

Memorandum

City of Lawrence

Planning and Development Services

TO: Community Commission on Homelessness

FROM: Margene K. Swarts, Assistant Director, Development Services

Date: October 13, 2009

RE: CCH Support for Lawrence Community Shelter Relocation

The Community Commission on Homelessness (CCH) is the advisory board to the City Commission on matters of homelessness.

The CCH recommended, and the City Commission adopted, a Housing Vision on June 26, 2007 that included a primary shelter for it's chronically homeless.

Beginning in June of 2009, the CCH worked to establish land use essential components that a shelter would be required to meet in order for an emergency shelter site to gain a support from the CCH. The criteria, as finalized and approved by the CCH on August 18, 2009, are as follows:

1. The CCH supports the intent of the latest text amendment as it includes appropriate tools to implement the direction of the Housing Vision and has, by design, established appropriate zoning districts and design standards in which to locate an emergency shelter.
2. To ensure success of a 24/7 emergency shelter, there should be a multi modal transportation route with an emphasis on public transportation, to provide access to needed services and community programs.
3. The shelter facility should have the capacity to house the community's estimated need for overnight shelter plus provide space for programming, administration, and storage.

The CCH feels that the proposed Emergency Shelter Facility site at 2176 East 23rd Street meets the criteria set forth by the Committee for the following reasons:

- The proposed shelter location and plans follow the outline of the first step of the Housing Vision in creating one community homeless shelter location and will have the capacity to house the community's estimated need for overnight shelter, plus provide space for programming administration, and storage.

- The Lawrence Community Shelter staff and Board of Directors will work with the City of Lawrence in relation to the text amendment to establish design standards and appropriate zoning districts for the new site and subsequent projects following the acquisition.
- The proposed shelter location is on a City transit bus route.
- The proposed shelter is within walking distance of SRS, DCCCA, and the current Health Care Access Clinic location (1920 Moodie Road). The City transit bus route will allow access to LMH, Bert Nash, and the new Health Care Access Clinic location (330 Maine), as well as many other social service agencies.
- The proposed location is within walking distance to Amarr Garage Door, which employs individuals who may be staying at the shelter.
- The proposed shelter will have the capacity to accommodate 125 individuals and family members.
- The proposed site will include space for sleeping of individuals and families, a space for the jobs program, a space for a feeding program, office spaces for case management, as well as storage. Office spaces will be utilized in part by Lawrence Community Shelter case managers as well as allowing for other community social service agencies to locate services onsite.
- The Lawrence Community Shelter has entered into an agreement with the Baker School of Nursing, bringing a new healthcare program and clinic setting to the Shelter, which will be accommodated by the office space.

The Community Commission on Homelessness (CCH) has reviewed the application for a Special Use Permit from Lawrence Community Shelter and is in support of the project.