

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 12, 2021

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:

Newly appointed Chairperson Orth called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. in the Division 18 Courthouse Courtroom. Commissioners Cisneros, Tomasic, Partridge and Bragg were in attendance. Administrator Benien was present.

Public Comment: Three members of the public were present to witness the swearing in of Commissioner Partridge and two members were present to witness Commissioner Bragg's.. Tom Wiss, Legislative Auditor appeared on behalf of the UG Ethics Commission Ad Hoc Panel that appointed the new UG Commissioners to welcome them. Wyandotte County District Court Judge Courtney Mikesic was present to swear in the newly appointed UG Ethics Commissioners.

Old Business:

a). Swearing in of New UG Ethics Commissioners: The first order of business old and new was the swearing in of the new UG Ethics Commissioners, Ian Tomasic,

Kimberley Partridge and Ricky Bragg, by the Honorable Courtney Mickesic. Thereafter official photographs and personal photographs were taken.

b). Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes of the July 8, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved. Commissioner Cisneros moved for approval with a second by Commissioner Bragg. The Motion passed unanimously.

c). Monthly Administrator's Report:

Administrator Benien provided the individual monthly report for the time period from July 1, 2021 through July 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 UG Basic Ethics training was held by Zoom on May 26, 2021 for the sheriff's deputies by Zoom. A Basic Ethics training was held by Zoom on June 30, 2021. An in person Basic Ethics training was held on July 15, 2021 at the Police Academy. A UG Ethics Continuing Education training is scheduled by Zoom on August 26, 2021. A UG Ethics Continuing Education training is scheduled by Zoom on September 15, 2021. A UG Ethics Basic training is scheduled in-person at Memorial Hall for September 22, 2021.

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.

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 as allowable with the COVID restrictions.

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

Seven new complaints, four by hotline and three by email were received. Six complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. Six complaints were closed for no jurisdiction and referred. Two new advisory opinion requests were received by email. Seven advisory opinion requests were pending as of the end of July, 2021. Two advisory opinions were provided.

Requests for Information:

No new Request for Information was 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. A Zoom meeting was held on May 26, 2021 between the UG Ethics Administrator and UG IT staff to upgrade and revise the UG Ethics website. Additions will be made to the website to include photographs and biographical information for the new UG Ethics Commissioners.

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 the background and layout of the UG Ethics Code and the various materials for the benefit of the new commissioners.

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 and Sec. 264 through Sec. 265 to be reviewed and notes made for ultimate changes or action. It was agreed, without a vote, to go forward with the process from where it currently is. A copy of the 2014 proposed amendments will be provided to the new UG Ethics Commissioners before the next meeting. All new commissioners were provided with a hard copy of the current UG Ethics Code.

Arrangements will be made for the new UG Ethics Commissioners to obtain entrance badges.

The next monthly meeting on September 9, 2021 will be in person.

Executive Session:

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Cisneros

Seconded by Commissioner Tomasic

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Next Meeting is September 9, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in person.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Ruth M. Benien_____

Ruth M. Benien

UG Ethics Administrator