

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

May 13, 2021

Regular Meeting:

Roll Call:

X Member John J. Bukaty, Jr.

X Member Linda Brown

E Member Dachia Busch

X Member Patty Orth

E Member Emily Cisneros

X Ruth Benien, Administrator

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

Call to Order:

Chairperson Bukaty called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. by Zoom. Commissioners Orth and Brown were in attendance. Commissioners Cisneros and Busch were 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 April 8, 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 April 1, 2021 through April 30, 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 March 24, 2021. A UG Basic Ethics training is scheduled for May 26, 2021 for the sheriff's deputies by Zoom.

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.

Four new complaints, four by hotline, one email and one by email were received. Ten complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. Eight complaints were closed for no jurisdiction and referral. Four new email advisory opinions were requested in May, 2021 Eight advisory opinion requests were pending as of the end of May, 2021. Four advisory opinions were provided or referred. One oral opinion was provided and closed. 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.

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.

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 Brown

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Next Meeting is June 10, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. with location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

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