

**APPROVED MINUTES
ETHICS COMMISSION OF THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT
Courtroom No. 18, 2nd Floor, Wyandotte County Courthouse
710 N. 7th Street, Kansas City, KS 66101**

September 17, 2020

Regular Meeting:

Roll Call:

X Member John J. Bukaty, Jr.

X Member Linda Brown

E Member Dachia Busch

X Member Patty Orth

X Member Emily Cisneros

X Ruth Benien, Administrator

X (Present) E (Excused) U (Unexcused)

Call to Order:

Acting Chairperson Bukaty called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. in the Wyandotte County Law Library Conference Room. Commissioners Brown, Orth and Cisneros were in attendance. Commissioner Busch was absent but excused as unable to find location where meeting. Administrator Benien was present.

Public Comment: No members of the public were present.

Old Business:

a). Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes of the March 12, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved. Commissioner Cisneros 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 March 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020 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.

A Basic Ethics training was held on December 17, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers for approximately 70 new employees. A UG Basic Fire Academy Ethics training was held on December 5, 2019 at Human Resources. Basic Ethics training at the Police Academy was held January 16, 2020 from 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Continuing Ethics training was held on February 5, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at the Health Department. A Basic Ethics training was held March 3, 2020 at Memorial Hall (a new venue).

A request from the UG Legal Department was received to provide UG Ethics training for the Advisory Council on Aging. The same has been coordinated and issues with respect to the provision of the training and materials addressed. It was to be held January 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at Eisenhower Community Center but was cancelled due to weather.

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

Thirty six new complaints were received from March 1, 2020 through September 1, 2020. Thirty two complaints were closed with no jurisdiction, no lack of violation or failure to present or provide information. The complaints consisted of 15 hotline complaints and twenty email and one written complaint. Seven complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. Fourteen new email advisory opinions were requested. Thirteen advisory opinions were provided and matter closed. Five advisory opinion requests were pending as of September 17, 2020. Two are ongoing and outstanding one with respect to review of the UG Ethics website.

No new Requests for Information were received.

New Business:

Report was made that the UG Ethics Website has been updated to include all current information.

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

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 continued discussion of the process for reviewing and making proposed amendments to the UG Ethics Code, changes in the monthly report and suggestions for obtaining information on policies and procedures from various UG entities including police, fire and sheriff's departments.

It was discussed and agreed to commence a review of the UG Ethics Code with each UG Ethics Commissioner to review the sections of the code from start at Sec. 2-251 through Sec. 2-253 for the next meeting.

Executive Session:

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Brown

Seconded by Commissioner Orth

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Next Meeting is October 8, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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