

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

**November 12, 2020**

**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 4:08 p.m. in the Wyandotte County Law Library Conference Room. 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 October 8, 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 monthly report for the time period from October 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020 which outlined the training provided in that 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 Zoom Basic Ethics training was held for the Planning and Zoning on August 31, 2020. A Zoom Basic Ethics training was held on September 22, 2020. 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, will be held from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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, two email and one hotline, were received in October, 2020. Eight complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. Four complaints were closed, two for lack of follow-up or information, one for no jurisdiction and one resolved with finding of violation but correction of the same. No new email advisory opinions were requested in October, 2020. No new advisory opinions were provided. Five advisory opinion requests were pending as of October 31, 2020. 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 continued and UG Ethics Code Sec. 2-254 through Sec. 2-257 were reviewed and notes made for ultimate changes or action. The next sections to be reviewed are Sec. 2-258 – Sec. 2-259.

**Executive Session:**

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Brown

Seconded by Commissioner Orth

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Next Meeting is December 10, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. at the Wyandotte County Courthouse Law Library.

Respectfully Submitted,

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