

**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 10, 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 4:02 p.m. in the Law Library Conference Room of the Wyandotte Courthouse. Commissioners Tomasic, Cisneros, Bragg and Partridge 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 January 13, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved as corrected. Commissioner Cisneros moved for approval with a second by Commissioner Bragg. The Motion passed unanimously.

b). Monthly Administrator's Report:

Administrator Benien provided the individual monthly report for the time period from January 1, 2022 through January 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 UG Basic Ethics training was held on November 18, 2021 for the Police Academy in person. A UG Basic Ethics training was held on December 7, 2021 by Zoom at 1:00 p.m. for the Sheriff's Department. A regular UG Basic Ethics training session was held by Zoom on December 15, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. A Basic Ethics training for the police and fire department was held January 13, 2022 in person at the HR training room.

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.

Provision of Basic Ethics training for the newly elected Mayor and UG Commissioners will be scheduled after the first of the year in 2022. 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.

Four new complaints were received, two by hotline and two by email. six complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. Four complaints were closed, two for no jurisdiction and referral, one for lack of follow-up and one with no violation found. Three new advisory opinion requests were received, one by email and two by phone. Four advisory opinions are currently pending.

c). Requests for Information:

One new Request for Information was received and is pending.

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. The Ethics Administrator will check with UG Legal for assistance in preparation of the amendments eventually approved.

The next monthly meeting will be on March 10, 2022, in person, at the Wyandotte County Courthouse in the Wyandotte County Law Library conference room. Masks required for courthouse entry.

Executive Session:

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Bragg

Seconded by Commissioner Tomasic

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Next Meeting is March 10, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in person.

Respectfully Submitted,

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