

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

**BY ZOOM**

**July 8, 2021**

**Regular Meeting:**

**Roll Call:**

X Member John J. Bukaty, Jr.

E 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:**

Chairperson Bukaty called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. by Zoom. Commissioners Busch, Orth and Cisneros were in attendance. Administrator Benien was present. Commissioner Brown was absent but excused.

**Public Comment:** No members of the public were present. Tom Wiss, Legislative Auditor appeared on behalf to the UG Ethics Commission Ad Hoc Panel that appointed them to thank the outgoing UG Ethics Commissioners for their service.

**Old Business:**

**a). Approval of Minutes:**

The Minutes of the June 10, 2021 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 individual monthly report for the time period from June 1, 2021 through June 30, 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 is scheduled for July 15, 2021 at the Police Academy.

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.

Five new complaints, one by hotline, three by email and one verbal were received. Five complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. Five complaints were closed for no jurisdiction and referral. Five new advisory opinion requests were received, 2 by email, one by hotline, one by phone and one verbally. Seven advisory opinion requests were pending as of the end of June, 2021. Five advisory opinions were provided or the matter closed for lack of follow-up.

**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.

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

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.

The terms of three of the UG Ethics Commissioner expired with the July, 2021 meeting.

Tom Wiss, Legislative Auditor, attending the July 8, 2021 meeting to thank all the outgoing commissioners for their service on the UG Ethics Commission on behalf of the UG Ethics Commission Ad Hoc Panel that appointed them. New Commissioners will be appointed and sworn in at the August 12, 2021 UG Ethics Commission meeting.

The next monthly meeting on August 12, 2021 will be in person with Judge Robert Burns swearing in the new commissioners.

**Executive Session:**

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Orth

Seconded by Commissioner Cisneros

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Next Meeting is August 12, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in person.

Respectfully Submitted,

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