

David Woosley

From: Officer Jon Barta [barta@lkpd.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2005 8:23 AM
To: traffic@ci.lawrence.ks.us
Subject: Veteran's Park parking

To whom it may concern:

I am the School Resource Officer at Lawrence High School. Recently citizens in the neighborhoods surrounding Lawrence High School have voiced concerns about LHS students' behavior before, during lunch, and after school at Veteran's Park. Lawrence High School has on "open" lunch which allows students to leave the school for lunch. I try to be as visible at the park and in the surrounding neighborhood as I can. Obviously, very little questionable behavior occurs while I am present; however the lunch period is a busy time inside the school for me, so I can't be there every day. Incidents such as fights, littering, foul language, truancy, and possible drug activity, do go on at the park when the students are not being monitored.

The Lawrence Police Department assigned patrol officers to patrol the park during the lunch period for the last couple of weeks of the school year to increase our police presence. It is unfortunate that so many resources need to be dedicated to a problem like this. I have not heard of any problems at the park reported by day shift officers assigned to this special assignment.

At the park there are about 30 – 35 parking stalls. Many of my "problem" students park their cars at the park when they come to school. I believe if the parking at the park were changed to "2 hour parking from 0800 – 1600 hours" this would make it difficult for LHS students to park their cars at Veteran's Park and then "hangout" during lunch. This would not completely solve the problem, but if they don't have their cars parked there, the loitering may be minimized.

I would like to propose changing the parking area at Veteran's Park to "two hour parking". I believe that citizens that use the park for legitimate reasons would not be affected by the two hour time limit during school hours, and the benefit may be decreased illegal activity at the park and more parking spaces available for other citizens during the school day.

I want to try to come up with strategies to help alleviate as much of the problems with LHS students are creating in the neighborhood around the school. I think that this change may have a positive effect.

Respectfully submitted,
Officer Jon Barta LKPD

6/28/2005

