

CITY OF HAYSVILLE, KANSAS

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MAYOR

Russ Kessler

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March 4, 2024

House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Hearing: Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 1:30 p.m. Room 546-S

Re: Testimony in opposition of SB 318

To Chair Stephen Owens and Members of the Committee:

The City of Haysville is opposed to SB 318 as amended. The bill was initially only concerned with eliminating the requirement of obtaining fingerprints from individuals convicted of violating municipal ordinances related to vehicle registration, driving without a valid driver's license, or failing to have motor vehicle liability insurance coverage.

However, SB 318, as amended, adds language requiring city attorneys to inspect and review every audio and video recording relevant to the case that is presented or provided to the city attorney by the accused person or accused person's counsel. As the bill was amended on the Senate floor, there was no opportunity to weigh in on the amendment. The amendment was approved, and the Senate passed the bill 40-0. We do not believe the full impact of this amendment was thoroughly contemplated.

The following remarks were written by the city's attorney:

We oppose the bill and disagree with the new requirements that the amended bill places on city attorneys. It takes away from them the discretion to decide what information to consider in a given case and instead assumes that all information presented by an accused is important and must be fully reviewed. City attorneys are already professionally obligated to consider pertinent information regarding a case in municipal court. The bill has the potential to increase city attorney workloads substantially without any real benefit to the City or the accused.

I urge you to vote no on SB 318.

Sincerely,

Russ Kessler Mayor