

**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**

**November 18, 2021**

**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 4:09 p.m. in the Law Library Conference Room of the Wyandotte Courthouse. Commissioners Cisneros, Tomasic, Partridge and Bragg 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 October 14, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved. Commissioner Tomasic moved for approval with a second by Commissioner Cisneros. The Motion passed unanimously.

**c). Monthly Administrator's Report:**

Administrator Benien provided the individual monthly report for the time period from October 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021 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 Basic Ethics training was held by Zoom on June 30, 2021. An in person Basic Ethics training was held on July 15, 2021 at the Police Academy. A UG Ethics Continuing Education training was held by Zoom on August 26, 2021. A UG Ethics Continuing Education training was held by Zoom on September 15, 2021. A UG Ethics Basic training was held by Zoom for 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 is scheduled by Zoom for the Sheriff's Department at 1:00 p.m. A regular UG Ethics training session is scheduled by Zoom for December 15, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

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 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.

Three new complaints, one by hotline, one by voice mail and one by email were received as of October 31, 2021. Five complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. Three complaints were closed, one for no jurisdiction and two for no further information or follow up. Two new advisory opinion requests were received by email. No advisory opinions are currently pending. Three advisory opinion requests were provided, two with a determination there would be a violation, one with approval for the provision of a letter of reference. One advisory request was closed due to lack of need to remain open due to update of the UG Ethics website.

### **Requests for Information:**

Two new Requests for Information were responded to, one by a public administration group from the University of Southern California for information on the UG Ethics Code by virtue of Zoom meeting a provision of a copy of the UG Ethics Code and Ten Year

Annual Report and, a second with presentation of information about the UG Ethics Code and Commission to a Kiwanas Club.

**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.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tomasic and seconded by Commissioner Bragg to table consideration of the UG Ethics Code sections, Sec. 2-266 and Sec. 2-267 until the December meeting to enable UG Ethics Commissioners time to review the Wichita Ethics Code provided to all for review at the meeting. The Motion passed unanimously. The review of the UG Ethics Code will continue with UG Ethics Code Sec. 2-266 through Sec. 2-267 to be 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 next monthly meeting will be on December 9, 2021 in person at the Wyandotte County Courthouse in the Wyandotte County Law Library conference room.

**Executive Session:**

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Tomasic

Seconded by Commissioner Cisneros

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Next Meeting is December 9, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in person.

Respectfully Submitted,

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