

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-003

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE
OSAWATOMIE STATE HOSPITAL**

WHEREAS, the Osawatomi State Hospital is operated under the direction of the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services and, as such, is one of the two remaining state hospitals within the State of Kansas that provide diagnosis and treatment for Kansans with significant mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, funding for this critical facility is a component of the overall budget approved by members of the Kansas Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Osawatomi State Hospital has played and continues to play a critical role in the State's mental health system for more than 160 years; and

WHEREAS, proper diagnosis and treatment of the hospital's patients is a determining factor in the success rates for said patients; and

WHEREAS, the safety of both employees and patients of the hospital are a high priority item for the hospital and the Kansans who received treatment therein, and

WHEREAS, the reduction in beds at the hospital has significantly reduced in-hospital treatment options for those Kansans within the hospital's catchment area and, as a result, has created additional stress not only on medical facilities, detention centers, community mental health facilities, and other social service providers within the eastern half of Kansas but also on the employees of such facilities as well as Kansans in need of mental health services; and

WHEREAS, working conditions and below market pay scales at the hospital have had a negative effect on the hospital's employees and have been contributing factors in the hospital's ability to fill job vacancies with qualified applicants; and

WHEREAS, local and county officials have limited ability to directly resolve Osawatomi State Hospital's ongoing issues; and

NOW, THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Governing Body of the City of Paola recognizes the importance of Osawatomi State Hospital as both a large employer within the county and as a major provider of critical mental health services for some of the most vulnerable Kansas residents. As a result, the Governing Body of the City of Paola respectfully requests that all members of the Kansas Legislature take action to fully support the Hospital's vital operations and to resolve the Hospital's ongoing issues in a way that restores Federal funding as well as insures that both patients and employees have a safe and nurturing environment to work and to receive treatment.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 12th day of January, 2016.

Artie Stuteville, Mayor

ATTEST:

Daniel G. Droste, City Clerk