

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



Introducing the Collaborative Solutions Podcast, hosted by James Chiselom, executive director of Lawrence Community Shelter; Barry Feaker, consultant and CEO of Compassion Strategies Inc; Misty Bosch-Hastings, director of the homeless solutions division at City of Lawrence; and Brett Hartford, executive director of Homeless Resource Center. The podcast provides listeners with valuable insights, real-life stories, and practical solutions for tackling homelessness.

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Parking Amnesty Program launches in September

The Parking Amnesty Program allows those with parking violations the chance to pay their outstanding fine(s) at a 50% discount. Half of all funds collected from the program will be donated to local nonprofits that manage food pantries.

This September, save 50% on your unpaid parking tickets by participating in the Parking Amnesty Program! The program helps residents and visitors lessen the burden of their outstanding citations while also assisting the work of our local nonprofits.

Most people with outstanding citations will be able to participate in the amnesty program, though there are exceptions. If you have questions or would like to further confirm your eligibility, please call Municipal Court at (785) 832-7590.

Municipal Court will be handling all transactions related to the Parking Amnesty Program. Municipal Court is open for parking amnesty program payments every weekday in September (except Labor Day) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

How to Participate:

1. Confirm your eligibility and check your current citation balance by calling Municipal Court at (785) 832-6190 or emailing at courtinfo@lawrenceks.org.

2. Bring payment (cash, check, or card) to the Municipal Court window at 1 Riverfront Plaza, Suite 310, during the amnesty period. Payments must be made in person at Municipal Court.
3. Pay the total outstanding balance after the 50% reduction. You will receive a receipt and a detailed breakdown of the total citations paid and the amount that will be donated.

Collected fines will be equally distributed between the Parking department (50%) and the Douglas County Community Foundation (50%).

All donated funds will be dispersed into a special grant program managed by DCCF. Any nonprofit in Douglas County that offers a food pantry component will be eligible for grants from the foundation. The City is proud to assist the DCCF and its partnered nonprofits in their fight against food insecurity.

More information on the program is online at lawrenceks.org/parking/amnesty.

OUR MISSION

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

City information is available at lawrenceks.org and on cable Channel 25.

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Planning for a Downtown Transit Station

The City of Lawrence is working with the community to determine the best site for a Downtown Station for Lawrence Transit. Even with the recent opening of Central Station at Bob Billings Parkway & Crestline Dr., there are five bus routes that will continue to serve Downtown Lawrence, which makes a transit hub in this area vitally important.

The goal of a new Downtown Station is to improve comfort and convenience for bus riders, in order to encourage more transit ridership today and in the future. The main elements that have been identified to include in the site design for Downtown Station are:

- Driver restrooms
- Individual bus bays
- Seating and wind protection
- Next departure signs
- Weather protection canopies

Step 1 in the three-part process has been completed – a boundary of downtown has been agreed upon by the steering committee and approved by the City Commission.

Step 2 involves developing criteria to evaluate potential sites. Only sites within the selected Downtown Station boundary will be considered. Site selection criteria include walkability from the location, parking spaces gained or lost, impact to city parks, and more.

Step 3 includes soliciting site ideas, then evaluating them against the criteria and choosing a final site for design and construction.

The steering committee will be scoring and ranking site ideas in August and September to present recommendations to the Lawrence City Commission. The City Commission may be ready to vote on three to five sites for concept design in October.

For more information, please visit the Downtown Station Project Page: lawrencetransit.org/projects/downtown-station.

INTRODUCING NEW CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Apply for a spot today!

The City of Lawrence is announcing a new structure for City boards and commissions to better align their work with the City's strategic plan. The terms for current board and commission members will be expiring on August 31, 2024, to allow for new appointments coinciding with the restructure.

Starting September 1, 2024, the City will be operating the following boards and commissions in alignment with our Strategic Plan outcomes and commitments:

- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission
- Historic Resources Commission
- Affordable Housing Advisory Board
- Community Police Review Board
- Human Relations Commission
- Aviation Advisory Board
- Connected City Advisory Board (a new board)
- Environmental Sustainability Advisory Board

Applications to join our boards and commissions are open now! The City is encouraging anyone who is eligible to apply – including current board/commission members and people who have never served before. There are many opportunities to serve your community!

Appointments will be made through the end of August, based on applications

received. More information and a link to the general board application is on our City's iCompass website: <https://lawrenceks.civicweb.net/Portal/BoardApplication>.

The first meetings for all boards will begin in September 2024, with an exact schedule to be announced.

As part of the board and commission alignment, the following boards will no longer operate after August 31, 2024. The work of these boards will be absorbed into new boards or by City staff:

- Transient Guest Tax Grant Program Advisory Board
- Public Incentives Review Committee
- Sales Tax Audit Committee
- Special Alcohol Fund Advisory Board
- Bodywork Advisory Board
- Multi-modal Transportation Commission
- Public Transit Advisory Committee

The restructure of City boards and commissions does not affect or change our technical appeals boards, steering committees or task forces, component unit governing boards, joint city/county boards, or boards with City appointees.

The City of Lawrence supports our unmistakably vibrant community with innovative, equitable, transparent and responsible local government. We anticipate these changes to our board and commission structures will be a positive force in achieving this vision.

Check it out! Our solid waste team is rolling out new stickers to help you place your carts correctly! These arrows show you the right way to face your carts on the street. Remember, handles should face back towards your home and all carts need to be at least three feet away from other objects like cars and mailboxes.

Our trucks use ASL (Automated Side-loaders) to keep our operators safe and speed up the collection process. When carts are placed correctly, it helps us keep everything running smoothly and on time. Incorrectly placed carts mean our operators have to hop out and adjust them, slowing down our routes and causing delays.

Let's work together to keep our city clean!

