

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

August 8, 2019

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:

Newly appointed Chairperson Bukaty called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. 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 July 11, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved. Commissioner Brown moved for approval with a second by Commissioner Busch. The Motion passed unanimously.

b). Monthly Administrator's Report:

Administrator Benien provided the monthly report for the time period from July 1, 2019 through July 31, 2019 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. The UG Continuing Ethics scheduled for June 12, 2019 was cancelled due to the departure of the Human Resources training person. A UG Basic Ethics training and Basic training for the Fire Academy was held at the Health Department on June 20, 2019.

Six new email complaints were received. Two new hotline complaints were received. One in person complaint was received. Eight complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. Three complaints were closed with provision of the political memorandum. Eleven complaints were closed with conversion of the complaints to a request for advisory opinion. One complaint was closed with not action needed. One complaint was closed with no jurisdiction. One complaint was closed with a memo being sent. Three new email advisory opinions were requested. One voice mail request for provision was made. One written advisory opinions was provided. Nine advisory opinion requests were pending as of July 31, 2019.

New Business:

Prior to calling the meeting to order the two new Ethics Commissioners, Patty Orth and Emily Cisneros were sworn into Office by the Honorable Jenny Meyers, Wyandotte County District Court Judge. Photographs were taken of the swearing in and for publication on the UG Ethics Website.

All Ethics Commissioners were again asked to review and make notes for 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 discussion of advisory boards. This month's topic was a general explanation of the policies and procedures of the Commission for the new commissioners.

Executive Session:

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Brown

Seconded by Commissioner Orth

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Next Meeting is September 12, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Ruth M. Benien

Ruth M. Benien

UG Ethics Administrator