

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

March 11, 2021

Regular Meeting:

Roll Call:

X Member John J. Bukaty, Jr.

X Member Linda Brown

E 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 4:09 p.m. by Zoom. Commissioners Brown, Orth and Cisneros were in attendance. Commissioner Busch was absent but excused. Administrator Benien was present.

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Old Business:

a). Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes of the November 12, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved. Commissioner Brown moved for approval with a second by Commissioner Cisneros. The Motion passed unanimously.

b). Monthly Administrator's Report:

Administrator Benien provided the individual monthly report for the time period from November 1, 2020 through March 1, 2021 which outlined the training provided in those months 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.

The Basic Ethics training scheduled for the Advisory Commission on Human Relations & Disability on either November 2, 2020 or December 7, 2020 was cancelled. A Zoom Basic Ethics training, originally scheduled for Memorial Hall, was held by Zoom on December 15, 2020. A Basic Ethics training was held by Zoom on February 2, 2021. A UG police Basic Ethics training was held at the Police Academy on January 14, 2021. A fire Basic Ethics training was held on January 28, 2021 at George Myne Center. A UG Basic Ethics training is scheduled by Zoom for March 24, 2021.

A request from the UG Legal Department was received to provide UG Ethics training for the Advisory Council on Aging. The same has been coordinated and issues with respect to the provision of the training and materials addressed. It was to be held January 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at Eisenhower Community Center but was cancelled due to weather. The same will be rescheduled at a later time when actual meetings resume.

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 after the January 13, 2020 swearing in when possible with the Covid restrictions.

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

Three new complaints, one by email and two by hotline were received in February, 2021. Ten complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. Two complaints were closed, one for lack of follow-up or information and one for no jurisdiction and referral. One new email advisory opinion was requested in February, 2021. No new advisory opinions were provided. Four advisory opinion requests were pending as of March 1, 2021. Two are ongoing and outstanding one with respect to review of the UG Ethics website.

No new Requests for Information were 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.

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 to be reviewed and notes made for ultimate changes or action.

Determination will be made at a later date closer to the next meeting as to whether to have the same by Zoom or in person.

Executive Session:

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Orth

Seconded by Commissioner Cisneros

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Next Meeting is April 8, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. with location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

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