

# CITY OF SHAWNEE

**CITY HALL**  
11110 JOHNSON DRIVE  
SHAWNEE, KS 66203  
(913) 631-2500  
FAX (913) 631-7351

**CIVIC CENTRE**  
13817 JOHNSON DRIVE  
SHAWNEE, KS 66216  
(913) 631-5200  
FAX (913) 631-4651

**FIRE**  
6501 QUIVIRA ROAD  
SHAWNEE, KS 66216  
(913) 631-1080  
FAX (913) 631-1628

**POLICE**  
5850 RENNER ROAD  
SHAWNEE, KS 66217  
(913) 631-2155  
FAX (913) 631-6389

**MUNICIPAL COURT**  
5860 RENNER ROAD  
SHAWNEE, KS 66217  
(913) 742-6003  
FAX (913) 962-0983

## SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING ON SB 10

### Written Opposition to SB 10 on behalf of the City of Shawnee

By Katie Killen, Assistant to the City Manager

March 13, 2013

Honorable Chair and members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee:

The City of Shawnee Governing Body adopted a 2013 State Legislative Program. Some of the positions that were adopted in the program include:

1. Opposition to unfunded mandates.
2. Maintaining Home rule—including the ability to charge fees for service.

SB 10 as written is both an unfunded mandate in the since we cannot charge staff time to the requester and goes against Home Rule in allowing the City to charge a fee for a service.

The City of Shawnee values transparency and has been recognized by the Sunshine Review, a national non-profit, with an A+ grade for enhancing our website and increasing access to information, and proactively championing government openness. At the same time, some of the requests we get would require considerable staff time to complete and do not always come directly from persons within our community.

Charging the requestor and giving them an upfront estimate gives the requestor a sense of how intensive their request will be to the City. We do not currently have the capacity to have staff solely dedicated to responding to open records request, so when staff involved in the request are working on responding, other things are not getting done or not getting done as quickly for the rest our community.

The City of Shawnee is not opposed to having state requirements on open records and supports the intent of having open government. The City does object to not being able to charge fees for staff time to provide such information. Requiring this service to be provided without a fee creates an unfunded mandate and goes against Home Rule. For these reasons, the City of Shawnee strongly urges the committee to not pass SB 10 out of committee. Thank you for your consideration.

