

Memorandum

City of Lawrence/Douglas County

Planning & Development Services

TO: Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Commission

FROM: Jeff Crick, AICP, Planner II

Date: For August 24th, 2015 Planning Commission Meeting: Misc. No. 1

RE: Text Amendment Initiation to City Land Development Code to create "Event Center" Use

Staff has identified an absence in the present [Land Development Code](#) that would provide a clearly labeled and accounted for use of an event center. It is envisioned that an "Event Center" would be a facility, including the structures and/or grounds, that hosts events such as, but not limited to, weddings, receptions, parties, corporate events, conferences, meetings, or any other gathering (formal or informal) that is temporary in nature. These locations would include establishments that hold intermittent events throughout the year or on an infrequent basis, such as a banquet space, conference/convention centers, reception halls, exhibition spaces, and other similar gathering locations that are not currently included within Article 4 of the Land Development Code.

The purpose of the proposed text amendment would be to clearly define space requirements, uses, and to designate the zoning districts that would be appropriate for this particular use, with or without additional design standards. The text amendment could be constructed to make "Event Center" a permitted use in appropriate zoning district(s), and/or also require the use to be approved via a Special Use Permit in other districts.

Specific sections of the Land Development Code anticipated to be modified through this text amendment include:

- Article 4: Use Tables
- Article 5: Use Regulations
- Article 9: Parking, Loading and Access
- Article 17: Terminology

Action Requested:

Initiate a text amendment to create "Event Center" use in the Land Development Code, Chapter 20 of the Code of The City of Lawrence, Kansas, providing a clearly defined use for private facilities, including the structures and/or grounds, used for hosting intermittent events.