TO: Kent City Council  
C/O Linda Copley, Clerk of Council

FROM: Chief James A. Peach

SUBJECT: Purchase of Necessary Equipment from a City Employee

DATE: August 23, 2010

This letter is intended to serve as public notice that the police department intends to purchase necessary equipment from a vendor who is also a 10 year employee of the Kent Police Department. Accompanying this letter is a letter from Sam Todd on this issue.

The police department has been purchasing necessary equipment and uniforms to support the Bike Patrol Program associated with the 2009 JAG Recovery Grant. A necessary part of the equipment for the six new officers being trained for the program is acquiring Wiley X protective eyewear. The cost quote from a Wiley X distributor in Stow is approximately $120.00 per eyewear.

Sgt Sam Todd of the Kent Police Department is the owner/operator of ST Customs, a vendor for law enforcement supplies and equipment. Sgt Todd advised that he would be able to obtain and provide the eyewear to the Kent Police Department for his wholesale cost of $85.00 per pair. The total cost for the eyewear and the shipping & handling would be $404.95. A purchase order has been made for that amount. The sale has been on hold until you (City Council) have been notified of the transaction to avoid any concerns of a conflict of interest issue between the police department and a city employee.

The purchase of the eyewear is required to be done at "Arms Length". There have been no concessions, privileges, special renumeration or considerations made to Sam Todd for the discount purchase price of the eyewear. The purchase process is being conducted in the same manner as all other purchases made by the police department.

By submitting this letter to City Council, it is understood that the requirement of arm's length dealing and notice to the Municipality are met. City Council is not required to act on this issue.

Cc: J. Silver, Law Director  
D. Coffee, Budget & Finance Director  
W. Lillish, Safety Director  
D. Ruller, City Manager  
file
August 21, 2010

Chief James Peach
Kent PD
319 S. Water St
Kent, OH 44240

To Whom It May Concern:

Per the email I received on the equipment order from Capt Urichuk on August 11th, 2010. Capt Urichuk asked if I still sold Wiley X protective eyewear and stated the department needed to purchase 6 pairs for the new bike patrol officers. At which time, I provided him with a link for the Wiley X company so he could review the products and would check to see if I was able to give him a price quote for the product. I provided him the price quote for the item he was interested in at that time, which was $65.00 ea. He advised me that he was checking with another possible resource for a pricing on the same items. Capt Urichuk later advised that one of the addition sources he checked with could not even obtain the items at that price for resale.

There was no prior knowledge of the need to purchase or did he have me research other suppliers prior to this request. The City of Kent is being treated the same as the other clients or customers ST Customs does business with. No impropriety or department benefits were suggested or promised for the pricing that was supplied on this or any other items from my company. If additional pricing is needed for comparison I welcome the process to take place.

Sam Todd
ST Customs

Cc City of Kent Clerk of Council
file

8/23/2010
August 18, 2010

Mr. Joseph DeFuria, P.E.
Ohio Department of Transportation
District 4
2088 South Artington Road
Armona, Ohio 44306

Re: Haymaker Parkway (SR 59)
Limited Access Vacation Request

Dear Mr. DeFuria:

In 1963, the city of Kent and ODOT agreed to the relocation of State Route 5 (now State Route 59), the main east-west route through the city, as a limited access highway between the West Main Street/Longmore Drive/Stow Street intersection to the East Main Street/Willow Street intersection. This relocation was needed due to traffic congestion from two existing at-grade railroad crossings. The rail crossing activity caused traffic back-ups throughout the day affecting traffic flow and emergency response times. In 1973-1974, ODOT began construction of Haymaker Parkway to solve these problems. Haymaker Parkway, as constructed, contains features similar to a high-speed Limited Access facility (i.e. minimal access points, limited pedestrian facilities, fencing, etc.).

The results of constructing the Parkway with the features typical of a high-speed limited access facility through downtown Kent are that it essentially bisects the City. In this case, SR 59 separates Kent with Kent State University (KSU) on one side and Downtown Kent on the other side of SR 59. The character of the road including its lack of pedestrian facilities, width and limited access force presents a physical "barrier" for pedestrians and bicyclists from using and crossing the Parkway. It is not uncommon for people to use vehicles to drive from KSU to the downtown or vice versa due to this "barrier".

The city of Kent has an opportunity to revitalize its transportation system, its Downtown and the city as a whole with several projects proposed to be constructed over the next two years. These projects all share a common thread in the functionality of Haymaker Parkway as the primary access for all modes of transportation to this area.

PARTA Multimodal Transit Facility

On February 17, 2010, The Portage Area Rapid Transit Authority (PARTA) was awarded a 20 million dollar grant by the U.S. Department of Transportation through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant program. The grant will be used to construct a Multimodal Transit Facility in the city of Kent. The grant agreement
was signed by the U.S. Department of Transportation and PARTA on July 9, 2010. This project is also being funded locally by PARTA, the City of Kent and KSU.

The facility will be located within the boundaries of Haymaker Parkway (S.R. 59), Eric Street and Depeyerst Street. The functionality of this transportation facility requires modifications to the current access on Haymaker Parkway.

Two access points on Haymaker Parkway will be needed for the transit facility. One access will be for use by buses only. This bus drive access is proposed to be unsignalized. The second access is the connection of Eric Street from the west of Haymaker Parkway and the closing of the existing Eric Street access east of Haymaker Parkway to vehicular traffic. The new Eric Street connection will be used by all other traffic, pedestrians and bicyclists. This access is proposed to be signalized and interconnected with the adjacent traffic signals to the east and west. The bus access driveway is proposed to be 390 feet south of the East Main Street intersection and the Eric Street intersection is proposed to be 270 feet south of the bus driveway.

Safe pedestrian and bike access to the facility is critical to provide transit services to those who choose to walk or ride a bike. The existing Eric Street access east of Haymaker Parkway will be used as a bicycle/pedestrian access point that will connect the transit facility to the extension of the Portage Bike and Trail/Esplanade from the east. The extension of the Trail/Esplanade is currently funded through the local Municipal Planning Organization the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS).

Traffic Impacts

A traffic study has been completed by TranSystems Corporation to evaluate the impacts on Haymaker Parkway due to the required access breaks for the transit facility. Traffic impacts based on certified traffic included future development of the City's downtown area along with the transit facility. The study evaluated the intersections on Haymaker Parkway with South Water Street, South Depeyerst Street, the proposed Eric Street intersection, the proposed bus driveway and Willow Street.

The study showed that the required access points for the PARTA facility will not adversely impact traffic flow on Haymaker Parkway. The traffic impacts at the new access points are summarized below.

- Haymaker Parkway and Eric Street: This proposed new intersection is to be signalized based upon the anticipated pedestrian increase from the extension of the Portage Bike and Trail/Esplanade from KSU. The lane use on Haymaker Parkway will be 1 exclusive left turn lane eastbound and 2 through lanes with a shared right turn in the westbound curb lane. The proposed Eric Street intersection has an acceptable LOS of B in 2011 and C in 2031. A left turn lane length of 161 feet is proposed.
- Haymaker Parkway and Bus Driveway: This proposed new intersection is to be unsignalized. The lane use on Haymaker Parkway will be 1 exclusive left turn lane.
eastbound and 2 through lanes with a shared right turn in the westbound curb lane. The **proposed eastbound left turn movement has an acceptable LOS of C** in 2011 and D in 2031. A left turn lane length of 175 feet is proposed.

The City has awarded a construction contract for traffic signal improvements on State Route 59 that includes the signals on Haymaker Parkway. With this project, improvements to the timing and overall coordination will be provided with updated signal equipment and a central computer system that will collect traffic data such as volume, speed, and occupancy. This data will be used by the computer to adjust coordination timing based upon demand instead of time of day. Also, the coordination will allow traffic to generally move in phases which will provide gaps for traffic at the bus driveway to use to enter/exit Haymaker Parkway.

**Esplanade Extension**

This project will complete a link in the Portage Bike and Hike Trail which will connect the Western Reserve Greenway to the Ohio and Erie Canal corridors. On a local level, this link will connect Downtown Kent at Haymaker Parkway to Kent State University by extending an existing segment of the Portage Bike and Hike Trail. By providing this link, the community will have access to multiple destinations between the University and Downtown via a dedicated pathway.

**Portage Bike and Hike Downtown Connector**

The Portage Bike and Hike Trail is part of a regionally significant trail system planned to span across Portage County, linking the community to the Ohio Erie Canalway Corridor and the Great Ohio Lake to Greenway trail network. The Portage Downtown Connection will link Downtown Kent with the existing scenic Cuyahoga River Trail segment to the north at Main Street, and exit south, to its terminus at Summit Street. The connector is planned to follow the south side of Haymaker Parkway and connect Franklin Avenue to the Esplanade Extension.

**Downtown Kent**

Along with the PARTA facility, the City, KSU and private developers are planning to redevelop the downtown area with mixed uses of retail, restaurant, office, hotel, conference center and residential. The area of redevelopment is bounded by Walter Street, Main Street and Haymaker Parkway. No new drive accesses from SR 59 are being requested to serve the redevelopment of Downtown Kent.

**Community Sign**

A community sign is proposed for the NE corner of Haymaker Parkway and Water Street. This sign will serve both the City and Kent State University for announcements of both community and KSU public events.

To facilitate these transportation needs, the City is submitting this request to ODOT to vacate the limited access on Haymaker Parkway with the City taking over ownership of the right of way or
change the limited access designation on Haymaker Parkway (S.R. 59) to standard highway right of way with the State of Ohio retaining ownership. The City is further requesting that this involve no buy back fees as the proposed modifications represent transportation enhancements to pedestrian, bike and transit modes without degrading the flow of vehicular traffic through the corridor. The limits of this request along S.R. 59 include the intersection of South Water Street (S.R. 43) east to the end of the limited access facility at the East Main Street/Willow Street intersection. The city will preserve the integrity of the limited access corridor by regulating future requests for access in the corridor and maintaining the Limited Access Fence in locations where the adjacent property is privately owned.

In addition, the City is also requesting that additional miscellaneous parcels and easements required to construct S.R 59 in the area be transferred to the City as well. These easements and parcels are shown on the attached figure and do not affect the integrity of S.R. 59 to support traffic.

The attached plan also shows the proposed transportation enhancements, adjacent proposed projects, and current property ownership information.

We appreciate your consideration of this critical request as the City of Kent, PARTA and Kent State University work to improve the transportation facilities for all modes of travel in the City, which in turn will support and strengthen economic growth of the region. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at the numbers listed below.

Sincerely,

Jim Bowling, P.E.
Kent City Engineer
(330) 678-8106

Dave Ruller
Kent City Manager
(330) 676-7500

Enclosure

c: Tom Eucide, Kent State University
Bryan Smith, PARTA
file
Date: August 26, 2010

To: David Ruller, City Manager

From: Dan Smith, Economic Development Director

Subject: Two Collaborative Economic Development Initiatives

Despite the Downtown project(s) somewhat monopolizing our time over the past six months, I continue to be active in implementing our numerous other Economic Development strategies as well. I have been working on two initiatives that I believe hold tremendous potential for us to continue building on the positive momentum we have achieved over the past year. Both projects work in close collaboration with two of our stronger development partners in Kent State University and the KRBA/Small Business Development Center. Both of these initiatives I have been able to fund due to recent budget line items for economic development and revitalization. The projects are as follows:

1) Kent State University Collaboration with Northeast Ohio Entrepreneurs-In-Residence (EIR) - Yank Heisler, Dean of the College of Business, has respectfully requested we partner to provide a Kent EIR in partnership with KSU. Currently two communities have already signed on to the program (Aurora and Orville) and Yank states their efforts have been achieving solid results.

The broader vision is to spark economic activity for the region through encouraging entrepreneurship and related activities. Having several NEOhio communities with an EIR will help communities encourage, incubate, and spur ideas turning into real businesses. The EIR would be a resource to provide direction to space (provided by the City and KRBA), financing and helpful reading materials for building the entrepreneur. In addition, the EIR would work with high schools to encourage formation of little businesses, speak to classes, be an advisor and resource. Finally, the EIR would come to the Kent State Campus once per week to exchange ideas with other regional EIR's and those already in residence at KSU; be directors for several operating KSU student businesses, be class presenters to KSU's curriculum major in entrepreneurship, and serve as judges/panelist for those business plan conferences for regional high school competitions at KSU.

The Kent State University Entrepreneurship Program has already spurred several businesses into existence. The collaboration has included a strong presence in our
downtown at the Phoenix project. These include the Tannery, Sack Shop and others KSU alumni efforts such as the Vintage Reheb Clothing Shop.

We have been asked to sign on for a year trial run. Our portion of the project is $5,000 and Kent State University School of Business will share the same level of funding. For your review, I have attached how the program was developed in Aurora. These activities are consistent with our strategy of economic gardening (growing our own) and I believe hold tremendous potential for numerous start up businesses influenced by KSU students and graduates.

2) Supporting Upgrades and enhancements to the KRBA Incubator facility located at Martindale. As we continue to work to support a wide range of entrepreneurial activities, it is critical to have both the counseling resources as well as reasonable incubator space (price and quality) available for start up businesses to grow into external businesses. I believe we have enjoyed a solid track record of success over the years in collaboration with the KRBA/SDBC. Examples include Alpha Micron, Ailes Millwork, The Bacheri, Leander’s Barbershop, Go2Go Taxi, just to name a few.

With Alpha Micron moving into their new permanent space last year at KSU’s Centennial Research Park, the opportunity became available to put the Martindale Incubator site back to work for our City. To that end, the KRBA once again obtained the master lease for the facility. The total space available at the facility is 8,341 sq. ft. Their current lease payment is $3,475.00 and there is approximately, 1,200 to 1,500 sq. ft. of common area. Back in March, we worked in cooperation with the KRBA to lease out 3,000 sq. ft. to Abison Software Development. This software tech company has tremendous potential and will grow to eleven high paying jobs this year. You may recall we used a $50,000 Revolving Loan Fund in conjunction with a State of Ohio Innovation Loan ($840,000)

With all of our Summit Street incubator spaces currently filled, we rely heavily on our partnership with the KRBA/SDBC to provide space and counseling to upstart businesses. There are several upgrades and reconfigurations that still need to take place at the facility. The cost of running the facility and maintaining utilities has placed the KRBA in a position to need assistance to continue to provide the service necessary to grow new companies. I have combined a few budget lines to allow us to support the needed upgrades at the site in the amount of $5,000.

For your review, I have included a break down of KRBA financing and the level of resources they have expended in keeping the Martindale Incubator facility open. Since there is an obvious positive impact when companies like Alpha Micron and Abison succeed. I would highly recommend we continue our partnership and collaboration with the KRBA/SDBC and provide the funding necessary for the maintaining the Martindale incubator site.

In closing, I view these programs as complementary and important tools in our economic development tool chest. I believe we have already enjoyed a good measure of success over the past years by partnering with Kent State University and the KRBA/SDBC. I am in the process of preparing the P.O.s for these two important initiatives.
Targeted Cities
Entrepreneurship-In-Residence Program
A Partnership Between
the City of Aurora and Kent State University

The Entrepreneurship In Residence Concept

The Entrepreneur-In-Residence (EIR) will work in the City of Aurora to engage in Entrepreneurship Development within the Community.

The same individual will work as an EIR in the Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation at Kent State University working with our entrepreneurially-oriented students.
What Would the EIR do?

- EIR will work to create a Culture of Entrepreneurship in the Aurora Community by:
  - Providing consulting and advisory services to entrepreneurial entities (individuals and firms) in Aurora
  - Connecting local entrepreneurs to economic development resources within the City of Aurora and the State of Ohio
  - Connecting local entrepreneurs to resources within Kent State University
  - Bringing the skills of entrepreneurially-oriented students to Aurora to work for local entrepreneurs as interns and consultants and well as helping students start businesses in the community.
  - Bringing the skills, abilities, and ideas of KSU faculty to businesses in the Aurora community

Philosophy for Entrepreneurship at KSU

Create opportunities for students to grow their entrepreneurial dreams and abilities through real world, hands-on experiences in entrepreneurship.
Kent State University's Programs in Entrepreneurship

- Undergraduate Major in Entrepreneurship
  - Started in Fall 2006
  - Currently 30 majors and growing
  - Over 250 students from across campus are taking entrepreneurship courses
- Undergraduate Minor in Entrepreneurship
- MBA Coursework in Entrepreneurship

Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation in the College of Business Administration
  - John S. Britto Lab for Entrepreneurship
  - Student Run Businesses (on campus and in downtown Kent)
  - Michael Solomon Venture Series in Entrepreneurship
  - Annual Entrepreneurship Extravaganza
  - Summer Innovation Week for Students Interested in Entrepreneurship
  - Business Idea Competition for Students

Current EIRs at KSU

- Assist students in classes develop business ideas
- Advise students who are starting and operating student-run businesses
- Lead Speakers Series Course
- Provide consulting services to students who want to start their own businesses outside the scope of our academic programs
Value of the Targeted Cities EIR Program to the City of Aurora

- Expanding the growth of entrepreneurial thinking and activity in Aurora
- Directly linking to a major research university in the area for entrepreneurial ideas, businesses, and assistance
- Continuing to signal to internal and external constituencies that Aurora is a progressive city for business development

Value of the Targeted Cities EIR Program to Kent State University

- The EIR will provide our students with another entrepreneurial mindset from which they can learn
- Expands the opportunities for student business development in Ohio – helps to keep our graduates in Ohio
- The Center for Entrepreneurship and College of Business will expand its involvement in and contributions to local communities
Aurora and KSU Commitments

- EIR will be financially supported by both the City of Aurora (or an entity within the city) and the Business School at Kent State University
  - KSU expects the EIR to be on campus one day per week
  - Ideally the EIR will work 3 or 4 days per week in Aurora
  - KSU will provide support for at least the academic year (August to May)

- Office space will be provided for the EIR in Aurora and the Business School at KSU

- Both the City of Aurora and KSU will evaluate the effectiveness of the EIR on a prescribed schedule

KSU Contact Information

Nick Kolbe, PhD
Associate Dean for Faculty
College of Business Administration
Kent State University
Kent, OH 44242
330-672-1103
kolbe@kent.edu

Julie Messing
Director
Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation
Kent State University
330-672-9430
messing@kent.edu
# Martine and Pufferbelly Income

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To: Dave Ruller, City Manager  
From: Liz Zore, Human Resources Manager  
Subject: Workers Comp Premiums 2011  
Date: August 17, 2010

Dave,

FYI, attached is a copy of the renewal analysis for the City’s Workers Compensation Premiums for the year 2011. The quote is a group rating through our Third Party Administrator, CareWorks Consultants, Inc. (CCI). By participating in a group rating with the Ohio Association of Public Treasurers (OAPT), the City is projected to realize a Group Savings discount of $58,326, or 45%.

Not quite as good as last year, but still better than most. The BWC has eliminated a lot of the programs that would get us much more than this. The BWC used to base its ratings on the total dollar amount of claims. That’s been changed to both number of claims and total dollar amount being used to determine a company’s rating.

Of course, the best way to contain these costs is still to keep safety first in the workplace, to prevent employees from being injured.

Liz

C: Dave Coffre, Director of Budget & Finance

At 1
OAPT is offering you an opportunity for your city to enroll in the group rating program for 2011.

ANALYSIS

**Prepared for:** CITY OF KENT  
**Risk Number:** 36705302  
**Date:** July 7, 2010

*Estimated Group Discount of 46% for $58,326 in Savings*

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<th>Rate</th>
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Total:  
$12,043,404  
$323,137  
$264,810

Total Projected Group Savings: $58,326

Total rates include BWC administrative costs, DWRF, and DWRI-2 assessments.

Statements made to the employer describing the group plan concept and all its possible benefits (savings) are not guarantees, but projections based upon information available from BWC at the time of review and include the maximum possibility as adopted by the Ohio BWC. The premium projection does include BWC assessment on group rated cities. This offer may be withdrawn or revised based on year and BWC experience data which negatively affects your eligibility.

All BWC premiums are still payable to the Bureau of Workers' Compensation via the DWC semi-annual payroll report. Failure to make these payments can cause rejection from a group rating program.