



**Unified Government of
Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas**

701 North Seventh Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
(913) 573-5311 • info@wycokck.org

IN-PERSON TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 290

Mayor Tyrone Garner

On behalf of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 17, 2025

Good Afternoon Chairman Billinger and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tyrone Garner and I am Mayor of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas. The UG is submitting testimony today as a proponent of Senate Bill 290. We appreciate your committee having a hearing on this matter and giving it your consideration.

SB290 would appropriate \$600,000 from the state general fund for fiscal year 2026 for work on the Quindaro Ruins archaeological park project in Wyandotte County. The funding is designated for the State Historical Society to issue a scope statement, plan the necessary work, and request proposals for a master plan for the park. The bill also mandates that at least \$250,000 of the appropriated funds be allocated for these initial planning activities with the remaining funds intended for implementation of the first phase of renovations based on the completed master plan.

The story of the Quindaro Ruins is a treasure of our community. One of my top priorities as Mayor is to make sure that we keep telling the story through the development of a Smithsonian style museum. This is what the Unified Government had in mind when we turned over the Quindaro Ruins artifacts to the state's historic preservation office (SHPO) for safekeeping. As we move towards achieving the federal landmark and national park status for Quindaro Ruins we desperately need a master plan for the development in order to secure the necessary funding. Passage of this bill will greatly aid us in this endeavor.

Last month, the House passed HB2029, renaming a portion of K-5 in Wyandotte County to memorialize the late Representative Marvin Robinson. In my testimony during the hearing on that bill, I wrote about the impact Marvin had on Wyandotte County and specifically the attention he brought to the Quindaro Ruins, ensuring this historically significant site was not lost. As the state memorializes him through HB2029, we ask that you help to continue Marvin's efforts to save and promote the Quindaro Ruins archaeological park project as a vital piece of Kansas and American history.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.