



Dale Goter
Government Relations Manager

TESTIMONY

City of Wichita
455 N Main, Wichita, KS. 67202
Wichita Phone: 316.352.4876
dgoter@wichita.gov

**Kansas House Federal and State Affairs Committee
Hearing on HB2055 Concealed Carry/Public Buildings
Thursday, Feb. 21, 2013
Dale Goter, Government Relations Manager, City of Wichita**

Chairman Siegfried and members of the committee:

The City of Wichita has been a longtime supporter of the current Concealed Carry statute. The Wichita City Council is on record supporting the creation of the current Concealed Carry statute and also supported subsequent legislative efforts to provide a consistent statewide administration of the original statute.

However, recent legislative efforts to further expand the scope of state-mandated rules regarding concealed and open carry are unnecessary and only raise public safety concerns.

Current state law allows local governments to restrict the use of concealed carry in public buildings. This past year, the City of Wichita (and, also, Sedgwick County) undertook a methodical analysis of the inventory of city-owned buildings that prohibited concealed-carry on their premises. Guided by recommendations of the Wichita Police Department, the Wichita City Council significantly expanded the list of local public buildings that allowed concealed-carry on their premises.

By that action, concealed weapons are now allowed at 82 park and recreation sites, 19 fire department buildings, four public works and utilities buildings and five parking garages. The city owns about 390 buildings.

The Wichita City Council requests that the Kansas Legislature acknowledge its efforts to maximize the constructive and safe administration of the concealed-carry statute and not preempt its efforts by imposing a "one size fits all" mandate.

Any new state legislation mandating concealed-carry access to public buildings should not go beyond the reasoned and responsible efforts of the Wichita City Council. As an alternative to the broad statewide application of the current proposed legislative prescription, the Legislature should instead limit that mandate to communities that have not undergone the evaluation process conducted by the Wichita City Council.

With regard to the Open Carry issue, the Wichita City Council urges the Legislature to allow local communities to craft their own ordinances governing the open carriage of weapons. The wide range of demographic differences among Kansas communities makes it imperative that local governments create the appropriate legal environment for the open carriage of weapons.