

## **Beth King, King MERJ Public Relations, resigns from work on STAR Bond proposal**

(WICHITA, KS) – Beth King, owner of King MERJ Public Relations announced today that she has resigned from providing media relations services for the development team proposing the use of STAR Bonds at K-96 and Greenwich.

King commented, “Although I was retained to provide only media relations for the project, when a media consultant becomes the story instead of pushing the story, it is time to step aside. The proposed project at K-96 and Greenwich is a substantial one, and my clients deserve a review of their proposal based on only its merits. It is unfair to them for me to continue to serve as their media consultant given the concern of some Council Members.

I regret that the Council Members were not clear about my limited role in the project and were unaware of purposeful changes I implemented in my business model quite sometime ago to avoid concerns about impropriety or conflict of interest given my personal relationship with City Manager Robert Layton. Most specifically, I now operate under self-imposed restrictions that preclude me from advocating for clients in City Hall, responding to City-issued RFPs and managing City political campaigns.”

The project’s attorney, Korb Maxwell with Polsinelli Shughart, added, “Ms. King provided valuable media relations services for this project, and we are appreciative of her assistance. This is an unfortunate situation but we respect her professionalism and her decision to resign. We will retain a different media consultant in Wichita to assist us as we move the project forward.”

King MERJ Public Relations is a sole proprietorship operating in Wichita, Kansas, that provides a broad spectrum of public relations services along with marketing and advertising counsel. The firm has a successful and varied client list with a history of multi-faceted services, many with emphasis on issues necessitating strategic media, communications and marketing skills. More information on King MERJ Public Relations can be obtained via the Internet at [www.kingmerj.com](http://www.kingmerj.com).

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