

APPROVED MINUTES
ETHICS COMMISSION OF THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT
Courtroom No. 18, 2nd Floor, Wyandotte County Courthouse
710 N. 7th Street, Kansas City, KS 66101

June 10, 2021

Regular Meeting:

Roll Call:

X Member John J. Bukaty, Jr.

X Member Linda Brown

X Member Dachia Busch

X Member Patty Orth

X Member Emily Cisneros

X Ruth Benien, Administrator

X (Present) E (Excused) U (Unexcused)

Call to Order:

Chairperson Bukaty called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. by Zoom. Commissioners Brown, Busch, Orth and Cisneros were in attendance. Administrator Benien was present.

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Old Business:

a). Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes of the May 13, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved. Commissioner Orth moved for approval with a second by Commissioner Brown. The Motion passed unanimously.

b). Monthly Administrator's Report:

Administrator Benien provided the individual monthly report for the time period from May 1, 2021 through May 31, 2021 which outlined the training provided in the month and the nature of the ethics opinions rendered and complaints received.

Continuing Ethics training presentations by video have and are being provided by the Human Resources department for the police and fire department and are also used for a section of the sheriff's department and water treatment plant due to the shifts in each department.

A UG Basic Ethics training was held by Zoom on May 26, 2021 for the sheriff's deputies by Zoom. A Basic Ethics training is scheduled by Zoom for June 30, 2021.

A request from the UG Legal Department was received to provide UG Ethics training for the Advisory Council on Aging. The same was coordinated and materials provided in advance for review. The training will be rescheduled for a later date after COVID limitations are lifted.

An email request was received on December 31, 2019 regarding provision of Basic Ethics training for the newly elected UG Commissioner. The same will be scheduled as allowable with the COVID restrictions.

In the coming year a rewrite and update are planned for the UG Ethic's training materials and video.

Four new complaints, one by hotline, two email and one by telephone were received. Five complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. Three complaints were closed for no jurisdiction and referral, three for no follow up and two with finding of no violation. One new email advisory opinion was requested in May, 2021 Eight advisory opinion requests were pending as of the end of May, 2021. One email request for advisory opinion was closed for lack of follow up. No new Request for Information was received.

New Business:

All Ethics Commissioners were again asked to continually review and make notes for additional changes or improvement to the UG Ethics Web Site. A Zoom meeting was held on May 26, 2021 between the UG Ethics Administrator and UG IT staff to upgrade and revise the UG Ethics website.

Ethics Administrator Benien will try at each meeting to cover a limited provision of the UG Ethics Code to better help the UG Ethics Commissioners understand its provisions or answer questions they may have. The topic this month dealt with continued discussion of the process for reviewing and making proposed amendments to the UG Ethics Code.

A review of the UG Ethics Code will continue with UG Ethics Code Sec. 2-258 through Sec. 2-259 and Sec. 2-260 through Sec. 2-261 to be reviewed and notes made for ultimate changes or action.

The term of one UG Ethics Commissioner will be expiring with the July, 2021 meeting. All UG Ethics Commissioners were asked to provide information and encourage applicants for the open position. The application deadline is June 23, 2021.

The next monthly meeting in July, 2021 will be by Zoom.

Executive Session:

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Brown

Seconded by Commissioner Cisneros

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Next Meeting is July 8, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. by Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Ruth M. Benien
Ruth M. Benien
UG Ethics Administrator