

# Memorandum

## City of Lawrence

### Planning and Development Services

**TO: Community Commission on Homelessness (CCH)**

**From: Margene K. Swarts, Assistant Director, Development Services**

**Date: February 9, 2010**

**RE: CCH Support for Lawrence Community Shelter Relocation**

In June of 2007 the CCH recommended a Housing Vision that included a primary emergency shelter for the chronically homeless. As you know, the City Commission adopted the Housing Vision 5-0 on June 26, 2007.

On January 20, 2010, a Special Use Application was submitted to the City of Lawrence on behalf of the Lawrence Community Shelter for a new emergency shelter to be located at 3701 Franklin Park Circle. The application includes a management plan and a floor plan for the proposed new shelter.

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 the recommendation and support of the CCH. The Emergency Shelter Facility Considerations, as finalized and approved by the CCH on August 18, 2009, established the following to be used for any application requesting a shelter:

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.

In staff's opinion, the proposed Special Use application for the Lawrence Community Shelter relocation contains elements that fall in line with the CCH Emergency Shelter Facility Considerations. They are as follows:

1. The request is represented to meet the latest text amendments and other Development Code standards without need for variance.
2. The proposed shelter location is not directly served by the City transit bus route. The bus route currently proceeds east on K-10 Highway to Noria Road, to the East Hills Business Park, and then back west on K-10 Highway. Discussions are underway regarding a possible route change that would serve this new LCS location as well as the Douglas County Jail. The bus route would then provide access for the shelter clients to SRS, DCCCA, and the new Health Care Access Clinic location. The City transit bus route will also allow access to LMH, Bert Nash, LDCHA, as well as many other social service agencies.
3. 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 is represented to have the capacity to house the community's estimated need for overnight shelter, plus provide space for programming administration, and storage.

The CCH should discuss these findings and may choose to forward a recommendation to the Planning Commission and City Commission regarding the LCS Special Use Permit application as it relates to the CCH's established land use essential components. If the CCH desires, staff will prepare and forward a memo that includes these findings.