

**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**

**April 8, 2021**

**Regular Meeting:**

**Roll Call:**

X Member John J. Bukaty, Jr.

E 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 4:05 p.m. by Zoom. Commissioners Orth and Cisneros were in attendance. Commissioners Brown 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 March 11, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved. Commissioner Orth 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 March 1, 2021 through March 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 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 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.

Six new complaints, three by email, one by email and two written were received in March 2021. Thirteen complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. Three complaints were closed for no jurisdiction and referral. Three new email advisory opinions were requested in March 2021. No new advisory opinions were provided. Eight advisory opinion requests were pending as of April 1, 2021. Two are ongoing and outstanding one with respect to review of the UG Ethics website. One Request for Information was received for participation in an interview regarding the Ethics Code and was provided.

### **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 Bukaty

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Next Meeting is May 13, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. with location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

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