



**House Committee on Judiciary
Hearing on HB 2134
Hearing Date – Monday, February 3, 2025**

**Written Testimony regarding HB 2134 on behalf of the City of Manhattan
By Danielle Dulin, City Manager**

Good morning, Chair Humphries, Vice Chair Williams, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary.

The City of Manhattan (City) is neutral regarding HB 2134. As written, this bill only applies to the executive branch of the state government to reduce costs associated with fulfilling public records requests under the Kansas Open Records Act.

- The City is neutral on this matter as it does not affect Manhattan as written, but the City would strongly oppose it if this legislation were made applicable to municipalities.
- The City's professional staff work diligently with members of the public to ensure they fulfill their records request. In 2024, Manhattan's City Clerk's Office fulfilled 245 open record requests and spent 198 hours satisfying these requests. The City doesn't charge for searches less than 30 minutes and if a request exceeds that limit, outside of Legal and IT staff, the rate charged is that of the minimum hourly rate for the employee's position, per the currently adopted salary ordinance. Both factors equate to discounted staff time compared to the actual cost.
- Eliminating a municipalities' ability to recoup costs to review or search for records would be a failure to acknowledge the complexities of these requests and the valuable staff time taken away from other job duties and place the financial burden on the taxpayers.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.