

**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**

**May 12, 2022**

**Regular Meeting:**

**Roll Call:**

- E 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:**

Acting Chairperson Cisneros called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m. Commissioners Cisneros, Tomasic, Partridge and Bragg were in attendance. Administrator Benien was present. Commissioner and Chairperson Orth was absent but excused.

**Public Comment:** No members of the public were present.

**Old Business:**

**a). Approval of Minutes:**

The Minutes of the April 14, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved. Commissioner Tomasic 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 April 1, 2022 through April 30, 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 Basic Ethics training for the police and fire department was held January 13, 2022 in person at the HR training room. A Basic Ethics training was held March 24, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. in person at Memorial Hall. A special training session will be scheduled for the newly elected Mayor and UG Commissioners in the near future 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 session for the UG Advisory Commission on Human Relations and Disability Issues was held in person at the HR department and by Zoom on May 2, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. A UG Continuing Ethics training was held in person for the fire department at HR on May 5, 2022 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. A Basic Ethics training is scheduled for the Police Academy, in person, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on May 19, 2022.

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.

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

Five new complaints were received, four by email and one by hotline. Thirteen complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. One complaint was closed for lack of information being provided. One new advisory opinion request was received by email, one verbally and one by email and phone. Five requests for advisory opinion are currently pending. One advisory opinion was provided that it would be acceptable for a liason appointed by the Mayor but not a UG employee to serve on a UG commission or board.

**c). Requests for Information:**

No new Request for Information was received. A pending request was closed with the provision of the information requested.

**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 obtained a copy of the UG Human Resources social media policies and distributed those. Thanks to Commissioners Tomasic and Cisneros all Commissioners have been provided with a copy of the UG Ethics Code that includes red-lined and blue lined 2014 proposed changes and new changes. Sections to be reviewed and finalized at the next meeting are Sec. 2-253 – Sec. 2-257. Finalization of Sec. 2-251 and Sec. 2-252 were temporarily put on hold for a request by Commissioner Bragg to include language of the global purpose of ethics, etc. Review of the Ethics Code will continue and it was agreed to adopt the definition of “social media” contained in the HR codes in the definitional section.

The next monthly meeting will be on June 9, 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 Tomasic

Seconded by Commissioner Bragg

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Next Meeting is June 9, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in person.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Ruth M. Benien

Ruth M. Benien, UG Ethics Administrator