

**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**

**September 12, 2019**

**Regular Meeting:**

**Roll Call:**

X Member John J. Bukaty, Jr.

X 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 4:05 p.m. Commissioners Brown, Busch, Orth and Cisneros 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 August 8, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved. Commissioner Brown moved for approval with a second by Commissioner Orth. The Motion passed unanimously.

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

Administrator Benien provided the monthly report for the time period from August 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019 which outlined the training provided in that 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. The UG Continuing Ethics scheduled for June 12, 2019 was cancelled due to the departure of the Human Resources training person. A UG Basic Ethics training and Basic training for the Fire Academy was held at the Health Department on June 20, 2019. A Police Academy Basic Training was held on August 15, 2019 from 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Police Academy. The two new UG Ethics Commissioners attended that training. A Fire Academy Basic Training was held August 29, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Human Resources.

UG Basic Ethics training is scheduled for September 25, 2019 at Human Resources and Continuing Ethics training is scheduled for November 6, 2019 at the Health Department from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. and for December 4, 2019 at the Human Resources training center from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Nine new email complaints were received. Four new hotline complaints were received. One messenger complaint was received. Eight complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. Ten complaints were closed based on no jurisdiction and where appropriate referral to the appropriate department or agency. Three new email advisory opinions were requested. One formal written advisory opinion was provided. Four verbal or in person requests for provision of opinions were made. Five advisory opinion requests were pending as of August 31, 2019.

One Request for Information was received and responded to.

### **New Business:**

Report was made by Commissioner Orth that the UG Ethics Website has not been updated to include the posting for the new UG Ethics Commissioners. Administrator Benien advised she would follow up on the matter and have the necessary updates and deletions of outgoing commissioners made.

All Ethics Commissioners were again asked to review and make notes for additional changes or improvement to the UG Ethics Web Site for the next meeting.

Due to issues that occurred prior to the commencement of the meeting with respect to courthouse security and issues in obtaining access to the courthouse, Administrator Benien was asked to inquire as to the possibility of obtaining badges or passes for the UG Ethics Commissioners. Administrator Benien agreed to do so.

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 discussion of advisory opinions and one that had been issued. Additional discussion was had with reference to the monthly report and how matters are designated and how and when matters are moved from pending to closed.

A new Political Memorandum was sent out on July 23, 2019 for distribution.

**Executive Session:**

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Orth

Seconded by Commissioner Cisneros

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Next Meeting is October 10, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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