

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 12, 2023

Regular Meeting:

Roll Call:

- X Member Patty Orth
- X Member Emily Cisneros
- X Member Ian Tomasic (By phone)
- 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 4:09 p.m. Commissioners Cisneros, Tomasic, Bragg and Partridge were present in person. Administrator Benien was present.

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Old Business:

a). Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes of the November 10, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved. Commissioner Tomasic moved for approval with a second by Commissioner Bragg. The Motion passed unanimously. No meeting was held in December, 2022.

b). Monthly Administrator's Report:

Administrator Benien provided the individual monthly report for the time period from November 1, 2022 through December 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 special training session will be scheduled for the newly elected Mayor and UG Commissioners and any remaining UG Ethics Commissioners still needing training. Ethics training will also be scheduled for the newly created citizen's committees created by the Mayor. A Basic Training was held on September 22, 2022, in person, at Memorial Hall. A Basic Training was held, in person, for the Police Academy on November 18, 2022. A Basic Training session was held on December 29, 2022 at Memorial Hall.

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.

Ethics Administrator Benien is in the process of obtaining lists of individuals appointed to the Mayor's Advisory Boards, Commissions and Committees and training for those groups will be scheduled.

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

Nine new complaints, six by email and three by hotline or phone were received. Thirty one complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. Four complaints were closed for lack of jurisdiction and referred. Two were closed for no violation. Two new advisory opinion requests were received by email. Nine requests for advisory opinion are pending. Two advisory opinions were provided. No new requests were received. One was closed with information provided.

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 continue to 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 being reviewed of for final review and vote. After discussion and review the proposed changes to the employment restrictions section were included and it was unanimously agreed, after final discussions were made to approve the final draft of the proposed UG Ethics Code changes and forward the same to the UG commission for vote and approval.

The next monthly meeting will be on February 9, 2023, in person, at the Wyandotte County Courthouse in the Wyandotte County Law Library conference room. Masks may be required for courthouse entry.

Executive Session:

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Bragg.

Seconded by Commissioner Cisneros.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Next Meeting is February 9, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in person.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Ruth M. Benien

Ruth M. Benien, UG Ethics Administrator