

**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**

**October 20, 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 4:06 p.m. Commissioners Cisneros, Tomasic, Partridge and Bragg were in attendance. Commissioners Orth 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 September 8, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved. Commissioner Bragg 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 September 1, 2022 through September 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 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 Ethics training, in person was held on June 30, 2022 at Memorial Hall from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. and a Basic Training for Fire Recruits was held from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Human Resources on July 1, 2022. A Basic Training was held on September 22, 2022, in person, 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.

Five new complaints, three by email and two by hotline were received. Nineteen complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. One complaint was closed for lack of follow up and no jurisdiction. Two new advisory opinion requests were received by email. Four requests for advisory opinion are currently pending. One new request was received by phone and an opinion provided but matter will be kept open pending outcome of amendments.

**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 to be distributed in October, 2022 was provided in hard copy to all commissioners as was the press release that was sent.

The next monthly meeting will be on November 10, 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 Partridge

Seconded by Commissioner Tomasic

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Next Meeting is November 20, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in person.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Ruth M. Benien

Ruth M. Benien, UG Ethics Administrator