



Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods

Neighborhoods working together!

The Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods has been represented on and has followed the Land Development Code re-write process from its inception through to its recent adoption last year. We note that the plan adopted then, was to be cleaned up by correcting typos and clarifying true intent in a number of places. We believe it was also left open to reflect last minute changes. We would like to provide input on some of those changes.

While we do support increased density in all of the neighborhoods we also see negative impacts to our existing neighborhoods. This new code will not impact all neighborhoods equally. We see that impacted neighborhoods will lose cultural capital that has been built up through the years. The two biggest impacts of this new LDC will be the increase to 5 non-related persons in the new occupancy standards and the relaxing of parking standards to only one parking place per new development. This will result in an additional loss of parking in areas where parking can already be tight. Reducing the occupancy standard to 4 non-related and the addition of one more space could go a long way towards reducing the parking gridlock that neighbors will be facing. Please consider adjustments in these 2 areas.

We would like to see these additional items put into play:

- Add a maximum lot size of 7,000 square feet to the R1 District. This would help reduce sprawl.
- Add scale appropriate commercial uses in all residential zones to create more walkable destinations.
- Consolidate all appeal processes into a section that is more user-friendly for citizens.
- Place a moratorium on all demolitions east of Iowa Street or some other delineator to allow for the discovery of historic resources in homes that are vulnerable to demolition.
- Establish more robust annexation policies that include true costs of supplying services supporting those areas. Increase fees appropriately to cover the City's expenses.

- Prepare for an increased need for inspections of the new construction and rehabilitation projects. Increase fees appropriately.
- Provide routine metrics showing data surrounding inspections, fee collections and complaint resolutions.
- Require solar electric systems and other renewable energy systems in new construction.
- Clarify parking standards in Commercial developments next to and within residential neighborhoods.
- Enact a Parking Permit system with input from stakeholders.

The changes that are coming put the current neighborhood's status quo of predictability on high alert. These changes will drastically change the look and feel of existing neighborhoods for decades to come. Not all of these changes will have a positive outlook economically on existing homeowners. It will transfer more equity to rental properties and put traditional homeowners into competition with investors. Investors are the likely winners.

We encourage you to consider our suggestions for this new land development code. Once unleashed it will have a significant impact on the flavor of our Strong Welcoming Neighborhoods that have helped make our City a desirable place to live. Please reduce these negative impacts to our current vitality.

Thank you for your consideration,
The Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods