RESOLUTION NO. 8022

A RESOLUTION of the Governing Body of the City of Topeka, Kansas regarding programs and initiatives of the City of Topeka.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF TOPEKA that it met on Saturday, October 27, 2007, in open meeting, to discuss and address certain areas of community concern, the continuation and/or initiation of programs to address those concerns and how best to fund those programs.

The areas of concern discussed were:

1) Cleanliness of the city and the desire for it to be, at all times and in all areas of the city, well cared for;

2) To assure the safety of our citizens to the greatest extent possible;

3) To encourage business development and business expansion in the city;

4) Insure our parks, large and small, meet high standards of care;

5) Insure the Topeka City Zoo be operated and maintained at or above accreditation standards.

Programs and initiatives proposed by the Governing Body to address those goals are:

1) Cleanliness

   a. Continue to support the Project Takeover/Makeover neighborhood cleanup program;

   b. Continue to support, and expand if possible, the inmate work crew program;

   c. Continue to support the removal of unnecessary public signage as determined by the city Traffic Engineer;

   d. Support legislation to encourage landlords to comply with city property codes,
and seek ways to speed up the process of compliance;

e. Support, subject to availability of funds, the establishment of an Environmental Court that would promptly hear code violation appeals;

f. Amend code ordinances that would make grass growing over curbing into gutters a violation of the city code;

g. Examine the possibility of creating NIA benefit districts to allow neighborhoods to address problems within their boundaries, the funds collected to be matched by private or public entities; and

h. Consider the reimplementation of the empowerment program.

2) Safety

a. Continue to support vigorous anti-gang and anti-drug efforts;

b. Support cooperation between all law enforcement agencies, including the City of Topeka Police Department, the Shawnee County Sheriffs Department, USD 501 Security Department, Washburn University Security Department, the Capital Area Police, Stormont-Vail Security Department, KBI, FBI, & ATF officers in an effort to use all available resources together in a cooperative effort to reduce crime in our city; and

c. Continue support of the Citizens’ Patrol Coalition and Neighborhood Watch programs

3) Business Friendly

a. Seek to reduce developer fees;

b. Seek to reduce licensing fees;

c. Allow variances in distressed or blighted areas to encourage investment in
older areas of the city;

d. Support downtown revitalization and other areas throughout the city;

e. Continue to do business with local firms wherever possible;

f. Support combining the City and County Planning Commission;

g. Review down zoning of commercial properties; and

h. Continue to support Riverfront Development

4) Parks and Recreation

a. Continue to support inmate work crew programs, and expand when possible;

b. Study the benefits and negatives of privatization of the maintenance of

smaller parks;

c. Insure our parks, large and small, meet high standards of care;

d. Study installation of water sprays in smaller parks; and

e. Examine a cooperative effort with USD 501 and other entities to provide

after-school activities for students

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is requested by members of the Governing

Body of the city that timely reports be made to them by the City Manager as to progress in

achieving the goals and addressing the needs as described herein.

ADOPTED and APPROVED by the City Council December 4, 2007

CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

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William W. Bunten, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brenda Younger, City Clerk