



Testimony

Unified Government Public Relations
701 N. 7th Street, Room 620
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Mike Taylor, Public Relations Director
913.573.5565 mtaylor@wycokck.org

Law Enforcement Mutual Aid

Delivered January 26, 2015
House Federal and State Affairs Committee

The Kansas City Kansas Police Department and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City strongly support House Bill 2007.

This mutual aid legislation will allow law enforcement agencies in the Kansas City Metro area to work cooperatively with their counterparts across state lines during critical incidents.

For many years law enforcement officers in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area have enjoyed a spirit of cooperation that is seen in day to day operations from; information sharing, resource sharing, and criminal investigations. Groups like the Metro Squad have brought the best investigators from the area together to solve countless homicides. Since 1989 the Kansas City Metro Tactical Officers Association has brought SWAT and patrol officers together for training and logistics support. And groups like the Johnson County Chiefs and Sheriff, the Wyandotte County Chiefs and Sheriff, and the Kansas City Metro Chiefs have ensured that the spirit of cooperation continues on.

Unfortunately, in times of critical incidents or unusual circumstance requiring immediate help or specialized training and equipment, agencies and officers in this region have worked without any real protection for the officers. This region is unlike any other in Kansas or Missouri as we share the metropolitan area in more ways than geographically. Crime, emergencies, investigations, and critical incidents do not stop or change direction at the state line. Officers and agencies are more than willing to come to the aid of their neighboring agency and deserve the protection that would be afforded through bi-state legislation.

The State of Missouri has already passed this mutual aid legislation affecting nine counties in the Kansas City Metro. House Bill 2007 is identical to the legislation passed by Missouri.

The legislation provides for circumstances that mutual aid would be limited to such as critical incidents, defined as incidents that could result in serious physical injury or loss of life.

This legislation will better protect the millions of people in Kansas and Missouri living in the Kansas City Metro area. It will improve the ability of law enforcement to better respond to critical, life-threatening incidents and it is a smart, efficient way to provide law enforcement resources by sharing specialized equipment and personnel.

I am sure you would like an example of the type of incident when we would use this piece of legislation. The obvious examples would be a terrorist attack on our citizens or some type of catastrophic incident at one of the Metro's sporting venues, two of which are located in Kansas City, Kansas (KS Speedway, Sporting KC). But the truth is it will probably involve some type of incident we have not even thought of at this point. We live in a very dangerous and ever changing world and your support of Bill 2007 demonstrates your forethought and concern for law enforcement officers and the people we serve.

Terry R. Zeigler
Chief of Police