

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

April 14, 2022

Regular Meeting:

Roll Call:

- X Member Patty Orth
- X Member Emily Cisneros
- X Member Ian Tomasic
- X Member Kimberley Partridge
- X Member Ricky Bragg
- X Ruth Benien, Administrator

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

Call to Order:

Chairperson Orth called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Commissioners Cisneros, Tomasic, Partridge and Bragg 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 March 10, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved. Commissioner Cisneros moved for approval with a second by Commissioner Partridge. The Motion passed unanimously.

b). Monthly Administrator's Report:

Administrator Benien provided the individual monthly report for the time period from March 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022 which outlined the training provided in the month and scheduled 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 Ethics Basic training was held by Zoom on September 22, 2021. One UG Ethics Commissioner participated. Any new Ethics Commissioners who were unavailable to attend this training will be trained separately or attend a later basic session. A Basic Ethics training for the police and fire department was held January 13, 2022 in person at the HR training room. A Basic Ethics training was held March 24, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. in person at Memorial Hall. A special training session will be scheduled for the newly elected Mayor and UG Commissioners in the near future and any remaining UG Ethics Commissioners still needing training. Ethics training will also be scheduled for the newly created citizen's committees created by the Mayor. A Basic Training session for the UG Advisory Commission on Human Relations and Disability Issues is scheduled in person at the HR department and by Zoom for May 2, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. A UG Continuing Ethics training is scheduled in person for the fire department at HR on May 5, 2022 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. A Basic Ethics training is scheduled for the Police Academy, in person, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m on May 19, 2022.

A request from the UG Legal Department was received to provide UG Ethics training for the Advisory Council on Aging. The same was coordinated and materials provided in advance for review. The training will be rescheduled for a later date after COVID limitations are lifted.

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

Nine new complaints were received, four by hotline, one by Messenger and four by email. Nine complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. Seven complaints were closed, one for inability to contact, five for no jurisdiction and referral, one for no additional information provided. One new advisory opinion request was received, by email. One advisory opinion is currently pending. Four advisory opinions were provided. One, with to be covered by training, one verbal and one email with allowed within restrictions provided or to address if issues arise and one with passage of a requested amendment to the UG Ethics Code.

c). Requests for Information:

No new Request for Information was received. The pending request was closed with the provision of the information requested.

New Business:

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 and in upcoming months will deal with the UG Ethics Code provisions being considered for review and/or amendment.

The review of the UG Ethics Code continued and was concluded with UG Ethics Code Sec. 2-271 through Sec. 2-272 reviewed and notes made for ultimate changes or action. A copy of the 2014 proposed amendments has been provided to the new UG Ethics Commissioners. All new commissioners have been provided with a hard copy of the current UG Ethics Code. The Ethics Administrator will obtain a copy of the UG Human Resources social media policies. Thanks to Commissioners Tomasic and Cisneros all Commissioners have been provided with a copy of the UG Ethics Code that includes red-lined and blue lined 2014 proposed changes and new changes. Sections to be reviewed and finalized at the next meeting are Sec. 2-253 – Sec. 2-257. Finalization of Sec. 2-251 and Sec. 2-252 were temporarily put on hold for a request by Commissioner Bragg to include language of the global purpose of ethics, etc.

The next monthly meeting will be on May 12, 2022, in person, at the Wyandotte County Courthouse in the Wyandotte County Law Library conference room. Masks required for courthouse entry. Administrator Benien advised there was a chance she might ask for the meeting to be moved to the first week or the May 11, 2022 due to a pending potential trip out of state that would not be possible to conduct by Zoom. She will advise of the same.

Executive Session:

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Cisneros

Seconded by Commissioner Tomasic

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Next Meeting is May 12, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in person.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Ruth M. Benien

Ruth M. Benien, UG Ethics Administrator