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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF PRISONS
1940 AUG 9 AM 9 14

Kansas City Safety Council
Affiliated with the National Safety Council
OFFICE: 419 DWIGHT BUILDING
TELEPHONE VICTOR 4398
KANSAS CITY, MO.

DIRECTOR
G. M. BURNS

August 6, 1940

Board of Pardons & Paroles
Washington, D. C.

Re:- Otto P. Higgins - #55996 L.

Gentlemen:

Our Kansas City newspapers have carried the news that Otto P. Higgins is now eligible for parole from penal servitude at Leavenworth, Kansas, subject to the approval of you gentlemen who comprise the Board of Pardons and Paroles. I am sure that you will be interested in some of the things which the above mentioned man did for the good of this community while acting in the capacity of Director of Police of this city.

First, as you are probably aware, Kansas City was awarded the Grand Award for all cities of this country for the year 1939 in the Traffic Safety Contest which is conducted each year by the National Safety Council. A large part of the credit for this achievement must be given to Otto P. Higgins because the program of enforcement really got its start under his personal direction. He is also largely responsible for our present city ordinance which reduced speed at night on our streets from thirty five miles per hour to 25 miles per hour. This reduction in speed resulted in a 60% reduction in traffic accidents under 1938.

To further the work of traffic safety, he sent six men, at various times, to Northwestern University for special training under Lt. F. M. Kreml. When the writer was fortunate enough to win a 9-month scholarship in traffic safety, Otto Higgins made it possible for me to attend this course by giving me a leave of absence with pay so that I could support my family here while I was away at school, learning the latest techniques in traffic accident prevention work.

He was always very active in his support of our local Safety Council and resigned the office

of Vice-president in charge of Public Safety upon his indictment on the charge

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Board of Pardons & Paroles
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for which he is now incarcerated.

He also sent men to Washington to attend the school for police officers which is conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and, at the present time, the man in charge of the technical and records bureau in our local police department is a man who was sent by Otto P. Higgins to the F.B.I. school for training which qualified him for his present position.

Under his direction, much new work was undertaken by the Police Department. For the protection of the public from criminals, he organized a criminal investigation bureau, purchased a Polygraph machine, and, sent men to Chicago for training under Leonard Keeler in its operation. To correct juvenile delinquencies, he arranged to have several Boy Scout troops organized under the sponsorship of the Police Department. At his suggestion, a boy's drum and bugle corps was formed. Also, a Junior Police Drill team composed of boys was organized. We feel that these various activities have done much to reduce juvenile delinquency in our city.

As you are probably aware, prior to his incarceration, he owned and operated a printing business in Fairmount, Missouri, which is a suburb of this city. Since he has been confined, his wife has worked hard and kept this business intact so that he will have that work to return to, should you decide in favor of his parole.

These things which I have mentioned are just a few of the many things that were accomplished under the direction of Otto P. Higgins for the betterment of the citizens of this community, and, I call your attention to them for your consideration in the review of his application for parole.

Hoping that your wisdom and justice will permit you gentlemen to view with favor, the application for parole of Otto P. Higgins, I remain,

Very truly yours,
G. M. Burns

GMB/

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Office of Parole Executive