



**Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government
Hearing on Senate Bill 105
Hearing Date – February 14, 2019**

**Written Testimony in support of SB 105 on behalf of the City of Manhattan
By the Honorable Michael L. Dodson, Mayor of Manhattan**

Good afternoon Chair Bowers, Vice Chair Hardy and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government. My name is Michael L. Dodson, Mayor of Manhattan.

The City of Manhattan supports SB 105 as written, providing cities the ability to establish the regular term of office for all elected city officials to begin on a date established by resolution of the City. Such legislation provides flexibility for municipal terms of office, as opposed to current legislation which requires terms for all elected officials in Kansas to begin the second Monday in January.

- The City of Manhattan supports the proposed legislation allowing cities the ability to choose the date for which reorganization of its governing body, on or after December 1, following certification of the election, and no later than the second Monday in January following the certification of the election.
- Current legislation is prohibitive to cities in Kansas as many hold regularly scheduled legislative meetings on Tuesdays, which causes the need for a special legislative meeting. SB 2015 provides cities flexibility in determine the best date for reorganization of its governing body in order to maintain consistency in legislative meeting dates and plan accordingly for the orientation of newly elected officials.
- The City of Manhattan supports local decision-making in determining the proper time to install newly elected officials.

For all the reasons stated above, the City of Manhattan supports SB 105 concerning authority granted to cities to determine the best date for reorganization of its governing body following an election. Thank you for your time and consideration.