



DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Douglas County Courthouse
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April 16, 2014

Dear City Commissioners:

Douglas County is in the process of constructing a new Public Works Facility within the city limits on East 25th Street. Our new facility will consolidate at this location both our administrative and engineering staff, who are currently located south of the Douglas County Courthouse on Massachusetts Street, and our Operations staff, who are currently located on East 23rd Street.

During the site plan and site development process, we have worked closely with the Utilities Department and the Fire Department to comply with city code and provide a water system that works best for the City of Lawrence and serves the needs of Douglas County Public Works. We will be constructing, at our cost, 1546 linear feet of 8" water main which will eliminate two existing dead end 8" water mains and will loop the existing waterline system which currently serves the Lawrence Homeless Shelter. Douglas County is providing a new water main and water service configuration that complies with all domestic water and fire flow requirements and improves the city's existing water system in this area.

Ordinance No. 6791, adopted on July 2, 1996, establishes the requirement of system development charges for certain connections to the water and wastewater utility. The ordinance states that certain portions of the capital improvement program are necessitated by increased demands placed on the water and wastewater utility by the growth of the community, and that an appropriate nexus exists between a connection to the City water and wastewater utility and the requirement for the payment of system development charges.

Douglas County has been informed that our system development charge for the water meters needed to serve the Douglas County Public Works Facility will be \$264,520. This new facility replaces two existing locations in the City of Lawrence where Douglas County staff currently work. This new facility does not provide any services that we are not currently performing at these two existing locations. No increase in water use is anticipated at the new facility. Therefore, no increased demand is being placed on the city water and wastewater utility.

Article 19-906(B) of the city code states "The City Commission may exempt a specific certain service connection or service connections from the requirement of system development charges, provided that the City Commission finds that such exemption serves the public interest pursuant to an adopted policy concerning exemptions." We have searched for this policy and have not been able to find the "adopted policy concerning exemptions".

Douglas County respectfully requests that the City Commission exempt the service connections for the new Douglas County Public Works Facility from the requirement of system development charges because there is no increased demand on the water and wastewater utility due to the construction of this facility, and such exemption serves the public interest. Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Thellman
Commission Chair

Jim Flory
Member

Mike Gaughan
Member