

So when the Kansas League of Municipalities stated that we as county residents have the county commissioners to defend us and that our county commissioners are able to somehow save us from “3 mile zone Abuse”, that is not factual!! To me this statement from the League of Municipalities is an attempt at political double talk. Just my opinion.

Now there could be another option? Maybe we could elect more county commissioners so we outnumber the city commissioners? ... but then the city would elect more commissioners? When would that nonsense end?

EMS Situaton:

The city even tried to remove EMS for county residents because the city did not want to provide EMS billing detail to the county. Why? What is the city hiding? Would anyone sitting in this room pay a bill without knowing what they were paying for?

Our County wanted open communication with the city and gone to several city meetings to try to initiate communication, but the City refused. I never saw or heard the city ever going to a county meeting. Two of the city commissioners kept telling the county that full payment was required and that the county did not need the financial information. Then they started telling the county that they just needed to pay the flat rate. This made no sense.

In one city meeting two city commissioners at the city meeting told us that the county commission didn't know how to govern. Even after that and other demeaning comments, which are on video, the county continued to try and converse with the commission. The city manager at that time was no different.

At that time the County currently paid for approximately 70% of the EMS cost. The county only uses approximately 30% of those EMS services. Yet the city tells rural residents that they are using city services so they need to be part of the city. Forced annexation is what that is called!

The Rural owners are independent. Rural owners have their own water and septic systems. Rural Residents pay for the bulk of EMS services. Rural owners have a

sheriffs department. Just what is the benefit of the 3 mile zone to a rural resident? Or are rural residents not allowed any benefits?

I am beginning to feel like rural residents are nothing but a “red headed step child” as the saying goes.

Another example of how Junction City has abused the 3-mile zone statute:

We as residents in the 3-mile zone do not have a voice. We vocally stood against the **CITY Proposed Slaughterhouse development** in the 3-mile zone. Even many city residents did not approve of this project.

The Junction City Manager at that time was upset with our position and told my husband and I one night before a city meeting that he could take away our right to run cattle on our property! This is Flint Hills Pastureland!! At that time we had no idea they had this kind of power in Kansas. I knew about the 3-mile zone, but didn't really know how much power it gave the city.

This is a good example of the city manager at that time using the 3 mile zone rule to shut us up!

Does this sound like a city that should have the power to rule outside of the city limits?

And how does a rural resident fighting for their property rights, stand up to the city? The city uses **our** tax dollars to fight us. Where does the property owner obtain their legal funding? The city either bankrupts the property owner with legal fees or uses the threat of eminent domain. The use of eminent domain does not happen often. Property owners know that they can't win. So they just settle for what is offered. The price is usually determined by an appraisal that is written with comps used for the benefit of whoever orders the appraisal. In this case, the city. The property owner can't win.

3 mile Zone Bills presented in 2023 to the Local Committee:

The last time the 3 mile zone bills were heard in 2023, one of our area state Representatives sat on this Local Committee to cast his vote. He was also sitting

as a city commissioner in Junction City, and he was not the only city representative on the committee. There were several members on the committee with ties to a city. In my opinion, a stacked deck! Our city manager at that time even provided testimony for cities. How did the city manager know about this? The only logical explanation is that our State Rep sitting on the Local Committee, who was also a city commissioner, told the city manager about the 3 mile zoning bills.

Our county commissioners did not know. I went to the county meeting and verified this. Why didn't OUR State Rep share that information with the county.

Our state representative was supposed to represent all of us. Again, he only represented the city, and just so you are aware, he is no longer a state representative. I do believe this is what cost him his seat.

I spoke to one of the state representatives who sponsored the two bills dealing with the 3-mile zone in 2023 about this. He had no idea this had happened.

No wonder the rural population continues to dwindle in the state of Kansas, rural residents are forced into the city.

Cities need to learn how to survive on their own without stealing from the rural tax base. People are rural residents because they want to live rurally and so many are robbed of this freedom because of the 3 mile zone. Remember I spoke about the zoning threat from the previous city manager.

With Joint Planning & Zoning and Home Rule, along with the Cities ability to annex rural residents to increase their Tax base for more Tax \$\$\$, the county has no power to stop the cities encroachment on the rural way of life. It is not surprising that people leave Kansas! We are losing rural Kansas. City power is what is destroying rural Kansas with State Statutes aiding them. How much power do cities need?

I listened to Jay Hall's presentation on County Government. If the city keeps robbing the county, how does the county continue to exist?

I think, SB 37 and HB 2025 are both just one small step in curtailing the complete control the city has around city boundaries. This is just one small "baby step".

Please refer to the Kansas Attorney General, Kris Kobach's, Opinion concerning HB 2145 and HB 2150 regarding Zoning. The house has now changed the number of one of these bills to HB 2025.

Under the Constitution we are given Article IV dealing with the **Gaurantee Clause**. " It provides in part that the US shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican form of Government." Read another comment: "We like you are concerned by K.S.A. 12-749's ability to subject county residents to laws passed by governmental officials whom the residents cannot elect. " "

Another quote from this opinion that I think needs noted: " And without the Guarantee Clause, Alexander Hamilton said, "userpation may rear its crest in each State and trample upon the liberties of the people, while the national government could legally do nothing more than behold its encroachments with indignation and regret." " "

Those of us in the 3 mile zone seemed to be viewed as an inconvenience, but a great source for increasing the city tax base. We are forced to live under city rule and have no voice. That is not the American way and surely not why or how our forefathers drew up the Constitution. This is a Republic.

I have to give cities credit, they have learned to use these statutes to their best advantage, and to the detriment of the taxpayer in the 3 mile zone. They have almost succeeded in destroying rural America.

I believe it is time that City power is limited and I fully support HB 2025 and SB 37.

Sincerely,


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