

# Kenton Brothers Helps Famous Entertainment District Keep Weapons Out, Patrons Safe

In 1831, John McCoy built a two-story log cabin in the area that became Westport, Kansas City's original entertainment district. The California, the Santa Fe, and the Oregon Pioneer Trails passed through Westport on Westport Road. Westport, then a town, flourished as pioneers stopped at the easternmost outfitting and provisioning point before continuing west.

## The Problem

Since the mid-1830s, Westport has been a dining, drinking and entertainment hot spot. An increase in weekend gun violence led to out-of-the-box thinking for a solution. The KC city council relinquished ownership of sidewalks along Westport's main entrance points, allowing for the Westport Regional Business League (WRBL) to begin using metal detectors after 11:00 p.m. on weekends.

With all local businesses in the area in support of using metal detectors, the WRBL moved forward with another historical Kansas City icon, Kenton Brothers, to create a solution that:

- Was easy to use, transport and store
- Allows patrons to feel safe
- Is not viewed as a barrier to enter the area

## Kenton Solution

Kenton Brothers has been in Kansas City since the 1800s, too, securing people, property and possessions. For the WRBL, we created a self-contained, packaged system for the four main entrances along Westport's corridor.

The system includes:

- **Garrett metal detectors to keep guns out. Garrett is the gold standard in metal detection technology and is used in sports and entertainment venues and commercial buildings around the world**
- **Casters on which the stand-alone metal detectors sit for easy transport between entry points and storage**
- **Battery packs for powering the units**
- **A handheld wand unit**

*In addition to the metal detectors at four entrance points, access to the inner district from buildings and businesses that lead into the area will be controlled or restricted.*



Anywhere crowds gather, using metal detection is an appropriate way to protect patrons. This is part of the world we live in today. There are and will continue to be entertainment districts that add metal detection. It's the prudent thing to do.

**Kim Kimbrough,**  
Executive Director  
Westport Regional Business League

