



RACIAL PROFILING ADVISORY BOARD OF WICHITA



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In Support of HB2434 & Its Amendment Prepared by Sheila Officer

"A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, AND FOR THE PEOPLE"

My name is Sheila Officer and I am the Chair of the Racial Profiling Citizens Advisory Board of Wichita

It is in that capacity that I stand before you and serve as an instrumental voice for those who could not come to speak.

Kansas License For-Pay DL System

- 200,000 plus families in Kansas live in economic hardship due to suspended/revoked DL.
- 51,000 plus families in Wichita alone are in economic hardship due to suspended/revoked DL.
- Data from Traffic Citations in Wichita- disproportionately affects poor communities/communities of color.
- Data from Fines & Fees Justice Center/KDMV/ WPD Traffic Citations and additional studies conducted.
- Statistics suggest that it is a "Profit Over Poverty" revenue-generating system. The Data suggest that because most of the tickets issued to minority drivers were for non-moving violations, and that minorities received citations 2Xs more than any other driver; these generating citations are not about being an UNSAFE Driver, but rather being an UNFORTUNATE driver.
- This board speaks for the 200,000 drivers in Kansas regardless of race whose DL has been suspended or revoked.
- ✓ **The Kansas License-For-Pay DL system** is a repressive system that holds hostage one's ability to maintain and sustain their livelihood and family.

- ✓ **The Kansas License For- Pay DL system** is not about being an unsafe driver, BUT more about being an unfortunate driver; because Kansas is one of 19 states that make it mandatory to suspend and or revoke DL for the inability to pay, IN ADDITION, DL is suspended and or revoked for an **INDEFINITE** period of time or until the balance is satisfied. Leaving some 200,000 Kansas drivers serving a *"life sentence."*
- ✓ **The Kansas License-For-Pay System** is not about being an unsafe driver, but an unfortunate driver in that the penalty is far greater than the crime.
- ✓ **The Kansas License-For-Pay system** is not about being an unsafe driver, BUT an unfortunate driver in that it perpetuates a cycle of fines, fees, DWS and Incarceration. After your 3rd DWS citation, Kansas Statutes require 90 days of jail time and \$1,500 fine. Again, perpetuating a cycle of debt and poverty.
- ✓ **The Kansas License-For-Pay system** is not about an unsafe driver, **BUT** an unfortunate driver- State using suspensions/revocations not as a means of achieving **road safety**, but as a tool to force compliance and collect fines, fees and restitution.
- ✓ **The Kansas License-For-Pay system** not about an unsafe driver, **BUT** an unfortunate driver-IN reality people without a license have a hard time obtaining work and maintaining work. In all practicality, if you have no work, how can you pay your debts? We are not saying **NO ACCOUNTABILITY**; Studies show that people don't mind paying fines for traffic citations. But when the choice is paying the fine, or buying food and keeping shelter for your family, common-sense rules the later.
- This board makes a plea to this Legislative body simply pointing out the system's flaws and bringing attention to the city, and state government that Administrative and Legislative reform is **WARRANTED and MUCH Needed. We ask that you pass HB2434 and its Amendments** as part of that reform.
- **The People, some 200,000 families in KANSAS** are asking for help. It is not a case of **not wanting** to pay, **but more** of the **inability** to pay. Please, **Stop the harm; Stop the cycle; Stop the HURT. Give the HELP! Passing HB 2434 and the Amendments will give that necessary HELP.**