



ABOVE AND BEYOND. BY DESIGN.

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**Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee
Testimony in Support of HB 2506
by the City of Overland Park
March 13, 2018**

Honorable Chairperson Bowers and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dick Carter, and I appear before you today on behalf of The City of Overland Park. The City offers its support for HB 2506, an Act relating to the rehabilitation of abandoned property in cities. The bill revises provisions of current Kansas law and grants both cities and nonprofit organizations the ability to file a petition with the district court for an order for temporary possession of abandoned property for rehabilitation purposes and then grants the nonprofit organization the ability to thereafter file a petition for title once the rehabilitation is complete. The bill further revises the definition of “abandoned property” to include residential real estate that has been unoccupied for 15 months and which has a blighting influence on surrounding properties (with exceptions for property subject to a probate action, quiet title action or when subject to a mortgage).

This bill will create both an important tool and provide more flexibility for cities in Kansas to address unmaintained and abandoned housing that is causing a detrimental impact on surrounding properties and neighborhoods in our communities. It will allow cities in Kansas to initiate action against these abandoned properties; and, after sufficient due process to the absentee owner, engage a nonprofit organization to commence rehabilitation of the blighted structure. It is the City of Overland Park’s position that the bill will be beneficial and will supplement local governments’ ability to do basic property code enforcement on abandoned structures. The bill will accordingly help safeguard our neighborhoods and adjacent properties owners from blight. For these reasons, the City of Overland Park supports HB 2506.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.