

East Lawrence Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 442393
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To: National Arbor Day Foundation Committee

From: East Lawrence Neighborhood Association

Re: National Arbor Day Foundation & Bank of America Resiliency Grant

Date: February 25, 2021

I am writing on behalf of the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association (ELNA) to support the City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation department's application to the National Arbor Day Foundation, Bank of America Resiliency Grant.

East Lawrence is a low and middle income historic neighborhood containing some of the City's oldest original buildings. Street trees are a significant element of the neighborhood's historic streetscape. ELNA has a 40+ year history of partnering with the City of Lawrence to identify locations where street trees were needed, and at various times, ELNA volunteers made sure that the trees were watered. Over time, trees have been lost to disease and weather events, and are in need of replacement.

This project would restore our tree canopy by planting trees for the betterment of our neighborhood and city. It would promote: environmental sustainability; efficient use and sustainable management of priority community resources such as green infrastructure, intentional and consistent delivery of city services through efficient and effective processes; and community engagement. The grant will help assure the City provides fair delivery of services to all citizens, including those living in low and middle income neighborhoods.

The tree planting, tree maintenance and tree education will support the wellbeing of all people in Lawrence and contribute to building strong, welcoming, and aesthetically unique neighborhoods. It will also contribute to well maintained, functional and efficient green infrastructure and urban forest.

ELNA appreciates the City of Lawrence Parks and Recreation's efforts to engage the public with its projects. We believe this grant support would promote that mission while supporting the city's initiative of tree planting, tree care, and sharing related knowledge. ELNA appreciates this grant opportunity to provide financial support for tree related endeavors for the betterment of Lawrence.

Thank you for your support of planting and maintaining our tree canopy to the betterment of air quality and other beneficial human factors related to a healthy urban forest in Lawrence.

Sincerely,

Barry M. Shalinsky
President, East Lawrence Neighborhood Association
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