

OVERLAND PARK

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Statement to the House Committee on Federal & State Affairs
Opposing HB 2111
March 21, 2013
John Douglass, Chief of Police

Chairman Siegfried and members of the House Committee on Federal & State Affairs, my name is John Douglass. I serve as the Chief of Police for the City of Overland Park and provide this statement to you today in opposition of HB 2111.

Our opposition is noted on a couple of levels. First, the City is currently working through the public policy issue of how to regulate the open carry of firearms within the City boundaries of Overland Park. We believe that open carry should be directly tied to concealed carry and that the two issues should be legislated together. Presently, the City has an opinion request with the Attorney General's office, which inquires as to the manner in which the City may regulate open carry as covered in K.S.A. 12-16,124. It would be the intent of the City Council to regulate open carry in the same manner as concealed carry – meaning that the same training required for persons to carry concealed would also be required for open carry.

Second, we believe that by virtue of preemption, this legislation further erodes of the constitutionally protected home rule powers of local units of government. Supporting the exercise of authority and responsibility by locally elected officials is a top priority of the City of Overland Park. This authority allows citizens to shape public policy to reflect their local priorities and sensibilities. To this end, the City requests that the committee not recommend HB 2111 favorably for passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. I would be happy to answer questions the committee may have at the appropriate time.