



OFFICES OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY

JOHN C. DANFORTH
ATTORNEY GENERAL

December 9, 1974

OPINION LETTER NO. 373

Honorable John A. Sharp
Representative, District 38
% House Post Office
State Capitol Building
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Representative Sharp:

This letter is in response to your question asking:

"Is Section 26.17 of the Kansas City Code which requires convicted felons to register with the Kansas City chief of police within 24 hours after arriving in the city constitutional?"

"Is such an ordinance prohibited by any present state law?"

In Lambert v. California, 355 U.S. 225, 2 L.Ed.2d 228, 78 S.Ct. 240 (1957), the United States Supreme Court held a registration ordinance unconstitutional as a violation of due process as applied to the plaintiff therein because the city failed to prove that the felon had knowledge of the registration requirement or that there was any probability of such knowledge.

The ordinance in question provides that the person who "knowingly" violates the registration requirement is guilty of a misdemeanor and, therefore, does not suffer the constitutional infirmity found to exist in the Lambert case.

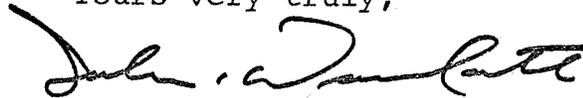
We are of the view that such an ordinance is constitutional.

We find no state law prohibiting such an ordinance.

Honorable John A. Sharp

We enclose a copy of the opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States in the Lambert case.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John C. Danforth".

JOHN C. DANFORTH
Attorney General

Enclosure