



Dale Goter
Government Relations Manager

TESTIMONY

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

**Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
Hearing on SB186 Concealed Carry/Public Buildings
Thursday, March 14, 2013
Dale Goter, Government Relations Manager, City of Wichita**

Chairman Ostmeyer 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 have overstepped the state's role regarding this local safety issue.

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.

In its 2013 state legislative agenda, 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.

By allowing local "safety plans" to evaluate local buildings for concealed-carry, SB186 recognizes the conscientious effort undertaken by the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County to maximize the benefits of concealed-carry. To that end, SB186 restores a reasonable degree of local control to the process and is a vast improvement over other legislative efforts that impose a state-wide prescription that overrides all local authority.

The City of Wichita stands in support of SB186 and its recognition of local authority to solve local problems.