



KMBC-TV EDITORIAL

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KANSAS MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS ARE ASKING JOHNSON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY STEVE HOWE TO RE-VISIT A COMPLAINT THAT THE COUNTY'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES VIOLATED THE STATE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

FORMER TRUSTEE BENJAMIN HODGE ASKED FOR THE REVIEW AFTER TRUSTEES WENT INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR THE STATED PURPOSE OF EVALUATING THE PERFORMANCE OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT TERRY CALAWAY, SOMETHING THAT IS PERMITTED UNDER THE LAW. DURING THE CLOSED SESSION, CALAWAY PRODUCED A LIST OF 64 POSSIBLE BUDGET CUTS, THEN ASKED TRUSTEES NOT TO SHARE THE LIST.

INCREDIBLY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY HOWE RULED THAT THIS DID NOT VIOLATE KANSAS LAW. LIKE OTHER TAX-SUPPORTED INSTITUTIONS, THE JOHNSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE HAS AN OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE TO THE TAXPAYERS WHO PAY ITS BILLS. IT IS THE LAW, AND THE WAY IT EARNS PUBLIC TRUST AND SUPPORT.

PRESIDENT CALAWAY AND THE TRUSTEES SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF THEIR BLATANT AND CLUMSY ATTEMPT TO CIRCUMVENT STATE LAW.

Delivered by:
Wayne Godsey
President & General Manager

Editorials run: Saturday morning after First News Weekend Edition (8:56 am)
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