

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

February 14, 2019

Regular Meeting:

Roll Call:

- X Member Jerry Fiscus
- X Member David Duckers
- X Member John J. Bukaty, Jr.
- X Member Linda Brown
- X Member Dachia Busch
- X Ruth Benien, Administrator

X (Present) E (Excused)

U (Unexcused)

Call to Order:

Chairperson Fiscus called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Commissioners Duckers, Brown, Busch and Bukaty were in attendance. Administrator Benien was present.

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Old Business:

a). Approval of Minutes:

The proposed Minutes of the January 10, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved. Commissioner Brown moved for approval with a second by Commissioner Duckers. The Motion passed unanimously.

b). Monthly Administrator's Report:

Administrator Benien provided the monthly report for the time period from January 1, 2019 through January 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. Basic Ethics training was held on December 13, 2018 at the HR Department training room. Continuing Ethics training was held at the HR Department on December 11, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. First quarter Continuing Ethics was held on February 13, 2019 from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Health Department and is scheduled for March 25, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Human Resources. Police Academy training was held January 17, 2019 from 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Policy Academy. Basic UG ethics training is scheduled for March 13, 2019 from 1;00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

One new hotline complaint was received on January 8, 2019 regarding promotion and possible violation of nepotism policy. One new email complaint was received on January 23, 2019 and a subsequent hotline complaint regarding a traffic issue. One complaint was resolved with no violation found. One complaint was resolved by no jurisdiction and referral. Four complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. Ten advisory opinion requests were pending as of January 31, 2019. Two hotline and three new email requests for advisory opinion or input were received. One request for advisory opinion was provided and one closed due to lack of additional request. One advisory opinion was provided and closed.

New Business:

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.

A question was raised as to the terms of office for two Ethics Commissioners and the date of their expiration. Administrator Benien reported back on the same and advised the terms of two commissioners will be expiring at the end of July, 2019. The selection process for new commissioners will begin in May, 2019.

Executive Session:

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Duckers

Seconded by Commissioner Brown and Bukaty

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Next Meeting is March 14, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Ruth M. Benien

Ruth M. Benien

UG Ethics Administrator