From the Interim
City Manager's Desk

Zoo granted AZA accreditation
The Topeka Zoo appeared before the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Accreditation Commission this week and was granted five more years of AZA accreditation. AZA zoos go through lengthy inspections and applications processes for accreditation that include evaluation of the veterinary program, involvement in conservation and research, education programs, safety policies and procedures, security, physical facilities, guest services, and the quality of the institution's staff. Zoo's are studied and evaluated for six months before accreditation is granted.

Recent Updates
• Finance Director Nickie Lee taught the Government Finance Officers Association's Budget Academy along with 2 other practitioners from the State of Georgia and City of Sunnyvale, CA. 60 students from across the county were in the class and learned about how Topeka approaches the budget process.

• The 2019-2028 Capital Improvement Plan process began with a kick off meeting to discuss the planning calendar and public outreach approach.


• Zoo staff presented the Kay's Garden project at the national Association of Zoos and Aquariums conference in Indianapolis.

• The Environmental Reviews are complete for the 2017 Empowerment Projects.

Water Festival
The Topeka Water Festival will be on Thursday, September 21st.

- Over 1,200 area 4th graders will learn about water processes and how it impacts their daily lives.
- The students will participate in interactive water activities and learn about how to be good stewards on natural resources.
- Find out more information about the Water Festival here: [http://www.kacee.org/festivals/make-splash-topeka-shawnee-county-water-festival](http://www.kacee.org/festivals/make-splash-topeka-shawnee-county-water-festival)

**Coming up**

- On Monday September 18th the City will host the KU Master of Public Administration program's Infrastructure course. The focus of the discussion is the downtown infrastructure revitalization.
- Topeka Water Festival is on Thursday, September 21st beginning at 9am. Over 1,200 area 4th graders will get hands-on learning on how they...
interact with water on a daily basis and how it is a precious resource. The festival is being held at Garfield Park.

• Through our partnership with What Works Cities, the City is participating in a workshop on Wednesday, September 20th with the UK based Centre for Public Impact (CPI) to build a framework for implementing and evaluating policy and initiatives.

Doug Gerber

This weekly report is presented to you from the office of Interim City Manager Doug Gerber.

For other weekly reports, visit the City's website.

This report was produced through our open data portal. We have several other open data portals to help connect you with the work we do, including portals that let you:
- **Visualize Topeka's $270M budget**

- **See Topeka's expenses, one check at a time**

- **Navigate our major infrastructure projects**

- **Track departments' progress toward our goals**