

CITY OF SHAWNEE

CITY HALL

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CIVIC CENTRE

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FIRE

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POLICE

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT HB 2247

Written Testimony in Support of HB 2247 on behalf of the City of Shawnee

By Nolan Sunderman, Assistant City Manager

February 10, 2017

Honorable Chair and members of the House Committee on Local Government:

The City of Shawnee supports the proposed House Bill 2247. Legal publications have become a substantial cost for the City on a variety of projects. Over the years, citizens have requested easier access to these documents through the City of Shawnee website. They have also voiced complaints that many people no longer receive the daily newspaper and the font size in legal publications in the newspaper has become too small to read.

In 2016 and 2017, the City budgeted \$9,000 for legal publications. This cost was based on the average of previous years. In 2016, the City spent \$24,591 in legal publication costs (a 173% increase). This was due in large part to the number of items that required publication. The City anticipates having to increase the 2017 Revised budget to accommodate the expected trend. Additionally, the City also posts all legal notices on its website in accordance with the proposed legislation and has done so for years.

As the City of Shawnee is working to launch a new website in 2017, the City would greatly support the opportunity to continue to provide legal publications without a fee or password to access any of the documents. This opportunity will continue to increase transparency while also allowing local governments to be more efficient with limited resources. As stated in the Shawnee Legislative Program, the City of Shawnee believes that an open government is essential to building public confidence. Therefore, the City of Shawnee supports House Bill 2247.

Thank you for your consideration.

