

# EROSION OF DEMOCRACY IN FAIRWAY KANSAS



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GERALD LONG  
5500 MISSION RD.  
FAIRWAY, KS 66205



## Kansas Open Records Act

### *The KS Open Records Act allows...*

- Inspection of documents on the premises during normal business hours.
- Inspection has not been allowed by the City of Fairway during this Administration.

### *The way to prevent access to information is to charge for it.*

- The KORA **does not require** that fees be charged for information.
- During this administration, taxpayers have been charged the **maximum allowable fees in every category**, thus discouraging disclosure of documents.
- **Attorney fees, \$225.00/hr**, are charged just to look over requests for information, even if the documents requested are not privileged or closed.
- Charging **over \$6,000** for a copy of legal bills paid by a small city in Kansas? This is obviously prohibitive.

### *A Log is Instituted to Track Those Who Make Requests*

- The names of citizens who request documents are readily known. The documents they request remain secret because the costs to acquire them are prohibitive.

***A Government that keeps Secrets, has Secrets to keep...***

***“St. Clair, however, feels that the city government is heading in the right direction.” KC Star Feb. 24, 2009***



## Our First Amendment Public Meeting Restrictions

- Before this Administration, taxpayers interacted with elected officials during council meetings for **questions, comments and two-way dialogue.**
- The current Mayor instituted a restrictive Public Comment Time, limiting participation to 4 min, **even for a disabled person** – to the shock and dismay of those in attendance.
- Time limits are **otherwise selectively enforced.**

## Visual Aids Prohibited

- Visual aids deliver more information within the 4 min time limit.
- After taxpayers delivered compelling visual presentations, Mayor unveiled a policy **outlawing** use of **PowerPoint presentations, documents, videos, photos, handouts** and all visual aids.

## No Questions Allowed

- **No policy existed** to prohibit asking questions on the Public Record.
- Despite objections & Council motion, the Mayor continued to enforce **No Q & A on the Record**, during his term of office.
- This prohibition continued until **two months before the Primary Election.**

## The Right to Vote

### During this Administration you did Not Vote on:

• New Stormwater Tax	\$120,000/yr.
• City Hall/Police Station	\$1,600,000
• Street Mill & Overlay	\$2,900,000
• Bridge & Storm Drainage	\$4,500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,120,000</b>

***The Mayor said a vote is not required by the laws of KS. Thus he embraced the lowest possible standard of Democracy.***

***Prior Mayors trusted the Voters and put even small things to a vote.***

What Fairway voted on in the Past...		
Fairway	City Hall	\$125,000
	Landscaping	1 mill (under \$60,000)
	Park & Pool	\$890,000

*Source: Johnson County Election Office*

## Checks and Balances & Other Safeguards

Mayor appoints **Chief of Police** as **Public Information Officer** for the city hall issue, politicizing the Office.

**Legal Notices** no longer published in the *KC Star* or *Jo Co Sun*. This Administration uses *The Legal Record*.  
Subscription to *The Legal Record*... **\$245.00**

### ..about Gerald Long

I am a 30+ year resident of Fairway, KS and am a practicing attorney, since 1969.

**After witnessing the abuses of Democracy in the current Administration I felt compelled to share these concerns with you, as fellow citizens.**

*I don't know why Democracy should suffer in a village of one square mile. Whatever goals this Administration has, it is not proper to limit the freedoms afforded by our Democracy to accomplish those goals.*

*Gerald Long*

For further information visit:

**[abetterfairway.com](http://abetterfairway.com)**