

**From:** Amy Albright [mailto:XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX] **On Behalf Of** Amy Albright  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2008 10:07 AM  
**To:** David L. Corliss  
**Cc:** Mike Dever; mike amyx; Sue Hack; Boog Highberger  
**Subject:** city snack bars

Dear Mr. Corliss,

I noticed the recent city commission agenda item renewing the contract with the snack bar caterers and thought now would be a good time to comment on what I think are some important improvements that are needed. Each spring my daughters and I look forward to another glorious season of pool side fun in the sun (truth be told, the count down begins on our big calendar with Xs beginning September 2nd). Our experience would be perfect except for one glaring annoyance the snack bar.

For some reason, year after year, otherwise normal human beings subject themselves to the inconceivable choices without considering there might be a better way. I've seen important Lawrence citizens eating unthinkable things as if even they don't know who's in charge, and must therefore submit to the menu provided without question. The healthiest thing offered are gigantic pretzels, and my kids have to knock boulder-sized rocks of salt coating off of these before they can eat them. They are served with a cup of "cheese." Innocent children are encouraged at an early age to purchase Airhead taffy in bulk, 5 for \$1.

I am sure there will be those who would say that kids don't eat healthy food, and the food service is merely catering to the desires of their clients, but I think that is ridiculous. For one thing, they have a captive audience, as proven by my purchases of nachos and bottled electric blue Gatorade over the years. There are so many healthy alternatives to the ones currently available alternatives that people don't even notice, like low-fat baked chips and hot dogs without nasty chemical additives and by products. We should be glamorizing these better choices with colorful signage, rather than the bad stuff that is currently splashed across windows.

Surely the city should take some responsibility in safeguarding some minimum level of quality when contracts are awarded for city snack bars. Schools are working to improve the quality of the foods they are offering children, and I think the City of Lawrence should follow suit. I am sure there are many people in our progressive city who would volunteer to make informed suggestions(nutritionally and profit-marginally!)on possible snack foods that should be added to the snack bar. I would even suggest a kid task force to offer input for next summer. I know of a number of kids who would be happy to participate.

At the very least, the restriction on bringing foods into the pool should be lifted so that people can load coolers with healthy foods for their kids to eat while they enjoy a day at the pool. My preference out of convenience would be for the snack bar to offer some better choices so that every kid, regardless of whether they have a parent with a cooler on deck, can have healthy options for snacking! I don't want to sound like a wet blanket I

love candy and chips as much as the next guy. I just think there should be better care taken in this kid-centered environment.

Sincerely,  
Amy Albright



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