

**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 10, 2022**

**Regular Meeting:**

**Roll Call:**

- X Member Patty Orth
- X Member Emily Cisneros
- X Member Ian Tomasic (By phone)
- X Member Kimberley Partridge
- E 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 and Partridge were present in person, Commissioner Tomasic was present by telephone. Commissioner Bragg 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 October 20, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved. Commissioner Cisneros moved for approval with a second by Commissioner Partridge. The Motion passed unanimously.

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

Administrator Benien provided the individual monthly report for the time period from October 1, 2022 through October 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 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 was held on September 22, 2022, in person, at Memorial Hall. A Basic Training is scheduled for the Police Academy, in person, on November 18, 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. 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.

Twelve new complaints, four by email and eight by hotline or phone were received. Twenty five complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. Two complaints were closed for lack of follow up and two for no jurisdiction. Two new advisory opinion requests were received, one by phone and one by email. Six requests for advisory opinion are pending. Two new requests were received one by email and one by phone.

**c). Requests for Information:**

No new Request for Information was received.

**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. The Sections reviewed and finalized were Sec. 2-265– Sec. 2-270 and finalization of Sec. 250-252 with provision of proposal by Commissioner Bragg to include language of the global purpose of ethics, etc. Final review of the UG Ethics Code for typographical errors, etc. will be conducted at the next meeting. The hope is that a final version will be completed in the next few months.

Continued discussion was had with respect to the political activities section of the Code and potential responses or changes due to issues in the recent election cycle including adoption of a press release or other public dissemination with respect to the same perhaps similar to the recent press release or a limited version of the political memorandum. An updated version of the Political Memorandum was distributed in October, 2022 and a hard copy provided to all commissioners as was the press release that was sent.

The next monthly meeting will be on December 8, 2022, 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 Cisneros

Seconded by Commissioner Partridge

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting is December 8, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in person.

Respectfully Submitted,

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