CAPITOL SHOESHINE STAND PROPOSAL

DATE: December 13, 2021

TO: Members of the Kansas Legislative Coordinating Council
c/o Tom Day, Legislative Administrative Services

FROM: Bruce K. Barlow, BKB Leather, Owner / Cobbler
Abel Brakenhoff & Theo Stegall, BKB Leather, Apprentices

RE: Proposal to Return Shoeshine Stand to Kansas State Capitol

The Proposal. Capitol Shine is an apprenticeship project of BKB Leather LLC in North Lawrence, Kansas seeking to offer high quality leather care and shoeshining services to the public at the Kansas State Capitol during the 2022 Legislative Session. Capitol Shine requests a location either in the Capitol Visitor's Center or at the traditional location for the Capitol shoeshine stand outside of the cage elevator on the third floor.

The Shoeshine Stand. Originally a fixture at the Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport in downtown Kansas City throughout the middle part of the 20th century, the stand was more recently a feature for many years at The Barber Shop in Fairlawn Plaza in Topeka, Kansas. The stand is midcentury style with all original vintage components.

The Proprietor. Expert leatherworker Bruce K. Barlow is the owner and operator of BKB Leather LLC and has operated the full-service leather repair shop in North Lawrence, Kansas for many years. Bruce has years of experience in leather repair and care, including: repair, resoling, and dying of shoes, boots, saddles, bags, leather, and vinyl goods; custom leatherwork including clothing, chaps, belts, cases; alterations, resizing, and zipper repair; upholstery of furniture, auto, motorcycles, cleaning, and re-dying; and saddles/tack repair in English, Western, and custom styles.

The Apprentices. Abel Brakenhoff and Theo Stegall are recent high school graduates in the Lawrence/Topeka community who are learning the leatherscare craft while saving for college. Each apprentice is receiving ongoing leatherscare training from Bruce K. Barlow.
**Services.** Capitol Shine will offer high quality shoeshines to public officials, staff, and visitors in the Kansas State Capitol during the 2022 Legislative Session. Shoeshine services to include:

- **Shoeshines "in the chair"** – Express or full shines include saddle soap deep clean, moisturizing treatment, multicolor shine color selection, and "mirror polish" finishing.

- **Unlimited free buffs** – Shine patrons are welcome for a quick buff, either "in the chair" or from the vintage electric buffer near the stand.

- **Drop-off shine services** – Patrons can drop off shoes, bags, or other leather products for deep clean and restoration services, with items available for same-day or next-day pickup at the stand.

- **Drop-off leather repair services** – Patrons can drop off and pick up shoes and leather products at the stand for deep cleans, repairs, and restoration by expert leatherworker and cobbler Bruce Barlow at the BKB Leather Shop in Lawrence, Kansas.

**Prices.** Payments will be accepted via credit card (Square point-of-sale station), cash, or check.

"The Capper" ($7) – 2-5 min - express "in the chair" shine including express clean and a touch up shine coat and buff. *Named after Republican Art Capper who served as the 20th Governor of Kansas from 1915 to 1919.*

"The Finney" ($11) – 10 min - saddle soap & brush clean, two-coat polish and shine, edge dressing. *Named after Democrat Joan Finney who served as the 42nd and first woman Governor of Kansas from 1991 to 1995.*

"The Lorenzo" ($15) – overnight - deep clean saddle soap treatment, overnight leather lotion soak, lace replacement and nick repair as needed, premium Saphir mirror shine. *Named after Populist Lorenzo D. Lewelling who served as the 12th Governor of Kansas from 1893-1895.*

*Touch-ups and buffs are always free for stand patrons.

**Products available.** Capitol Shine only uses premium-quality, pine-and-beeswax-based Saphir® and Angelus® shine polishes. Laces, take-home polish products, and other limited supply available at the stand.