

City of Arkansas City, City Commission:

I am writing this letter as I will be teaching class during the meeting on Friday, May 14th, 2021 and therefore unable to attend. I am writing in regards to the continued financial support of the Arkansas City Community Band, the oldest continuous organization of its kind in Kansas and one of the oldest in the country.

For 149 years the citizens of Arkansas City have supported this outstanding organization to provide free entertainment to the public, this year will mark the 150th year. This amazing example of Americana brings together musicians from high school age to senior citizens, who each summer perform eight or more concerts for a diverse audience. We ask that you continue to fund \$4,500, the same amount as in recent years, so that we may purchase music and offer a small stipend to the musicians to help offset their expenses involved in participating.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we were able to continue this tradition last summer and very much look forward to our 150th season.

Sincerely,

Chris VanGilder
Conductor, Arkansas City Community Band