

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

January 9, 2020

Regular Meeting:

Roll Call:

E 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:

Acting Chairperson Brown called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Commissioners Busch, Orth and Cisneros were in attendance. Commissioner Bukaty was absent but excused. Administrator Benien was present.

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Old Business:

a). Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes of the December 12, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved. Commissioner Orth moved for approval with a second by Commissioner Cisneros. The Motion passed unanimously.

b). Monthly Administrator's Report:

Administrator Benien provided the monthly report for the time period from December 1, 2019 through December 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.

UG Basic Ethics training was held on September 25, 2019 at Human Resources and Continuing Ethics training scheduled for November 6, 2019 at the Health Department from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. was cancelled and attendees rescheduled to attend the Continuing Ethics training scheduled for December 4, 2019 at the Human Resources training center from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. That session was held and provided. The Basic Ethics training scheduled for the Fire Department on October 24, 2019 was cancelled. A Basic Ethics training was held on December 17, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers for approximately 70 new employees. A UG Basic Fire Academy Ethics training was held on December 5, 2019 at Human Resources. Basic Ethics training at the Police Academy is scheduled for January 16, 2020 from 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Continuing Ethics training is scheduled for February 5, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at the Health Department. Basic Ethics training is scheduled for March 3, 2020 at Memorial Hall (a new venue).

A request from the UG Legal Department was received to provide UG Ethics training for the Advisory Council on Aging. The same has been coordinated and issues with respect to the provision of the training and materials addressed. It will be held January 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at Eisenhower Community Center. In the coming year a rewrite and update is planned for the UG Ethic's training materials and video.

Three new email complaints were received. No complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. Three complaints were closed all based on lack of jurisdiction. No new advisory opinions were requested. Two advisory opinions requests were pending as of December, 2019. One is an ongoing and outstanding one with respect to review of the UG Ethics website. One advisory opinion was provided.

No new Requests for Information were received.

New Business:

Report was made that the UG Ethics Website has been updated to include the posting for the new UG Ethics Commissioners.

All Ethics Commissioners were again asked to continually review and make notes for additional changes or improvement to the UG Ethics Web Site for the next meeting.

The swearing in ceremony for the newly elected UG Commissioners and Register of Deeds will be held on January 13, 2020 in the Commission Chambers.

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 the process for reviewing and making proposed amendments to the UG Ethics Code.

A request was made by Commissioner Busch based on the discussion and the noted proposal for review and update of the training materials that the UG Ethics Commission consider whether a review of the UG Ethics Code and potential for proposed amendments should be made given that it has been ten years since the last amendments were made in 2009. Administrator Benien agreed to place the same on next month's agenda.

Executive Session:

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Orth

Seconded by Commissioner Cisneros

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Next Meeting is February 13, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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