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Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2009 10:41 AM
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Subject: Proposal for joint meetings with the Douglas County Commissions

Sandy, Donna, Jeff, and Dave:

With so many new elected officials, including a complete turnover on the County Commission, the Douglas County Commissioners have asked me to approach each of you about the possibility of scheduling joint meetings between the County Commission and each of your respective boards. My hope is that the meetings would accomplish two things:

First, to expose your governing board and the new County Commission to the policy issues that our boards will face together, and to provide some history for those issues. For example, in Baldwin City, Leocompton, and Eudora, topics might include a history of past projects to improve/maintain county roads through each community, past efforts to jointly develop industrial parks, and the possibility of extra-territorial planning and zoning for each city. For the City of Lawrence, topics might include the history of our current interlocal agreements and current issues involved in administering those joint operations, and the possibility of joint funding for a sustainability position.

The second purpose of the meeting would be to give our governing board members an opportunity to get acquainted on an individual basis. It is likely, if not inevitable, that controversies will occur between our respective bodies sometime over the next few years. If we can encourage our respective council members to get to know each other before those controversies occur, it should make the resolution of those controversies much easier. I therefore suggest that we schedule some informal time after each joint meeting just for conversation and light refreshments.

On behalf of the Douglas County Commission, I request that you pass this suggestion on to your governing bodies. If they are receptive, I intend to work with each of you to set dates for each meeting and to set an agenda. We would be willing to hold the meetings at the Douglas County Courthouse or at your respective City Halls, whichever you would prefer.

Call me if you want to discuss.

Craig

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