



City of Dodge City

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To: Chairman Sean Tarwater and members of the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
From: Cherise Tieben, City Manager & Ernestor De La Rosa, Assistant City Manager/Legislative Affairs
Date: February 21, 2019
Subject: Written Testimony in Support of HB 2314

Honorable Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering my testimony on behalf of the City of Dodge City in support of House Bill 2314, which would provide cities with an effective and efficient method for dealing with the procedural challenges that communities face when dealing with abandoned and blighted properties.

The revitalization of neighborhoods is a priority for the City of Dodge City. We currently work in partnership with the Community Housing Association of Dodge City, Dodge City Community College and Dodge City Ford County Development Corporation to rehab and place unoccupied and abandoned homes in service as quality housing. Our goal is to meet the desperate shortage of housing, providing attractive and affordable housing and promote clean and safe neighborhoods.

Currently, there about 100 abandoned homes and lots in Dodge City that are in code violation, which are creating blight and depressing home values for our neighborhoods. Attached you will find pictures of a couple abandoned homes in our City (see Attachment A). As you will see, not only are abandoned homes a magnet for dangerous criminal activity, but also pose a serious safety risk and deter new families from purchasing homes in our City.

The City of Dodge City believes that House Bill 2404 will provide our City and cities across Kansas with the flexibility when dealing with abandoned housing and allow cities to seek authority to rehab abandoned properties. It is for all of the above reasons that we strongly urge you support and approve House Bill 2314 as introduced. House Bill 2314 is the result of negotiation and consensus of a multitude of interested parties, including the League of Kansas Municipalities, Kansas Association of Counties, the Cities of Topeka, Wichita, Kansas City, and other interested groups.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cherise Tieben
City Manager

Ernestor De La Rosa
Assistant City Manager/Legislative Affairs

Attachment A

Abandoned Homes in Dodge City

