



Testimony on SB 421 – City Hall Fast Pass

Mayor Jeff Longwell

The municipal government of Wichita, Kansas makes a fervent and consistent effort to facilitate relationships to the benefit of our city. We strive to make our government accessible and open in service to the people of Wichita.

Every day, hundreds of individuals pass through the door of City Hall. These individuals are required to go through a security checkpoint wherein they must pass through a metal detector, empty their pockets, remove jackets and belts. They must pass any packages, purses or bags through an X-ray, and then put their materials and dress back together prior to continuing their business at City Hall.

On heavy traffic days, this process can take upward of 15 minutes or more. If individuals go to lunch and return, they must repeat this process. For individuals who do business with City Hall just two times a week, this can be at least an hour out of their day.

We believe that in our efforts to streamline business efforts with the city of Wichita, we should remove these impractical barriers for individuals who regularly conduct business with the city.

If individuals can more easily pass through airport security lines with a background check, we believe they should be able to do the same at City Hall.

Of course, the security and safety of citizens and employees at City Hall is of the utmost importance, and we believe that taking precautions to do security checks for those individuals applying for a fast pass will balance safety and access.

Our country was founded upon principles of citizen participation in government, and it is in this spirit that we wish to continue our efforts to make the municipal government of Wichita one of openness, transparency and accessibility. Thank you for your consideration.

Office of the Mayor

City Hall • 1st Floor • 455 N. Main • Wichita, Kansas 67202-1698

T 316.268.4331 • **F** 316.858-7743