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December 1, 2014

Board of County Commissioners
Johnson County Kansas
111 S. Cherry
Olathe, KS 66061

Dear Members,

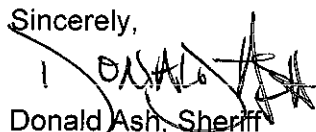
I write this letter in support of the proposed bi-state legislation for the nine (9) county Kansas City Metropolitan area Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Region, which has already passed and been signed into law in the State of Missouri. As Sheriff of one of the four (4) Kansas counties, I have supported members of my agency participating in the Kansas City Metro Tactical Officers Association. The proposed Kansas legislation is an outworking of that group and deals specifically with "critical incident" situations, meaning an incident that could result in serious physical injury or loss of life.

Unfortunately, current state laws do not provide for law enforcement jurisdiction to extend across the state line in these situations, leaving city, county and state law enforcement officials unable to legally respond to a call for assistance in a critical incident across the state line. KSA 19-828 states in pertinent part, "...*any county in the State of Kansas which borders another state, with the agreement of the sheriff, may enter into an agreement with the political subdivisions in such other state's contiguous county, to form a multijurisdictional law enforcement group for the enforcement of drug and controlled substances laws and/or for the prevention, detection or investigation of terroristic activity.*" This has nothing to do with critical incident response.

Furthermore, the proposed legislation stipulates that law enforcement officers from the mutual aid region shall be permitted to respond to lawful requests for aid in the mutual aid region. Individual agencies are not required to participate and may choose not to authorize their personnel to respond.

Sheriffs in the Missouri counties of the mutual aid region wholeheartedly endorsed and worked with their legislators to get the legislation passed in their state. They recognized that this is a regional issue specific to our metropolitan area. I do as well and hope you will consider this endorsement as you make your decision on this issue.

Sincerely,


Donald Ash, Sheriff

Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office