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NEWS RELEASE

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CHAMBER CANCELS 43rd ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

EMPORIA, KAN. – In consideration for the health and safety of our staff, our members and the community, the Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce has chosen to cancel the 43rd Annual Christmas parade. The parade was scheduled for Tuesday, December 1st.

“This was not an easy decision to make, but with the number of positive COVID-19 cases skyrocketing, but we know it is the only logical choice to make”, said Jeanine McKenna, President/CEO of the Chamber. “Many business and organizations are starting to work from home again and are asking their staff not to congregate. Even though we felt we had come up with a sound proof plan for people to still celebrate the holiday season, we know that human nature is for people to chat and visit with people they see out and about. The Annual Christmas Parade would be no different, and we want to see the numbers go down versus up.”

Chairman of the Board Kala Maxfield stated; “The Annual Christmas Parade is something our community looks forward to every year and we are saddened to have to make this decision due to the current spread of COVID-19. However, the safety and wellbeing of our community is much more important. We appreciate all the support we have had from our community partners and members. While this year has been different all around, I am confident we will all be able to gather and celebrate again someday soon. Let’s all do our best to support our local businesses and get through this historic pandemic together.”

The Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization of 450 area businesses that join forces to accomplish collectively what no one business could do individually. The mission of the Chamber is to be proactive in creating an environment for business and community success. The organization is currently focusing on business advocacy and development, and leadership and membership development.

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