



"Small Town, Big Dreams"

THE CITY OF NEODESHA • P O BOX 336 • NEODESHA • KANSAS • 66757

February 22, 2013

To: House Federal and State Affairs Committee
From: Allen J. Dinkel, City Administrator
RE: Opposition to HB 2055

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen J. Dinkel", is written over the "From:" line of the letterhead.

Thank-you for the opportunity to submit comments in opposition to HB 2055.

On behalf of the City of Neodesha we believe cities should have the right to decide if they wish to allow permit holders to carry concealed firearms in every building and premise owned by the city. This bill takes away the ability of our local government to regulate concealed firearms on City property unless we spend large amounts of taxpayer money to provide the security which would be needed. The cost of adequate security measures as defined in the bill simple would cost too much for the City of Neodesha.

In the case of our City, our City Hall is in the former National Guard Armory. Part of this building is the Civic Center. Our City staff offices as well as the City Commission meeting room are accessed from the large room that serves as the Civic Center. Many events are held in this Center including many school activities. If concealed carry is allowed at the City building in essence it would mean that school activities could not be held here. This Center is an asset for the Scholl District to utilize and in a community such as Neodesha this cooperation is needed. Our school classes at times will take trips to the City Library. Again we would have the same issue if concealed carry is allowed because the City cannot afford the security measures that would be mandated.

The City of Neodesha has municipal utilities of Electric, Water, Natural Gas, Waste Water, and Sanitation. Many days our office is filled with customers paying their utility bills. I feel that the City of Neodesha should be no different than if an investor owned utility had an office in our town and would not allow conceal carry in their office. It needs to be at the discretion of our Governing Body who is elected by the local citizens.

We also oppose the ability of City employers to carry a concealed firearm. In our community our staff is called on to assist on school property for many different reasons. Again we feel this decision should be made by the local City Government just as any business can make the decision for their employees. A state mandate cannot take into consideration any local issues such as we have in Neodesha.