

# East Lawrence Neighborhood Association

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July 12, 2022

RE: Work Session Item 1 Receive Budget

Dear Mayor Shipley and Commissioners,

The East Lawrence Neighborhood Association met this evening & voted to send you our concerns about 3 proposed budget cuts.

1. We urge you to keep the Prairie Park Nature Center open. The piles of letters you've received have clearly laid out the benefits the Center brings to our community-especially our kids.
2. The East Lawrence Rec Center no longer has a full time staff member in charge. The previous staff person has been promoted to the main office & the Center is now run by 3 part time people. They are doing their jobs, but are not as knowledgeable as a person who is there full time can be. The position needs to be filled by a full timer who is in charge, can answer questions about rules & procedures, stop bullying & be a consistent face the public can rely on. Surely, there is enough non-essential staffing at the Rock Chalk Center to come up with one FTE to properly staff the East Lawrence Rec Center.
3. Please do not slice the Humane Society's request. They offer professional care, great community outreach & shelter for animals who need homes. This is an organization providing an important & much needed service to our community.

Sadly, but not surprisingly, we note these 3 proposed budget cuts are all for important programs impacting most heavily on Lawrence's east-side neighborhoods.

Thank you for listening to our concerns and we appreciate your consideration.

Respectfully,

The East Lawrence Neighborhood Association Board of Directors