



DATE: MARCH 3, 2016
TO: HOUSE COMMERCE, LABOR AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE
FROM: KATHY A. AXELSON, CITY ADMINISTRATOR/CITY CLERK
RE: HB 2665 – WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

Background:

The City of Fairway adopted, by ordinance in 2004, a Rental and Non-Owner Occupied Dwelling/Registration and Inspection program. The program was requested by the residents of Fairway to address ongoing property maintenance problems at non-owner occupied dwellings throughout the City. The Governing Body determined that the program was a rational means by which the City could safeguard its interest in protecting the life, safety and general welfare of its citizens and to preserve the value of land and buildings throughout the City. It was created in a regulatory nature, and not as a revenue producing measure. Out of nearly 1800 homes, the City currently has 160 registered non-owner occupied/rental properties.

Since 2004, several amendments have been made to the original ordinance. The most recent in 2014 provides a savings to property owners who have had no code violations in the previous year via an "earned waiver of inspection". An annual inspection is required, with property owners providing written authorization for access to the front and rear *exterior* of the property.

HB2665, as written, is not specific as to interior or exterior inspection requirements. If exterior access is prohibited, the ability to enforce basic code violations is compromised.

We strongly oppose HB2665 as written as it could prevent effective and necessary code enforcement which was established many years ago at the request of the citizens of Fairway. It has been an effective tool as we strive to protect the quality of life and character of our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy A. Axelson
City Administrator/City Clerk – City of Fairway