



February 15, 2019

Chairman Fred Patton
House Judiciary Committee

Chairman Patton and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to provide testimony regarding HB 2219. I am the City Administrator for the City of Hillsboro and am writing to oppose this bill as currently written. This bill would require a public body or agency to record the proceedings of that public body or agency and make them available to the public within 24 hours.

Making information about the actions of our public bodies or agencies available to the public is not in question. In Hillsboro's case, we would have to purchase new equipment for the recording requirement. A quick internet search shows some equipment ranging from \$500 and up. Making duplicate copies of the recordings becomes the next hurdle. When I worked in another community, we spent several days making video duplicated of the council meeting recordings. The amount we were allowed to charge was not enough to compensate for the lost productivity of the staff member that had to make the copies.

I am providing a summary below of the 10 different bodies that would have to be recorded in Hillsboro. Our experience suggests that no one wants copies of our meeting recordings. We record only three of the boards for the sole purpose of writing minutes. The quality of the recording is less than ideal. Making the recordings available to the public would require replacement equipment as I noted above.

City Council—meets on first and third Tuesdays around a large conference table. We do not have a platform for the council to sit on nor do we have a dedicated auditorium that would be similar to your committee hearing rooms. Our council meetings are held in a large conference room. We use an old cassette tape machine to record the meeting with a remote microphone in the middle of the table. Recordings are kept for two weeks to use while writing the minutes. Tapes are

reused. Occasionally, newspaper reporters ask for the tape to write their stories. Members of public never asks for copies.

Planning Commission—See Council. This committee is scheduled once per month but can go for months without a case to hear.

Board of Zoning Appeals—See Council. This committee is scheduled once per month but can go for months without a case to hear.

Recreation Commission—meets monthly in the conference room and is not recorded. To record, the city council setup would have to be used.

Museum Board—meets monthly at the Museum building around a small utility table. They do not record their meetings. They would require equipment to record their meetings.

Fire Board—meets annually at one of our offsite community rooms. This is a very large room where sound gets lost in the high ceilings. They do not record meetings. They would require equipment and extra microphones to record their meetings.

Convention and Visitors Bureau—meets monthly at the Chamber of Commerce office. Their meeting arrangement is usually a circle of chairs without any place to place a recorder or extra microphones. These meetings are not recorded.

Library Board—see Recreation Commission

Airport Board—meets annually at the airport in the lounge of one of the hangars. The board meets in a circle of chairs since there is no conference table in the room. This board does not record meetings. Getting a recording would be difficult in the current location because there is no table.

Housing Authority—meets annually on the development property. Their meeting is held in their small office conference room. These meetings are not recorded.

Sincerely,



Larry Palne
City Administrator