

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

October 8, 2020

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:

Acting Chairperson Bukaty called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. in the Wyandotte County Law Library Conference Room. 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 September 17, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved. Commissioner Brown moved for approval with a second by Commissioner Orth. The Motion passed unanimously.

b). Monthly Administrator's Report:

Administrator Benien provided the monthly report for the time period from September 1, 2020 through September 30, 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 Basic Ethics training was held on February 5, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Health Department. A Basic Ethics training was held March 3, 2020 at Memorial Hall (a new venue). 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. A Basic Ethics training is being scheduled for the Advisory Commission on Human Relations & Disability on either November 2, 2020 or December 7, 2020.

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 meeting 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, two hotline and two email were received in September, 2020. Eleven complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. One new email advisory opinions was requested in September, 2020. No new advisory opinions were provided. Four advisory opinion requests were pending as of September 17, 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:

Report was made that the UG Ethics Website has been updated to include all current information.

All Ethics Commissioners were again asked to continually review and make notes for additional changes or improvement to the UG Ethics Web Site for the next meeting.

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, changes in the monthly report and suggestions for obtaining information on policies and procedures from various UG entities including police, fire and sheriff's departments.

A review of the UG Ethics Code was commenced and UG Ethics Code Sec. 2-251 through Sec. 2-253 were reviewed and notes made for ultimate changes or action. The next sections to be reviewed are Sec. 2-254 – Sec. 2-257.

Executive Session:

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Orth

Seconded by Commissioner Brown

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Next Meeting is November 12, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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