



February 18, 2019

Kansas State House
Committee on Judiciary
Rep. Fred Patton, Chair
Rep. Bradley Ralph, Vice Chair
Rep. John Carmichael, Ranking Minority Member

**TESTIMONY OF THE CITY OF PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KANSAS
IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 2219**

Dear Chair Patton, Vice Chair Ralph, Ranking Minority Member Carmichael, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The City of Prairie Village, Kansas—a city of the first class in Johnson County, Kansas—**strongly opposes** House Bill No. 2219 - an act concerning the Kansas open meetings act; relating to recording of proceedings; availability to public; amending K.S.A. 2018 Supp. 75-4318 and repealing the existing section.

Prairie Village has a history of going to great lengths to bolster community engagement and increase transparency. The City has more than 13 volunteer advisory committees (e.g. Arts Council, Board of Zoning Appeals, Environmental Committee, Parks & Recreation Committee, Planning Commission, Prairie Village Foundation, and Tree Board) and frequently forms ad-hoc committees to discuss identified projects or issues with resident input. The meetings are posted on the Prairie Village website well in advance, and minutes are taken and posted for regular standing meetings.

The City currently video records City Council, Committee of the Whole, and Planning Commission meetings. The service alone costs roughly \$2,000 annually, and does not include the price of storage or equipment upgrades that were necessary. This annual cost would drastically increase if all meetings subject to the Kansas Open Meetings Act were required to be recorded. Requiring a 24-hour turnaround time would also prove to be difficult in a smaller city with less resources.

While the City fully supports transparency, we do not believe this bill will increase those efforts and would entail an undue burden on municipalities.

The City of Prairie Village thanks the Committee for its consideration.