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City County Planning Office  
Lawrence, Kansas

October 20, 2013

To Mr. Bryan Culver, Chairman, and Planning Commissioners  
Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Commission

RE: ITEM NO. 4: TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; BAR OR  
LOUNGE AS PERMITTED USE IN CN2

Dear Chairman Culver and Planning Commissioners:

Based on our local League position of encouraging good neighborhood planning and supporting accountability in government, we have an urgent request regarding this text amendment.

Acknowledging that the CN2 District was adopted as a neighborhood-compatible commercial district to provide convenience and service to residential areas, we suggest that it needs to be treated differently from commercial areas in our previous code. We count a total of at least 16 CN2 Districts now existing. There are only four non-conforming bars or lounges, according to the Staff Report. **Each neighborhood and residential area is different.** Therefore, a change to the commercial code to include the uses of "bar or lounge" in all CN2 Districts, as this Text Amendment would do, we believe would create "unnecessary hardships" for the residents of neighborhoods or residential areas that would consider this use harmful to their area. Without distinction and choice, the Text Amendment would become automatic and would affect all areas of the City alike.

Therefore, we ask that the Planning Commission add the requirement that this Text Amendment allow this use only with a Special Use Permit (SUP) in those existing CN2 Districts where this use would be an addition, as well as in all new CN2 Districts. In those districts where these uses already exist but are non-conforming, the SUP would automatically apply, rendering them conforming. This is outlined as "Option 3" in the current Staff Report for this Agenda Item.

We sincerely hope that you will adopt the staff choice that requires a SUP for the use of "bar or lounge" in all CN2 Districts—Option 3 of the Staff Report—and not to add the use as one that is automatically permitted "by right."

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Cille King  
Co-President

Alan Black, Chairman  
Land Use Committee

Co-President  
David Burress

Co-President  
Cille King

President-Elect  
Cille King

Vice President  
marci francisco

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