

## **RDA Testimony**

Safe and Welcoming City Act

3-15-22

Hello, my name is Sarah Waggoner, with Rosedale Development Association, a nonprofit in KCK 66103, and I am a Wyandotte County, KS resident, and I am speaking in opposition to HB 2717.

The Kansas City KS community policing officers have a long-standing relationship with Rosedale Development Association and the Rosedale community, due to their involvement - they attend neighborhood meetings, volunteer with us, and keep neighborhood leaders informed. In turn, residents feel more comfortable communicating and trusting in the police. But for a lot of our residents, that trust is regularly challenged by news of deportations and local ICE raids that affect our community, family, and friends. To continue this progress in relations between the KCKPD and a large number of WyCo residents, they need to be assured that their information will not be shared with a federal agency.

I also personally oppose this bill as a life-long Wyandotte resident. Over the years, I have personally seen and experienced how embracing and championing diversity in communities make our entire city stronger and a better place to live, and has revived much of Wyandotte County. HB 2717 is a hindrance on progress and inclusion for ALL Kansas residents, and I ask you to please vote no.