

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mark Parkinson at 9:00 a.m. on February 23, 1995, in Room 531-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Senator Bill Wisdom  
Nancy Burns, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners,  
Wyandotte County  
Forrest L. Rhea, United We Stand America  
Kevin Kelley  
Mike Jacobi, Take Charge, Inc.  
Rev. C.L. Bachus, Baptist Ministers Union of Kansas City  
John Sutler

Others attending: See attached list

**SB 218--Concerning the consolidation of local government in Wyandotte County, Kansas; designating the territory within the boundaries of Wyandotte County as an urban area for the purpose of giving to such county and urban area certain powers of local government; authorizing the adoption of the provisions of the act by the electors of the Wyandotte County urban area**

Senator Wisdom testified in support of the bill. He began by stating that this is the time for a piece of legislation such as **SB 218**. The bill will assist Wyandotte County in overcoming some of their problems. At present, there is a task force looking at consolidation, but he was aware of the need for consolidation before the task force was formed. He indicated that the mayors support consolidation. The intent of the bill is to consolidate county and city government with the exception of Edwardsville and Bonner Springs. There would be a special election for the citizens of Wyandotte County with regard to consolidation. He concluded with the thought that any elected officials who oppose the bill should look to the future as to what is best for Wyandotte County.

Senator Ramirez said he agrees with the intent of the bill, however, he is concerned that the task force report is not due until August 1. Therefore, it is his opinion that the legislature should not act on the bill until the task force has a chance to complete its study and act on the local level. Senator Wisdom responded that there has been an ongoing intent to consolidate and many studies have been done in this regard, but nothing has ever been done to act on the studies.

Senator Ranson expressed her agreement with the need for consolidation but wondered if it is necessary that the Legislature detail how the consolidation occurs. Mr. Heim replied that some legislation is necessary.

Nancy Burns, Board of County Commissioners of Wyandotte County, testified in support of the concept of the bill but feels the bill is premature as a task force is doing a study on consolidation in Wyandotte County at present and is not ready to make recommendations. (Attachment 1)

The Chairman asked Ms. Burns who the members of the task force are as to their professions. Ms. Burns answered the task force is composed of business people and retired elected officials, adding that none of the members are elected officials. Selection of members was done by each elected official choosing a person who they considered qualified to serve as a member of the task force. Senator Ramirez commented that he knows the members of the task force and feels they are open minded people, some of which support consolidation.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, Room 531-N Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. on February 23, 1995.

Forrest Rhea, United We Stand America of Wyandotte County, testified in support of **SB 218**. (Attachment 2)

Kevin Kelley, IPAC Corporation, testified further in support of the bill. (See Attachment 3)

With regard to the task force, Mr. Kelly informed the committee that he is the Chairman. He supports the conceptual feasibility of consolidation, and feels there is no need to make specific recommendations as to the form of government. Elected officials will not be bound by the task force's recommendations. Rather than this bill detracting from the task force, Mr. Kelley feels it enhances it. The bill makes the result of the task force study credible instead of the study being shelved as has happened many times in the past. This bill creates a structure in which needed improvements can be made for his community. It gives the citizens of the community an opportunity to make a choice, therefore, it does not mandate on the people of Wyandotte County and also does not preclude other options being on the ballot.

The Chairman stated that the deadline for bills to be out of committee is tomorrow, February 24, and since there are a large number of policy decisions in this bill, perhaps action should be held until next session. Mr. Kelley responded that local governments have home rule which gives them authority to make necessary changes, and the bill is needed now to put consolidation in place.

Mr. Heim informed the committee that the bill should be amended to clarify as to home rule as it is uncertain that the consolidated entity would be under the provision of home rule.

Mike Jacobi, Take Charge, Inc., testified in support of the bill and included statements of support as attachments to his written testimony. (See Attachment 4) He strongly urged the committee not to delay the bill.

The Chairman noted that perhaps no harm would be done if the bill is held until next session after the task force has had time to complete its study and make a report. Also, time is needed to address the concern expressed by staff with regard to the impact on home rule. He assured Mr. Jacobi that the intent of holding the bill until next session would not be to delay the issue.

Rev. C.L. Bachus, Baptist Minister Union of Kansas City, Kansas, testified in strong support of the bill. (Attachment 5) He added that without the bill, the task force study has no teeth, and there is a risk that, once again, consolidation will be shelved. He stressed that this is a problem of concern for the whole county which is close to a hopeless situation where no one is in charge.

Final testimony in support of **SB 218** was given by John Sutler, a former legislator and a resident of Wyandotte County. Mr. Sutler emphasized the need for something to be done to assist the county. He informed the committee that he had a similar bill introduced 21 years ago, but it failed because it included Bonner Springs and Edwardsville. At present, the political situation in Wyandotte County is so bad that immediate attention is needed before it becomes a poor county. Consolidation will not put present officials out of a job because they will keep their office until the expiration date. While the bill may not be perfect, it would be a start.

The Chairman reiterated the question as to if home rule would still apply to Wyandotte County needs to be addressed. There being no further time, the hearing was continued to Friday, February 24.

Also to be heard on Friday, February 24, will be **SB 220** which had been scheduled to be heard at today's meeting. Bills previously heard will be considered at that time also.

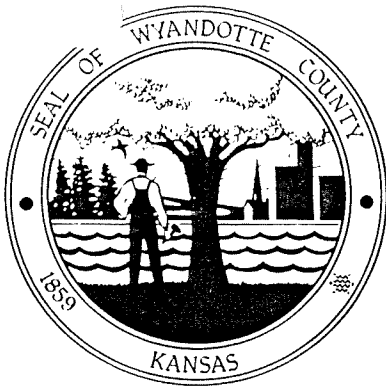
The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 1995.

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: February 23, 1995

NAME	REPRESENTING
Whitney Damon	Pete McGill's Associates
Vernis J. Robinson	Nay. Co. Comm.
Beit Cantuwell	KCK Chamber of Commerce
John Sutter	Ex legislator
Richard Kaminski	Wyandotte Co. Commissioner
Nancy Bunn	Wyandotte Co. Commissioner
Leroy Holmes	Pres. K.C.K. Baptist Union
C. L. Bachus	Chairman Baptist Ministers Union
Mike Jacobi	TAK & CHARGE INC
Forrest K. Alca	United We Stand America
Kevia Kelley	Self
Don Miller	League of KS Mun.
John K. Galy	Self
Gene W. Suits	Self
Jay Hoet	Self + UWSA
David Haley	34 <sup>th</sup> House Dist. KCK
Anne Spiess	KS. Assoc. of Counties



OFFICE OF  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WYANDOTTE COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
710 N. 7TH STREET  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101  
PHONE (913) 573-2827  
FAX (913) 321-0237

**NANCY W. BURNS**  
COMMISSIONER 1ST DISTRICT  
**VERDIS J. ROBINSON**  
COMMISSIONER 2ND DISTRICT  
**RICHARD J. KAMINSKI**  
COMMISSIONER 3RD DISTRICT



February 23, 1995

To Members of the Senate Local Government Committee:

The Board of County Commissioners of Wyandotte County appears before you today regarding Senate Bill No. 218. We are not here in opposition of consolidation, however, we do question the timeliness of this bill.

Last year this board was approached by concerned citizens requesting that a task force be formed to study the feasibility of consolidating City and County Government. A joint meeting of local entities was held and, as a result, a nine (9) member task force was formed and directed to complete the study and to provide recommendations no later than August 1, 1995. A copy of the guidance and timeline for the task force is attached. We agreed to step aside and let the task force do its job.

We were very surprised to read in the local newspapers that a bill regarding consolidation was already in the works. We were contacted by disturbed members of the task force who asked why had we introduced legislation before they had completed their study. We explained that we learned about this bill as they had, through the media. Senator Wisdom was contacted and asked who requested this bill. He stated he could not say, and that we could find out at the hearing. We learned recently that several members of the Wyandotte County delegation were also unaware of this bill and who was behind it.

In closing we feel that this bill is premature. A task force has been established, they have met several times and have begun their study. We anticipate their findings and recommendations later this year. We hope you will allow them an opportunity to complete the task they were appointed to do.

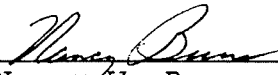
*Senate Local Gov't  
2-23-95  
Attachment 1*

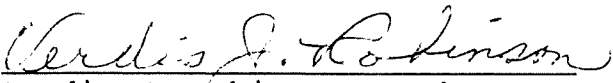
Page Two  
February 23, 1995

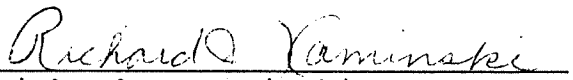
Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to share our concerns with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy W. Burns, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Verdis J. Robinson, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard J. Kaminski, Member

NWB/VJR/RJK:jl  
Enclosure

# Wyandotte County Economic Development Council

P.O. Box 17-1453 • Kansas City, Kansas 66117-0453 • (913) 371-3198

## Board

Wyandotte County  
Bonner Springs  
Edwardsville  
Kansas City, Kansas  
Board of  
Public Utilities

## Ex-Officio

Bonner Springs—  
Edwardsville  
Chamber of  
Commerce  
Kansas City, Kansas  
Area Chamber of  
Commerce

## MEMORANDUM

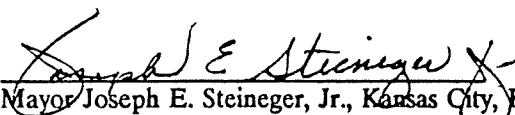
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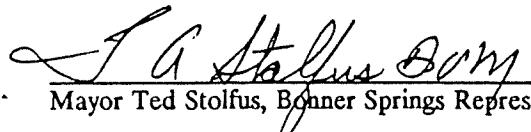
**TO:** CONSOLIDATION TASK FORCE MEMBERS  
**FROM:** WYANDOTTE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
**DATE:** January 18, 1995  
**SUBJECT:** TASK FORCE GUIDANCE

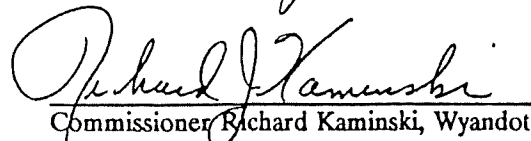
The attached guidance is intended to provide the task force direction and focus as you begin your important task of making recommendations on governmental partnerships for the 21st Century, with emphasis on the consolidation of the City of Kansas City, Kansas, and Wyandotte County into one governmental unit.


The WCEDC looks forward to your monthly feedback and your final report and recommendations.

Enclosure

  
Mayor Joseph E. Steineger, Jr., Kansas City, Kansas Representative

  
Mayor Ted Stolfus, Bonner Springs Representative

  
Commissioner Richard Kaminski, Wyandotte County Representative

  
Mayor John McTaggart, Edwardsville Representative

  
Mr. Clarence DeGraeve, Board of Public Utilities Representative

## **GUIDANCE AND TIMELINE FOR THE CONSOLIDATION TASKFORCE:**

1. THE INTENT OF GOOD GOVERNMENT IS TO ACHIEVE EFFICIENCY, ASSURE QUALITY SERVICES, PROMOTE EQUITY IN THE COST OF SERVICES, AND MAKE SERVICES ACCESSIBLE AND RESPONSIVE TO THE CITIZENS. ALL CITIZENS RESIDING ANYWHERE IN WYANDOTTE COUNTY COMPRISE ONE COMMUNITY WITH SHARED INTERESTS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFESTYLE.

2. THE ROLE OF THE CONSOLIDATION TASK FORCE IS TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON GOVERNMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY WITH EMPHASIS ON THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE CITY OF KANSAS CITY AND WYANDOTTE COUNTY INTO ONE GOVERNMENTAL UNIT.

3. THE TASKFORCE SHOULD FOCUS ON AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CONCEPTUAL FEASIBILITY OF GOVERNMENTAL CONSOLIDATION AND NOT NECESSARILY ON THE SPECIFIC DETAILS OF WHAT THE FINAL ORGANIZATION SHOULD LOOK LIKE. IT WOULD BE ENVISIONED THAT IF THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE TASKFORCE SUPPORTS GOVERNMENTAL CONSOLIDATION AND THE ENTITIES SUPPORT FURTHER EFFORT, THAT A CHARTER COMMISSION WOULD BE FORMED TO DEVELOP THE SPECIFIC PLAN AND DETAILS FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE TASKFORCE SHOULD BE APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE QUORUM OF APPOINTED MEMBERS AND INCLUDE THE PRO/CON, BENEFITS/LIABILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE RECOMMENDATION(S).

5. THE INCORPORATED CITIES OF BONNER SPRINGS AND EDWARDSVILLE, ARE TO RETAIN THEIR AUTONOMY AT THEIR OWN DISCRETION AND WILL HAVE REPRESENTATION ON THE TASKFORCE.

6. THE MEMBERSHIP WILL BE AS ESTABLISHED IN THE 17 NOV 1994 JOINT MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION, CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND THE MAYORS OF EDWARDSVILLE AND BONNER SPRINGS (MEMBERSHIP WAS ALLOCATED 3,3,1,1,1 RESPECTIVELY). EACH OF THESE ENTITIES COMPRISE THE WCEDC WHO WILL APPOINT THE MEMBERSHIP AND RECEIVE THE REPORTS OF THE TASKFORCE. SHOULD A TASKFORCE MEMBER RESIGN OR NOT BE ABLE TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES, THE WCEDC ENTITY THEY REPRESENT WILL APPOINT SOMEONE TO FILL THE VACANCY. THE TASKFORCE MAY FROM TIME TO TIME FORM SUBCOMMITTEES OF APPOINTED MEMBERS AND MAY ALSO INCLUDE NONAPPOINTED MEMBERS TO ASSIST IN RESEARCH, PUBLIC INPUT, ETC.

7. THE TASKFORCE SHALL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING BY 1 FEB 1995 AND PROVIDE THE WCEDC MONTHLY UPDATES AT THE WCEDC'S REGULARLY SCHEDULED MONTHLY MEETINGS. THE TASK FORCE IS TO COMPLETE ITS FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PROVIDE ITS FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE WCEDC NOT LATER THAN 1 AUG 1995.

8. ALL TASKFORCE MEETINGS WILL BE PUBLIC.

9. THE TASKFORCE WILL SELECT A CHAIRPERSON FROM ITS APPOINTED MEMBERSHIP. THE TASK FORCE WILL ALSO SELECT A RECORDING SECRETARY FROM THE APPOINTED MEMBERSHIP AND THE SECRETARY WILL PROVIDE MINUTES OF THE TASK FORCE MEETINGS TO THE WCEDC PRIOR TO THE WCEDC MONTHLY MEETINGS.

10. EXPENSES OF THE TASKFORCE WILL BE COVERED BY PRIVATE/PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP FUNDING. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT WILL BE PROVIDED BY EACH NOMINATING ENTITY WITHIN THEIR MEANS. THE USE OF VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT IS ENCOURAGED TO MINIMIZE COST AND MAXIMIZE CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.  
My name is Forrest L. Rhea . I represent United We Stand America of Wyandotte County, & a large contingent of the Rosedale Development Association. We are here in strong support of Bill S218. We do realize that S218 is in rough form, & may be amended either here or in the house. We will watch this process very closely.

We support this concept of consolidation of county & city government, for the following reasons:

1. Poor services, from both county and city, often duplicated & poorly coordinated, resulting in, high crime, blighted neighborhoods, bad streets, driving out businesses, & costing jobs.
2. Corruption, the county sheriffs office & the city inspection department being two examples.
3. No accountability of where our tax dollars are going.
4. When citizen groups have tried to point out how to save money, we have been stalled, put off, or simply told no.
5. High property taxes, with nothing to show for them.

We believe if we can consolidate, we can gain better & more efficient services, more control of & better accountability from our local government, with lower cost, which means lower taxes.

Thank you again.

Senate Local Gov 4

2-23-95

Attachment 2





**IPAC CORPORATION**

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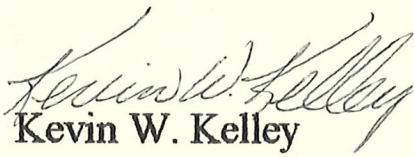
February 23, 1995

Local Government Committee  
Kansas State Senate  
Topeka, Kansas

Distinguished Senators,

I am not here today to request special consideration for state funding, casino gambling, or an earnings tax. I am here to ask that the citizens of Wyandotte County be given the opportunity to choose the form of their local government. Senate bill 218 creates a structure of local government that I believe can lead to much needed improvements in our community. However, regardless of what I believe, ultimately it is what the community believes that must be our guide. Senate bill 218 allows the citizens the freedom to make that choice.

Respectfully,

  
Kevin W. Kelley  
President

Senate Local Gov't  
2-23-95  
Attachment 3



Mike Jacobi, Take Charge, Inc.  
Page Two

To that end, I personally pledge the following:

1. I will continue to support the governmental consolidation effort and continue to take an active leadership role on this issue. I feel strongly about this issue, but more importantly, I have acted. A consolidated government is a part of the vision I have to reshape this community and have taken action to support the issue. It was at my suggestion that a joint meeting was called of the governing bodies of the City, County, BPU and the Mayors of Edwardsville and Bonner Springs to consider governmental consolidation. These governing bodies decided unanimously to form a task force to determine the feasibility of governmental consolidation. It is my hope that the task force provides a positive recommendation to proceed with governmental consolidation and that their recommendations can support greater efficiency, responsiveness and accountability so that the issue may come before the people for a vote.

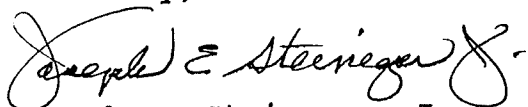
2. I agree that government employee reductions should come through attrition. I know job security is a sensitive issue and other communities have been able to consolidate without having to terminate employees; they simply met their personnel strength goals through gradual attrition.

3. I agree that the cities of Bonner Springs and Edwardsville should retain their autonomy, but should participate in the consolidation process because all citizens of Wyandotte County comprise one community with shared interests in economic development and quality of life.

4. I would support a form of government that would achieve a full corporate merger of governmental units, no matter what the titles of office, as long as it is accepted by a vote of the people.

I look forward to working with you and other citizen groups as we face the challenges of the future.

Sincerely,



Joseph E. Steineger, Jr.  
Mayor

### CONSOLIDATION PLEDGE

**WHEREAS:** The undersigned elected official acknowledges the following

1. The combined operating expenses of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Ks., are higher than those of many consolidated city/county governments. *PK*

2. This high cost of government overhead takes funds from areas like crime fighting, distorting all other facets of life here, and reducing the tax base by driving people from the county. *Contributes, but not total cause*

3. As the high cost of government has hurt our ability to address issues such as crime fighting, these issues drive even more people from the county, which in turn further reduces our tax base. *Contributes*

4. These economic distortions (caused by our high operating expenses) are what is at the root of this community's problems. *Contributes, but not root.*

5. The only substantive way that these costs can now be controlled is by eliminating duplicate offices. *PK*

6. This community is being held back by government inaction. *PK*

**THEREFORE:** We the undersigned pledge the following

1. As an office holder my top priority will be to corporately merge Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Ks., city government. I will totally commit myself to make this happen and will accept no excuse for failure to do so. *PK*

2. I agree not to use the inefficient consolidation of services as a pretext to avoid the full consolidation of government. *PK*

3. I agree that employee reductions will be through attrition. *PK*

4. I agree that Bonner Springs and Edwardsville are separate cities that cannot be forced into a merger. *PK*

5. If necessary, I would vote to eliminate my own office to achieve a full corporate merger of governmental units. *PK*

*Richard J. Kaminski*  
Elected Officials Signature

*1-31-95*  
Date

### CONSOLIDATION PLEDGE

**WHEREAS:** The undersigned candidate for political office acknowledges the following

1. The combined operating expenses of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Ks., are higher than those of many consolidated city/county governments.
2. This high cost of government overhead ~~takes funds from areas like crime~~ <sup>causes higher taxes to maintain</sup> ~~services~~ fighting, distorting all other facets of life here, and reducing the tax base by driving people from the county.
3. ~~As the high cost of government has hurt our ability to address issues such as crime fighting, these issues drive economic people from the county, which in turn further reduces the tax base~~
4. These economic distortions (caused by our high operating expenses) are ~~what is~~ <sup>a</sup> serious ~~at the core of~~ this community problem
5. The only substantive way that these costs can now be controlled is by eliminating duplicate offices.
6. This community is being held back by government inaction.

**THEREFORE:** We the undersigned pledge the following

1. As an office holder ~~my top priority will be to corporately merge Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Ks., city government. I will totally commit myself to make this happen and will accept no excuse for failure to do so~~ <sup>one of my main priorities will be ~~to~~ ~~corporately~~ ~~merge~~ ~~Wyandotte~~ ~~County~~ ~~and~~ ~~Kansas~~ ~~City,~~ ~~Ks.,~~ ~~city~~ ~~government.~~ ~~I~~ ~~will~~ ~~totally~~ ~~commit~~ ~~myself~~ ~~to~~ ~~make~~ ~~this~~ ~~happen~~</sup> ~~merge~~
2. I agree ~~not to use the inefficient consolidation of services as a pretext to avoid the full consolidation of government~~ <sup>to support the most efficient method of consolidation</sup> ~~of~~
3. I agree that employee reductions will be through attrition.
4. I agree that Bonner Springs and Edwardsville are separate cities that cannot be forced into a merger.
5. If necessary, I would vote to eliminate my own office to achieve a full corporate merger of governmental units.

Carol Harmon  
Candidate Signature

2-8-95  
Date

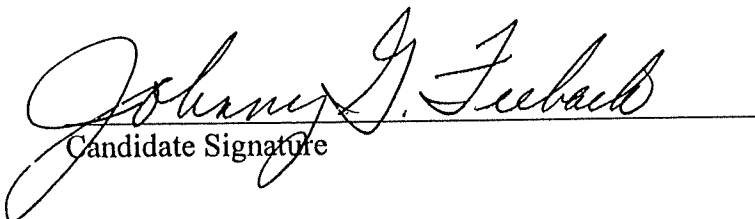
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Candidate Signature

1-26-95  
Date

### CONSOLIDATION PLEDGE

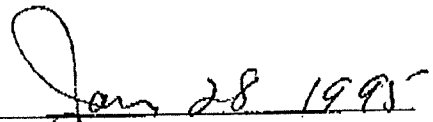
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Candidate Signature

  
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 Date

4-6

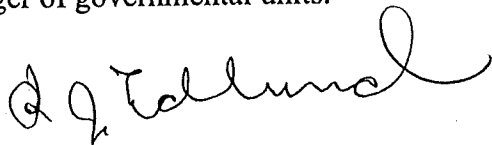
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate Signature

2/4/95  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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5. The only substantive way that these costs can now be controlled is by eliminating duplicate offices.

6. This community is being held back by government inaction.

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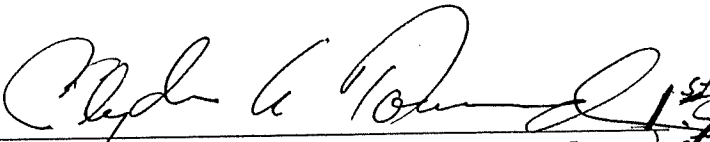
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3. I agree that employee reductions will be through attrition.

4. I agree that Bonner Springs and Edwardsville are separate cities that cannot be forced into a merger.

5. If necessary, I would vote to eliminate my own office to achieve a full corporate merger of governmental units.

  
Candidate Signature

  
Council Member

Feb. 1 - 1995  
Date

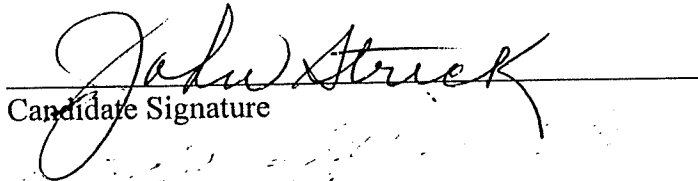
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**WHEREAS:** The undersigned ~~candidate for political office~~ acknowledges the following

1. The combined operating expenses of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Ks., are higher than those of many consolidated city/county governments.
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Candidate Signature

2-10-95  
Date

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4. These economic distortions (caused by our high operating expenses) <sup>Contribute</sup> ~~are what is~~ *dramatically to* ~~at the root of~~ this community's problems.
5. The <sup>most effective</sup> ~~only substantive~~ way that these costs can now be controlled is by eliminating duplicate offices.

6. This community is being held back by government inaction.

**THEREFORE:** ~~We~~ the undersigned pledge the following

1. As an office holder <sup>one of my priorities</sup> ~~my top priority~~ will be to corporately merge Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Ks., city government. I will <sup>work diligently</sup> ~~totally commit myself~~ to make this happen, ~~and will accept no excuse for failure to do so.~~
2. I agree not to use the inefficient consolidation of services as a pretext to avoid the full consolidation of government.
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6. *I believe the first step will be educating the public to dispell their many fears & concerns. I will work diligently to educate the public on the positive aspects of consolidation so they will embrace it as I have.*

Candidate Signature

*Eve Kempke*

Date

*2/20/95*

*4-10*


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2-2-95  
Date

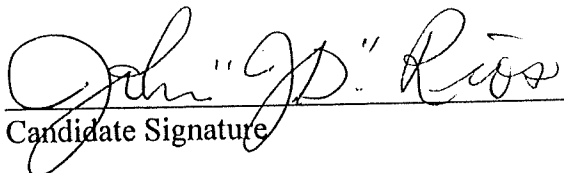
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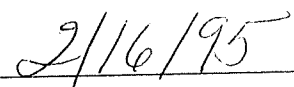
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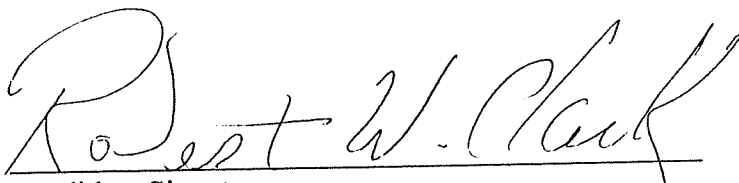
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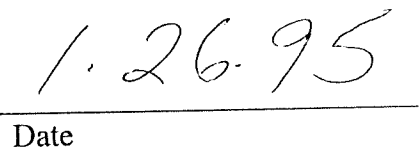
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M. W. Duff Sr.  
Candidate Signature

Apr. 26, 1995  
Date

PLEASE SEND ANY UPDATES  
Thank You!

4-15



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\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate Signature

Mike J. Moreno

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

1-27-95

4-14

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William (Bill) Moore  
Candidate Signature

1-26-95  
Date

4-17

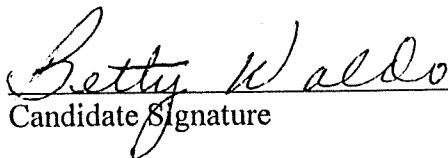
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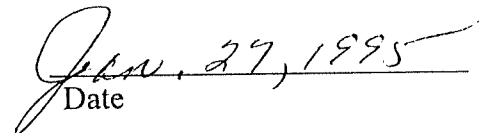
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Candidate Signature

  
Date

**Baptist Ministers Union  
of  
Kansas City, Kansas**

Leroy Holmes  
PRESIDENT

Shedrick Banks  
VICE PRESIDENT

2052 North 5th Street  
Kansas City, Kansas 66102

Eugene Marshall, Jr.  
SECRETARY

Vernon Jefferson  
TREASURER

February 22, 1995

Senate Local Government Committee  
State Capitol Building Room 531  
Topeka KS

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Rev. C. L. Bachus, Pastor of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, located at 417 Richmond Avenue, Kansas City, KS in Wyandotte County.

I am here representing the Kansas City, Kansas Black Baptist Minister's Union. The Rev. Leroy Holmes is the President and I serve as the Civic Chairman.

Our Ministers Union is comprised of more than fifty (50) Pastors and Associate Ministers. They have chosen me to speak to this committee on their behalf.

I am here for the purpose of supporting Senate Bill No. 218 which calls for the consolidation of the city and county governments of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS.

We believe that the duplication of service of two governments is somewhat responsible for the high taxes in the county-higher than any county in the state of Kansas.

Secondly, we believe that the bill is necessary to guarantee fairness in the election process for all citizens of Kansas City Kansas and Wyandotte County.

Thirdly, we believe under Senate Bill No. 218, the provisions distribute the political power into the hands of elected officials who are accountable to people who elect them.

In conclusion, we the citizens of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS strongly believe without a structural change in our governmental bodies, our city and county will continue to deteriorate and lose population as it has done for the past twenty years.

*Your For Better Government*  
*Rev. C. L. Bachus*  
Senate Local Gov 4  
2-23-95  
Attachment 5