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Mr. Mark Sutton, House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

For years public notices have appeared in newspapers. By publishing the public notices in newspapers you are allowing everyone to have access to them. Newspapers are widely available to look at for free at libraries across the state which allows for the public to "happen upon" the public notice. By the public notices being published by an independent third party i.e. newspapers they are a reliable source of information.

Recently, in Cherokee County more specifically the City of Galena a public notice was published in the Sentinel-Times on July 9, 2014, of two ordinances, one allowing for the annexation of a piece of property four miles from the city limits, and the second allowed for an exclusive contract with a private company from Missouri to operate a landfill on the said property. However, with the notice published by an outside entity such as a newspaper, attention was drawn to this, otherwise it might have gone unnoticed. The residents located around the proposed site formed a committee that with the help of Representative Michael Houser and the members of the House Local Government Committee the statute pertaining to island annexation has passed in the House and is currently being worked in the Senate.

Currently, the Kansas Press Association has a website that is dedicated to all Public Notices in Kansas. Each individual newspaper supplies a copy of each issue and the public notices are located, <http://kspublicnotices.newzgroup.com/>.

The internet is widely available but there are people who don't even own a computer or even know how to turn computer on. In the future this might be a viable option, however, in this day and time I don't see how it is even an option.

By allowing municipalities to publish their own notices, how long will it before the allowance to allow private attorneys to publish on their own website? With municipalities being allowed to publish on their own website, how long is it going to be available in the archives? Currently, by publishing in a newspaper, the public notice is available in archives in print, microfilm, and microfiche and is available for 100+ years.

My question is to you with the recent events of the hacking of company owned websites that there have been, including Sony, Target, and the latest Anthem how protected is each government website?

Thank you,
Machelle Smith
Managing Editor
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