pullman, Washington; Spokane Valley, Washington; Lake Stevens, Washington; and now Lawrence.

Family: My wife Holly and I keep busy with six dogs, and I have twin boys who are grown and live in British Columbia, Canada.

Education: Associate's Degree in Applied Science in Advanced Life Support from Spokane Community College; Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from Washington State University; Master of Education in Adult Education from Eastern Washington University; Master of Liberal Arts with a management emphasis from Harvard Extension School.

Favorite sports team(s): Boston Red Sox and Gonzaga University Basketball

The last book you read: Why We Sleep by Matthew Walker

The last thing you listened to: "Hornblower and the Atropos" on Audible (though I am enjoying the Metallica double shot that 98.9 The Rock plays at 5 p.m.)

The last thing you watched: The Old Man on Hulu

Favorite holiday: I've always enjoyed Christmas (my wife believes that the Christmas season starts November 1st and extends as far into the new year as she can push it...)

Favorite Lawrence restaurant: The Roost. I discovered it when I was in town for interviews, and it provided the added benefit of a nice early morning stroll along Massachusetts Street!

Favorite fall activity: I love exploring small town harvest festivals!

Bucket-list vacation: Walking the Portuguese route of the Camino de Santiago.

Favorite way to spend a day off: Either flyfishing in a mountain stream or exploring a new museum.



What you're most excited for as Chief of the Lawrence–Douglas County Fire Medical Department: I'm excited to be joining LDCFM at a time when both the pace of change in the fire service is accelerating and community expectations are shifting. It provides an opportunity to explore new ways of meeting our community's needs while still maintaining the high level of service that we're known for.

Lawrence Transit goes Fare Free in 2023

While many goods and services are experiencing rising costs, one thing in Lawrence is going to cost much less next year — bus fare! Lawrence Transit will initiate a pilot program to go fare free for all services in 2023, including fixed route, T Lift, Night Line, and planned Sunday microtransit.

"Fare free transit has been a community-driven desire for several years, and the time is right to give it a try," said Adam Weigel, Transit & Parking Manager.

The Fare Free Pilot Program is expected to positively impact several areas of the City's Strategic Plan and streamline transit operations.

There are numerous benefits to Lawrence Transit riders from going fare free, and it will have a greater impact on people in our community who have less income. To advance community goals around

equity, eliminating bus fare can make a tangible difference for many riders.

Eliminating bus fares also injects money back into the local economy as riders can instead invest fare dollars into their family, homes, food, retail and more.

Lawrence Transit ridership has not fully recovered from pandemic impacts, and it is a hope that the fare free pilot can help increase the amount of riders. Fare free programs in other communities have resulted in ridership increases of 20% to 60%.

Passengers with existing bus passes should plan to use their fare by December 31, 2022.

The 2023 Fare Free Pilot Program is financially supported by increased federal transit funding. The program will be re-evaluated in Fall 2023 to determine the feasibility of extending the pilot.

Help with the Land Development Code!

The Land Development Code is a framework for our community that determines the kind of building that can be done and where. It guides everything from allowed land uses, building density, setbacks, street widths, parking requirements and more.

Now is your opportunity to join in the update process. Visit our website, lawrenceks.org/ldc, to participate in one of our ongoing surveys.

The website also has more background on the project itself, including what is happening now and what is up next.



o u r m i s s i o n :

Insert: #340

We create a community where all enjoy life and feel at home.