



League of Women Voters Lawrence-Douglas County

P.O. Box 1072 • Lawrence, Kansas 66044-1072

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MAY 21 2012

City County Planning Office  
Lawrence, Kansas

May 20, 2012

2012-2013  
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Mr. Richard Hird, Chairman  
Members  
Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Commission  
City Hall  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

RE: Item No. 5: Comprehensive Plan Amendment to H2020 – Chp. 6 And Chp. 14; CC600  
Item No. 6: Text Amendment to City Of Lawrence Development Code; Amending Various  
Sections to Add A CC600 District  
Item No. 7: A & B1 To Cc600; 146 Acres; W 6th St & K-10

Dear Chairman Hird and Planning Commissioners:

We urge you to deny all of Items No. 5, 6, and 7.

We are asking this for the following reasons:

1. There are some serious procedural problems occurring here. First, the comprehensive plan (Item 5) needs to be officially amended and approved, not only by the Planning Commission but also by both the City and County Commissions. Only then should zoning text amendments be adopted that are dependent on the comprehensive plan, as is Item No. 6, the new CC600 District. Following the adoption and official incorporation of the new CC600 District into the City Code, only then should the process for a public hearing to amend the zoning district properly proceed (Item No. 7).

2. A major consideration that is driving all of these deliberations is whether the city should actually approve the location for and participate in building a recreational facility of the proposed intensity in the suggested location. *The issue is not whether the facility is needed or appropriate, but whether that particular location for that facility is appropriate.*

Furthermore, it would be surrounded by 100 or more acres of unplanned commercial land. If the proposed development were to occur in that location the traffic impact on 6<sup>th</sup> Street, and the potential effect of shifting the “center of activity” from the Downtown to that location, could have a very negative impact on the city as a whole.

3. Horizon 2020 should be followed, and the city should consider hiring a consultant to do an independent market analysis of the impact that this use in this location would have on the city as a whole, especially the Downtown. (Horizon 2020, Chapter 6, **policy 3.13**)

- a. City staff analysis is not a proper substitution for an “independent market analysis. [...performed by an] **independent consultant** chosen by the city...” The analysis is **supposed to be** unbiased and done by qualified professional consultants. The planning staff has seemingly justified the additional commercial land that would be added to the currently overstocked inventory of available commercial area and vacant buildings.

The thought seems to be, *don't worry, no one will use the land unless there is a demand (which admittedly doesn't exist).* **Wouldn't it be better to preserve the land for an employment-related and manufacturing use that the studies up to now have proposed for the area?**



4. We request that an independent traffic analysis also be undertaken:

a. The Staff Report (Item No. 5) states that "Commercial uses are generally viewed by the Development Code as equal to or lesser uses compared to industrial uses and so the project can feasibly be viewed as compatible with the comprehensive plan designation." The traffic impact analysis that the staff report mentioned indicating that industrial and commercial traffic impacts are interchangeable, or commercial uses are lesser in intensity than industrial uses, may have come from the Lesser Change Table. In this table the three categories of Residential, Commercial and Industrial cannot be compared with each other in intensity. Only within each category is this comparison intended. (20-1301(k)). Therefore, based on the source in the Staff Report, it is not a valid comparison to say that the traffic intensity of commercial land use and industrial land use are the same

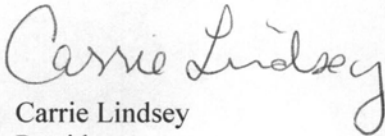
b. According to a study that was made in 2006 by the consultants, TischlerBise, hired by the City for their study, "The Cost of Land Uses and Fiscal Impact Analysis," the uses of manufacturing and commercial retail are **quite different in their impact** on traffic intensity. The vehicle trip rates per 1000 square feet **are much higher with commercial land use than with industrial land use** (page 11, Figure 4, TischlerBise).

c. Consider that the Transportation Plan for that node, which was recently presented to you by the MPO (Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization), must be studied by them before any changes to it are considered. Also, all of the other considerations that need to be made regarding the improvements to that intersection, to 6<sup>th</sup> Street, and to Highway 40 extended, must take into consideration the increased traffic intensity that will occur with the change in use from manufacturing to recreation and commercial uses.

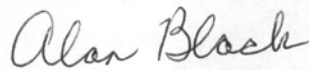
5. Once the CC600 District is actually incorporated into the zoning text (assuming that it is), it should have some method to actually control the maximum size and use of retail buildings. We suggest that any retail establishment that meets the requirement for a CC600 should also require a Special Use Permit or a Planned Development Overlay District.

Thank you for your patience in reading this material. We hope that you will carefully consider these points.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carrie Lindsey".

Carrie Lindsey  
President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Black".

Alan Black, Chairman  
Land Use Committee

**RONALD SCHNEIDER  
ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.A.**

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RONALD SCHNEIDER

OF COUNSEL:  
CURTIS BARNHILL  
MARGARET FARLEY

May 18, 2012

Richard Hird  
Chairman of Lawrence-  
Douglas County Metropolitan  
Planning Commission  
FAX: 832-3160

RE: CPA -4-2-12  
TA -4-3-12  
Z-4-5-12

Dear Mr. Rick:

I represent a number of landowners who live near or adjacent to the 146 acres associated with Z-4-5-12, change of zone request.

As you know, the City Commissioners recently voted to annex this property. During the annexation hearing, all City Commissioners expressed their intentions to devote extra-ordinary time and consideration to the zoning issues and contemplated land of the entire project and development due the importance and scope of this proposed project. The City Commissioners confirmed that this project requires time and thoughtful consideration. The Commission expressed its desire **NOT** to rush the zoning and land use components of this project.

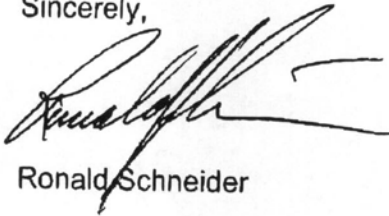
It is my opinion that the proposed public hearing on this rezoning and related planning matters is premature. Public opinion will be greatly affected by the information and dialogue at the public forum in June scheduled by the City. The proposed rezoning, changes to the code, and revision to the Nodal Plan should be considered only after this forum and additional information and reliable plans are available to the public.

On behalf of my clients, I respectfully request that the Planning Commission continue the hearing on these matters to enable the City to provide answers to the many unanswered questions on this immense and important project. I am confident that this request is consistent with the consensus and statements made by the Mayor and other Commissioners at their hearing on May 21, 2012.

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I await your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Schneider", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ronald Schneider

RS:cw

cc: Scott McCullough, VIA FAX  
Mayor Robert Schumm, VIA FAX  
City Commissioners, VIA FAX

May 20, 2012

Scott and Jodi Bouyack  
887 N. 1663 Road  
Lawrence, KS 66049

Lawrence City Hall  
City Planning Office  
Attn: Mary Miller  
6 East Sixth Street  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Ms. Miller,

As a resident and landowner in Northwood Estates with property bordering on the north end of the 146 acre tract of land that is being considered for CC600 zoning, I write today to make a few comments which I hope the Planning Commission will consider as it determines its recommendation on this issue during the May 21, 2012 meeting.

My wife and I purchased our home in early 2010. Prior to making a decision to purchase our home, I conducted a fair amount of research with regard to future development plans in the vicinity of Northwood Estates. Of particular interest to me was the future plans for the acreage now referred to as the Northwest Quadrant of the intersection of W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street/Highway 40 and Kansas Highway 10 (K-10). My research indicated to me that we should expect that at some point the Northwest Quadrant would become developed. Thus, it has always been my expectation that as much as we enjoy having vacant fields and cows behind us, that at some point that would become developed territory.

Although I could have no way of definitively knowing in 2010 what sort of development might be built behind our house, there were two expectations my research uncovered that I felt I could count on relative to any future development, and thus provided me the assurance I was looking for to proceed with the purchase of our home. The first expectation was that the City of Lawrence desired for the future development of the W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street/Highway 40 and K-10 intersection to become an attractive "gateway" entrance for the city. This expectation provided me the assurance that whatever development would eventually be built behind our house would be done so in an attractive, well-planned, well-maintained manner, and would most likely not include unattractive business uses that the city would not be proud to display at such a prominent gateway.

The second expectation my research uncovered that gave me comfort was the designation in the Nodal Plan of a green space buffer along the northern edge of the Northwest Quadrant to help preserve the Baldwin Creek drainage basin and to "act as a transitional buffer for the lower-density residential development and agricultural activities for unincorporated Douglas County adjacent to this corner."

As of today, I am reasonably confident that the first expectation above will be adhered to in this future development. It seems clear that the City Commissioners, City Staff, City Planners, and Developers all still strongly desire for the development on this Northwest Quadrant to maintain the attractive characteristics of a prominent city gateway as described in the Nodal Plan and other planning documents. Further to that point, I can envision that the proposed development of a regional recreation center on this property could result in a more desirable development than many alternatives. For example, the fact that the Planning Staff, in its recommendation to the Planning Commission, has restricted several uses from the proposed CC600 zone because such uses would not enhance the site as a regional recreation facility is a positive benefit for adjoining neighbors, as it helps to assure us that we will not have business such as big box retail, vehicle sales, mini-warehouses and several other uses that would be considered undesirable to the neighborhood.

However, at this point in the process, I am not certain that the second expectation, the green space buffer, will be adequately met. Although city officials have stated on several occasions that they recognize the need for such a buffer, and further recognize that the Nodal Plan calls for such a green space buffer, the specifics of such a buffer are lacking. To that point, the City has recently provided an initial rendering of the site plan for the recreation center, and the lack of any green space buffer is highly conspicuous by its absence. In fact, I cannot even consider such a rendering to be a viable first draft, as it does not include this very important component, and look forward to the City and Developers providing a true, viable first draft in the very near future.

Considering the above, I would like to make one simple request of the Planning Commission as it considers its recommendation relative to this zoning question. My request is that should the Planning Commission go forward in recommending this property in question be zoned to CC600, that it do so with the condition that a green space buffer, one which reflects the spirit of such an element as described in the Nodal Plan, be required to be part of the future development.

Once again, we appreciate the City's willingness to engage us in this process and listen to our concerns. I will be attending the meeting on May 21, and any such subsequent relevant meetings, and look forward to being a part of the process. If at any time you would like to talk to me directly, I can be reached via phone at (678) 778-0797 or email at [scott.bouyack@gmail.com](mailto:scott.bouyack@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Scott Bouyack

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City County Planning Office  
Lawrence, Kansas

May 21, 2012

City of Lawrence  
Attn: Mary Miller - City Planning Office  
6 East Sixth Street  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Ms. Miller:

As residents of the Estates of Northwood, we are writing to formally express our concerns regarding the proposed development of the land located at 6<sup>th</sup> street and E. 900 road.

Following the recent City Council meeting, we were provided a concept plan for the proposed development. This proposal raised significant red flags for residents of our neighborhood.

First, the concept plan does not honor the green space originally outlined in the nodal plan. Placing the recreation center, stadium and parking lots directly adjacent to our property provides no buffer between our backyards and the development. The resident of our neighborhood purchased land and built homes based on an understanding of green space outlined in the City's nodal plan.

Second, the concept plan does not appear to preserve the natural drainage system provided by the Baldwin Creek drainage basin. While the city may plan to remove this naturally occurring pathway, several of the properties on the south side of our neighborhood have this creek continuing through their property. This could result in significant drainage issues in the future. Additionally, other properties on the south side currently have flooding concerns during heavy rains and this development could further exacerbate this issue.

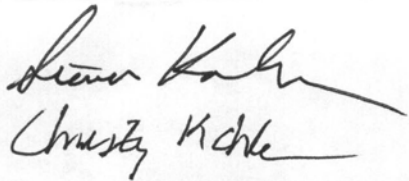
Third, the concept plan does not appear to have addressed the traffic issue through our neighborhood sufficiently. Requiring our neighbors to proceed through the new development to reach our homes is not a satisfactory solution. Given times of heavy activity in the area, this could place us in the middle of significant event traffic. As discussed at the meeting held at the Indoor Aquatic Center in April, we would prefer to have access to our neighborhood to the west of the development with proper signage to discourage non-residents from entering N. 1663 Road. This could be accomplished by alternating the dead end on N. 1663 from the west end to the east end.

Finally, without the proper market studies to understand the needs of the community, it is premature to determine the appropriate zoning for this area.

The City has a unique opportunity for this development. Unlike most instances, there is sufficient space to plan the site in a way that can truly accommodate the needs of the city and the surrounding community. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to create a "gateway" for our city in a manner that is acceptable to all parties involved.

Thank you in advance for considering our concerns. We look forward to continued dialogue as the process progresses.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is for Steven Kahle, and the second is for Christy Kahle. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steven & Christy Kahle  
875 N. 1663 Road



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MAY 21 2012

City County Planning Office  
Lawrence, Kansas

Kenneth and Anna Oliver  
873 N. 1663 RD  
Lawrence, KS 66049

785-550-7746

May 21, 2012

Mary Miller  
City/County Planner  
Lawrence City Hall  
6 East 6th St  
Lawrence, KS 66049

Dear Ms. Miller,

Please include this letter regarding the rezoning of the NW corner of K-10/US-40 in the packet to be presented during your May 21 Planning Commission meeting. We will not be able to attend the meeting because of our work schedules, but would appreciate your taking our concerns into consideration.

We appreciate your notifying us of the completed staff report and at first blush, we are generally in agreement with the conditional zoning restrictions you are recommending. We also want to thank you for your time and effort in restricting uses that would not be complimentary to the proposed recreation center and that would be detrimental to our neighborhood.

We are however, frustrated that a new zone designation (CC600) is being proposed for the first time and recommended for this property with conditions, while the City does not know the size, scope and cost of their portion of the project and no sight plans have been submitted. There are many unanswered questions as to whether the rezoning and proposed development complies with the Nodal and Horizon 2020 plans. We received the staff report for the CC600 rezoning on Thursday the 17th, tried to research the hundreds of pages of reports and plans, formulate and draft comments to be delivered prior to 10:00am the following Monday morning. That's hardly enough time for the residents of our neighborhood to cipher through all the information and provide meaningful input, which is what the Mayor, City Commissioners, Planning Commission and City Manager have requested. We are not grasping for stalling tactics, as we firmly believe this project could be very good for the community. We are however very concerned that this project has not been given due diligence and many requirements for development are being overlooked. For example, considering the proposed uses, has the necessary traffic and marketing studies been completed, and has the Nodal and other planning documents been updated?

Along with our neighbors, we purchased our property and built our home after reviewing the Nodal Plan and learning the property in question was planned for low-density industrial/warehouse/office uses with a large green zone buffer between our homes and future development. After seeing examples around town of similar buildings, we found them acceptable, purchased our property and built our homes. Now the uses being proposed would have significantly more traffic, noise and light pollution. For this reason, as the project moves forward we are strongly encouraging the city to exceed the standards for mitigating the negative effects to surrounding neighborhoods per the following plan excerpt:

20-1101

**PROTECTION STANDARDS FOR RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS**

*(a) Design and Operational Compatibility Standards—Discretionary*

*Approvals*

*As a condition of approval of any Special Use Permit, Map Amendment, site plan or other discretionary approval of any multi-Family use or nonresidential use located within 500 feet of any less intensive residential district, the City Commission, Planning Director, Planning Commission or other review body may impose conditions that exceed the minimum requirements of this Chapter and that, in the opinion of the review body, are necessary to reduce or minimize any potentially adverse impacts on residential property, including, but not necessarily limited to, the following:*

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City Council Planning Office  
Lawrence, Kansas

- (1) location on a site of activities that generate potential adverse impacts on adjacent uses, such as noises and glare;
  - (2) placement and buffering of trash receptacles;
  - (3) location of loading and delivery areas;
  - (4) lighting location, intensity, and hours of illumination;
  - (5) placement and illumination of outdoor vending machines, telephones, and similar outdoor services and activities;
  - (6) additional Landscaping and buffering;
  - (7) Height restrictions to preserve light and privacy and views of significant features as viewed from public property and rights-of-way;
  - (8) preservation of natural lighting and solar Access;
  - (9) ventilation and control of odors and fumes; and
  - (10) paving or other surface treatment for dust control.
- (b) Height Limit on Projects Adjoining Certain Residential Zoning Districts  
See Section 20-701(g) for Height limits in the PD district.

Consideration needs to be given to the neighbors for the significant negative effects of the rezoning and subsequent development in the form of a green space buffer, additional large caliper trees, directional and timed exterior lighting, and a large berm. An acceptable berm would be similar to the one immediately behind the Walmart on 6th Street. However, because of the direction and location of the proposed street into the recreation center, stadiums and the proximity to our homes, an even taller berm would be necessary.

There is a significant grade from our property line up to US-40. Because the proposed stadium would be situated on the hill, we think an in-ground stadium would be beneficial for several reasons. An in-ground stadium would reduce the height of the structure and make it more visually appealing. The noise and light pollution would be contained significantly and the dirt removed for the stadium could be used for a berm to further reduce those negative effects. It is also my understanding that track and field events need to be sheltered from excessive wind for the competitor's results to be recognized as records. An in-ground stadium would go a long way in making it an elite track and field venue.

Our other concerns have not changed since our last correspondence as we are anxious to maintain the dead end access to N.1663 RD. The concept plan that was recently released proposed a convoluted route to our neighborhood. We would rather have a dead end entrance on the west side of 1663 RD to US 40 in lieu of the entrance shown on the concept drawing. In addition, we are very concerned that the manipulation of the Baldwin Drainage basin would potentially flood our property during seasonal heavy rains.

Thank you again for taking our concerns into consideration. We know a lot of questions will come to light when sight plans are eventually submitted, and we are hopeful that this will be a great development for our community, but the City needs to take a step back and complete the processes that are in place to ensure all involved (The City, Taxpayers, Developers, and Neighbors) are on the same page and protected before moving forward. The public forum on June 6th is a great start, and we are hopeful that more information will flow between the city and the public at that time.

Sincerely,



Kenneth and Anna Oliver