

STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS **SPECIAL SESSION, THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2010**
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS)

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in special session, Thursday, April 29, 2010, with nine members present: Holland, Commissioner At-Large First District; Mendez, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Barnes, Commissioner First District; Miller, Commissioner Second District; Murguia, Commissioner Third District; Mitchell, Commissioner Fourth District; Pettey, Commissioner Sixth District; Ellison, Commissioner Eighth District; and Reardon, Mayor/CEO presiding. Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; and Cooley, Commissioner Seventh District; were absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Dennis Hays, County Administrator; Jody Boeding, Interim Chief Counsel; Bridgette Cobbins, Interim Unified Government Clerk; John Jurcyk, Sr. Policy Advisor to Mayor; Alfonso Zarate, Assistant to Mayor; Gary Ortiz, Assistant County Administrator; Patty Kroll, Human Resource Director; Rob Richardson, Director of Urban Planning & Land Use; Therryl Holland, Volunteer Coordinator; and Anne Phillips, Parks & Recreation.

MAYOR REARDON called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Pettey, Ellison, Holland, Mendez, Barnes, Miller, Murguia, Mitchell, Reardon.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be held Thursday, April 29, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of the Municipal Office Building regarding the Volunteer Program followed by a reception in the lobby.

CONSENT TO MEETING of the governing body of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, accepting service of the foregoing notice, waiving all and any irregularities in such service and in such notice, and consent and agree that the governing body shall meet at the time and place therein specified and for the purpose therein stated.

Gary Ortiz, Assistant County Administrator, said communities are built on shared values and I feel there is no group of people that cares more about this community than the people in this room. It is wonderful that the volunteers give their time the way they do and it underscores their service to this jurisdiction. We can't afford to do everything ourselves and pay everyone to do all the things this community needs and the volunteers serve it in such a great tremendous way.

Mr. Ortiz asked Commissioner Holland to give the invocation.

Mayor Reardon said the volunteers give life to what we do in the elected positions to see your dedication over time, your commitment to the community. It is what drives elected officials to run for office and when we see citizens participating in a way volunteering to lift up the community in whatever individual way you do, it really does propel us forward in so many special ways and we want to thank you for that.

Commissioner Mendez said we are here to honor you for what you do for our community. You have made a difference. I recall the times when former Mayor Jack Reardon was talking about volunteers and stating we needed more volunteers throughout the community because you make a difference. Continue doing the work that you need to do for us, you have made a difference and thank you. You should be proud.

Mr. Ortiz said Anne Phillips with Parks and Recreation works with the volunteers that service the Special Olympics. We felt this would give a solid example of some of the work that gets done and why it is so important.

Anne Phillips said last year I made the comment to Therryl Holland that the Special Olympics program in Kansas City, Kansas would not happen without volunteers. An example, we have 54 volunteers and in 2009 they gave 4,854 hours which is equivalent to \$99,895.00 if we had to pay that out. We have 425 special need athletes between our Timberwolves and King's. The Timberwolves is the younger program and the King's are the older adults and the group runs in age from 18 to 74. They volunteer in three

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different main program areas with four sports that we offer, special programs, and those who come in and give time in the office to help with mailing and data entry. We have basketball, track & field, softball and bowling. We have 21 volunteers that come in to do the coaching. We have 11 coaches in the basketball program, 8 coaches in track & field, and 8 in softball. We have picnics, dances, dinners, community excursions, fishing trips, other community agencies that give their time to facilitate the programs for these individuals and at the heart of all of it is the volunteers. Without the volunteers, it wouldn't happen. As a single person over an entire program for the City/County, I can't do it. Volunteering changes lives. Every one of my coaches gives their self freely week after week and I know they are going to be there. I can't thank them enough. It is through the efforts of these 54 people that the 425 special need individuals have learned they can participate, grow, and contribute in the community and not just sports, but they have value and that they are worth something as individuals. Everyone in this room has an impact that goes beyond anything that you can imagine. The time given is so valuable and I can't thank everyone enough.

Commissioners Pettey, Barnes and Holland presented the awards.

Commissioner Holland introduced the volunteers that have donated up to 49 hours of service during 2009 and presented them with a UG clock. Aristeo Arreola, Sister Therese Bangert, Carl Boggs, Roccio Garcia, Helen Gee, Ralph Golubski, Katherine Gonzales, Hazel Harralson, Lloyd Harralson, Linda Hernandez, Barbara Higgins, Carmen Hopkins, Tim Laber, Shannon Laber, Margaret McCluney, Barbara McCracken, Tammy Mesias, Terry Mitchell, Larry Mooney, Shirley Mooney, Latisha Richardson, William Robinson, Marcia Rupp, David Sandoval, Mabel Schutt, Ishmael Sierra, Maurice Smith, Ruth Sullivan, Melissa Swift, Frances Swift, Donald Turner, Nicole Waggoner, and Wanda Weatherspoon. This group represents about \$33,000 worth of volunteer time.

Commissioner Barnes introduced the volunteers that have donated between 50 and 99 hours during 2009. The value of 99 hours of volunteer service to the Unified Government according to the Department of Labor is \$2,032.47. The volunteers were

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presented a Certificate of Appreciation along with a UG clock. Gary Bowley, Beverly Darby, Kimberly DeBus, Jean Ellis, Jim Ellis, Ester Foreman, Janet Golubski, Carol Gottesburen, Diana Hampton, Tom Hampton, Virginia Helliker, Pat Higgins, Jim Jones, Shawna Jones, Raymond Jonscher, Bessie Lawson and Lucy Soptic.

Commissioner Pettey introduced the volunteers that have earned the President's Volunteer Service Award. The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation was established in 2003 to recognize the valuable contributions that volunteers are making in our community and to encourage more people to serve. The Council created the President's Volunteer Service Award Program as a way to thank and honor Americans who by their demonstrated commitment and example inspire others to engage in volunteer service. Recognizing and honoring volunteers sets a standard for service, encourages a sustained commitment to civic participation and inspires others to make service a central part of their lives. The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes individuals, families, and groups that have achieved a certain standard measured by the number of hours of service over a 12 month period. To date the President's Council has partnered with more than 28,000 certifying organizations to bestow more than 1.5 million awards to the nations deserving volunteers. An official President's Volunteer Service Award, a lapel pin, personalized certificate of achievement and a congratulatory letter from the President of the United States along with a UG clock will be awarded to each of the recipients in this category. This category is the silver/bronze/gold level and we will be recognizing with this group the bronze. The recipients of the bronze are Modestine Bell, Lydia Conchola, Moses Conchola, Butch DeBus, Phyllis Gallagher, Edward Fischer, Helen Fotovich, Madeline Fotovich, Wanda Jeffrey, Ruby Kitchen, Cris Magana, Randy Olson, Carolyn Silas, and Frances Walters.

Commissioner Holland said the following individuals have earned the President's Silver Volunteer Service Award. These individuals donated between 250 to 490 hours of service. The recipients are Wondrous Burns, Vallire Davis, Wanda Irvin, Barbara Kill, Betty Parker, Ed Rust and Jack Smith.

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Commissioner Pettey said our gold award recipients this year are no strangers to giving the gift of service. They have continued their track records of committed service and in addition to receiving gold Presidential Volunteer Service Award packets, this evening they are the recipients of a Unified Government Mayoral Award which entitles them to a \$50.00 gift certificate. The Mayoral Award is given to the male and female volunteer who donates the most service hours to the Unified Government each year. Theresa Bruce and Gerald Yotter were the recipients. Both volunteer with the Unified Government Special Olympics Program through Parks & Recreation. Ms. Bruce has donated over 500 hours during 2009 and Mr. Yotter has donated over 800 hours during 2009. Together Ms. Bruce and Mr. Yoder have contributed nearly \$27,000 worth of service to the Unified Government.

Mr. Ortiz recognized Therryl Holland and Patty Kroll for all their hard work.

Patty Kroll said I want to add my thanks and gratitude to all of you on behalf of the department heads and supervisors and those of us that work with you. We appreciate all your help and particularly this past year, we have had a lot of staff shortages and cutbacks. You have worked over 29,000 hours and at the rate of \$20.85 per hour and that comes to \$604,492 worth of hours you have worked for the government.

Therryl Holland thanked the volunteers and said I want to thank you because there are many opportunities in the community to serve with other agencies and you all have chosen the Unified Government.

A reception for the volunteers followed.

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**MAYOR REARDON ADJOURNED THE
MEETING AT 6:35 P.M.**

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Bridgette Cobbins
Interim Unified Government Clerk

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