



ABOVE AND BEYOND. BY DESIGN.

City Hall @ 8500 Santa Fe Drive
Overland Park, Kansas 66212
www.opkansas.org

Date: February 18, 2019
To: House Committee on Judiciary
From: City of Overland Park
Re: HB 2219 – Opponent

The City of Overland Park (“City”) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 2219. This legislation is unnecessary and would impose a burdensome unfunded mandate on the City and its taxpayers.

The City conducts open meetings for its Council, Committee of the Whole, four Council Committees, and over a dozen subordinate bodies. In addition, most of these subordinate bodies have multiple subcommittees or executive boards. Requiring the City to record audio or video of every one of those meetings, and retain those recordings indefinitely, would be administratively burdensome and a significant cost. The City recently began streaming live video of its Council, Committee of the Whole, Council Committee and Planning Commission meetings, at an estimated annual cost of around \$30,000. To add all of these other bodies and sub-bodies would exponentially increase the City’s annual cost. In addition, most of the meetings of these other bodies and sub-bodies are held in several different locations or rooms, which would require the City to incur significant equipment costs for each location/room.

This legislation is also unnecessary because the City is transparent and conducts all of its open meetings in compliance with the Kansas Open Meetings Act. Any person may attend any of the City’s open meetings; minutes are kept for all of those meetings; and anyone may view live streams and recordings of Council, Council Committee and Planning Commission meetings online. The additional unfunded mandates within HB 2219 do little to increase the City’s already transparent meeting practices.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 2219. We respectfully request that the Committee not advance HB 2219 to the full House.