

STATE OF KANSAS )  
WYANDOTTE COUNTY )) SS  
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS )

REGULAR SESSION  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in regular session Thursday, February 5, 2015, with eight members present: Vacant, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Maddox, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Walters, Commissioner Seventh District; Philbrook, Commissioner Eighth District, and Mayor Holland, Mayor/CEO, presiding. Walker, Commissioner At-Large First District; and Murguia, Commissioner Third District, were absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Doug Bach, County Administrator; Jody Boeding, Chief Counsel; Bridgette Cobbins, Unified Government Clerk; Gordon Criswell, Assistant County Administrator; Joe Connor, Interim Assistant County Administrator; Lew Levin, Chief Financial Officer; Emerick Cross, Interim Commission Liaison; Mike Tobin, Interim Public Works Director, Maureen Mahoney, Mayor's Office; Jason Banks, Assistant to the Mayor/Manager; Renee Ramirez, Human Resources Director; John Paul Jones, Fire Chief; Terry Ziegler, Chief of Police; Don Ash, Sheriff; and Captain Randy Balliett, Sergeant-At-Arms.

**MAYOR HOLLAND** called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:** Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan, Holland.

**INVOCATION** was given by Reverend Ken Nettling, Faith Lutheran Church.

**Mayor Holland** stated I want to thank everyone for being here. We do have two parts of our meeting tonight. We have the public hearing and we have a course of regular business. Because of the length of business that we have, we're going to hold that until the end and we're going to do the public hearing first which is why most of you are here. I just want to say thank you.

I want to start off by giving a little bit of background in terms of what we've been doing, but first I also want to recognize two student groups that are here. I understand there's a group from Bishop Ward High School. Can the Bishop Ward crew stand? Welcome. We're glad you're here. We also have a group from Wyandotte High School. Can the Wyandotte students

please stand? Thank you. We're glad that you're here. We're especially glad that some of the youth in our community are present tonight as well.

**Public Safety Recruitment Task Force  
Background Information**

November 21, 2013	Fire Recruit Graduation 42 graduates, no African Americans Only 25% from Wyandotte County High Schools
December, 2014	Mayor meets internally with staff County Administrator, Fire Chief, and Human Resources
January 20, 2014	Martin Luther King, Jr. event Mayor announces commitment to address recruiting Mayor reaches out to US Attorney Grissom
February 25, 2014	State of the Government Mayor Commits to bring in Department of Justice
April 23, 2014	Data Gathering with Department of Justice
July 11, 2014	Data Gathering with Department of Justice
August 9, 2014	Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson, Missouri
August 26, 2014	Data Gathering with Department of Justice
August 28, 2014	Public Announcement of Process
Sept. & Oct. 2014	Commissioners Appoint Representatives
December 11, 2014	First Mayor's/ DOJ Public Safety Recruitment Task Force Meeting
January 28, 2015	Second Mayor's/ DOJ Public Safety Recruitment Task Force Meeting

**The initial Data Gathering meetings have included:**

Ms. Rita Valenciano, Department of Justice	John Paul Jones, Chief of Fire
Mr. Darryck Dean, Department of Justice	Rev. Jimmie Banks
Mayor Mark Holland	Bill Miller, Former UG Commissioner
Doug Bach, County Administrator	Irene Caudillo, El Centro
Renee Ramirez, Human Resources	David Smith, USD 500
Don Ash, Sheriff	Cedric Patton, NAACP
Ellen Hanson, Chief of Police	Virginia Sewing, NAACP

**A larger community task force will include many listed above, in addition to:**

- A representative for each UG Commissioner
- Kansas City, Kansas Community College
- Donnelly College
- All Wyandotte County School Districts
- Members of all three public safety unions
- Members of Black Firefighters, Black Police Officers, and Latino Police Officers Associations

**Beginning last December 2014, the Task Force agreed to:**

- 1) Hold public forums to gain community wide input
- 2) Evaluate current practices
- 3) Develop an action plan for the future
- 4) Completion will be April of 2015 for budget consideration

**Future Public Task Force Meetings:**

- Wed. January 28<sup>th</sup> at 3p
  - Tues. February 17<sup>th</sup> at 2p
  - March TBD
  - Tues. April 7<sup>th</sup> at 2p
- 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room*

**DOJ Public Hearing Date:**  
Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
*Commission Chambers*

I'll tell the story briefly and there's a timeline that's up here on the screen that gives you an idea of how we arrived at this day. It's a really important day that we have right now. In November 2013, watching a firefighter recruit class walk across the stage, very qualified young men, each one of them tops in their field, earned the right to be hired and deservedly so. They did an excellent job in preparing to be hired and through the recruiting process. I'm very proud of our public safety personnel. Yet, as I watched them walk across the stage, I recognized

**February 5, 2015**

immediately that it wasn't a group that was particularly representative of our community. I only saw one woman walk across the stage and not one African American.

With 42 students, as I looked into that over the next few weeks, it turned out that only 12 of the 42 went to high school in Kansas City, Kansas. I placed this issue under my Economic Development program. I believe you should always hire people from outside of the community. I don't think you should ever just hire people from inside but when 25% are from Wyandotte County and 75% were not, I felt like those percentages were perhaps inverted.

I also felt like that if we were to hire local that we would have the diversity that we expect in our community. Our community is the most diverse in the region; one of the most diverse in the entire country. When I think of all of our hiring in the Unified Government, both public safety and non-public safety, I expect that that diversity in our community is going to be reflected in our employees. I also expect that if we hired local, we'd have diversity. It's difficult for me to go to Cerner, General Motors and KU Medical Center, the three largest employers in our community, and ask them to hire local if the Unified Government isn't modeling that behavior. If we're going to hire local then we need to model that as an organization and be aggressive about that.

Out of that, in December I looked more into it. In January, at the Martin Luther King event in 2014, I announced my intent to bring in the Department of Justice and to begin a comprehensive look at both our hiring and recruiting processes in our community to see what we could do to do differently. My standard then is the same standard that I have now. I expect that Kansas City, Kansas, will set a national standard for hiring in a diverse community and having representative public safety. I expect what we come out with from our task force is going to be a national model that other communities will want to emulate. That's the standard I've set. It's a very high standard. I believe that's one that our community is up to.

In April we started gathering data with a small group. That group, the initial data gathering group, is listed there. Then we went out to a larger group of the taskforce and began working. The taskforce includes a number of people. It includes all of the educational institutions, all the school districts, public and private. It also includes Donnelly and the Community College. We're going to need our educational community involved in this. Particularly from a jobs perspective, when you think about a firefighter's salary, a firefighter starts at a salary that is half again the median household income in Wyandotte County and our kids ought to be clambering for these great careers. They're great careers with great benefits, it's

**February 5, 2015**

a great place to work and our kids ought to be clambering for those so we want all the educational institutions involved.

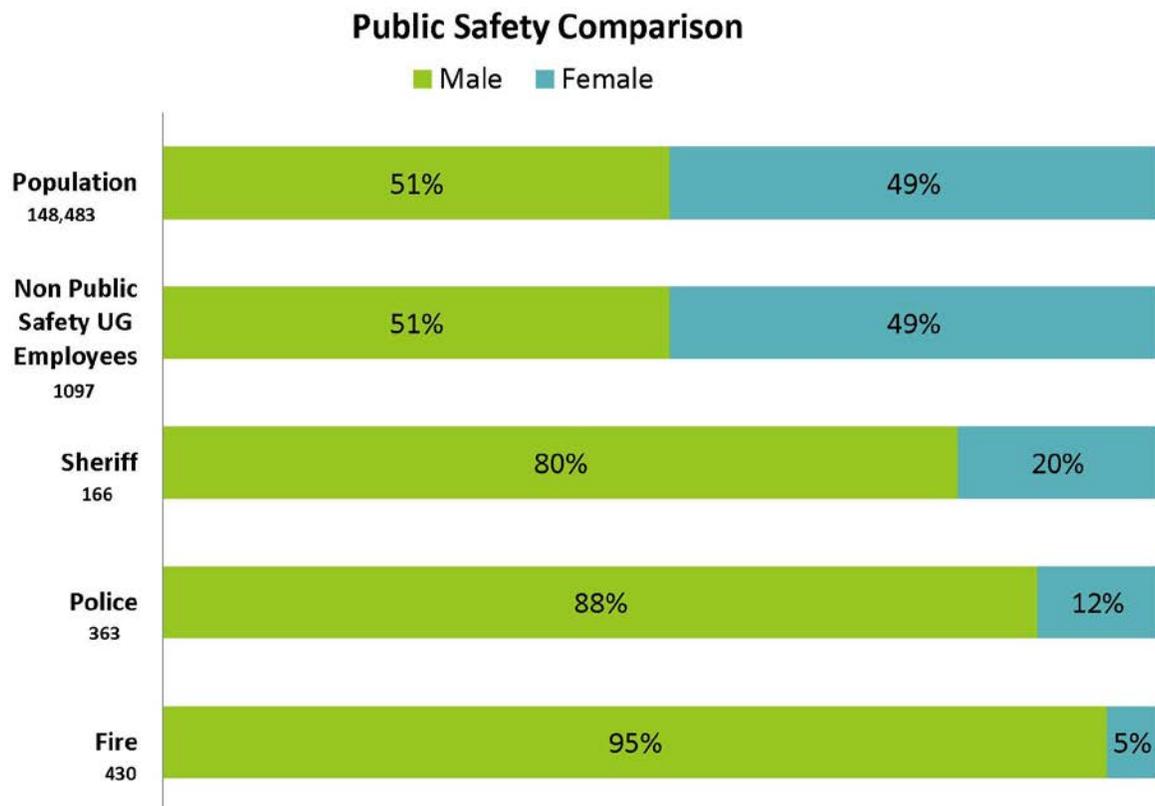
I've also asked each of the commissioners to appoint you, themselves or a designee to this and each commissioner has responded to that and I appreciate the commissioners' investment in this process. Then we have groups from each of our Police, Fire and Sheriff Departments, both the leads in those departments but also members of the unions in those. I'm appreciative of everyone's participation. We also involved our Human Resources group. We have NAACP represented. We have the Black Firefighters, Latino Police Officers also involved and a number of other community leaders.

It's a very comprehensive list of folks who have come together for this process, but one of the things we know is we cannot move forward without public comment. We have to make sure we get the input from the people in our community who live and work here every single day and make sure we hear your voice. We have our taskforce here. The taskforce's job tonight is to listen and to listen to the community. We have our commissioners here and our job, as the elected body, is to listen tonight. I would like to ask all the members of the taskforce, if you are here tonight, if you would please stand so we can recognize you. Thank you very much.

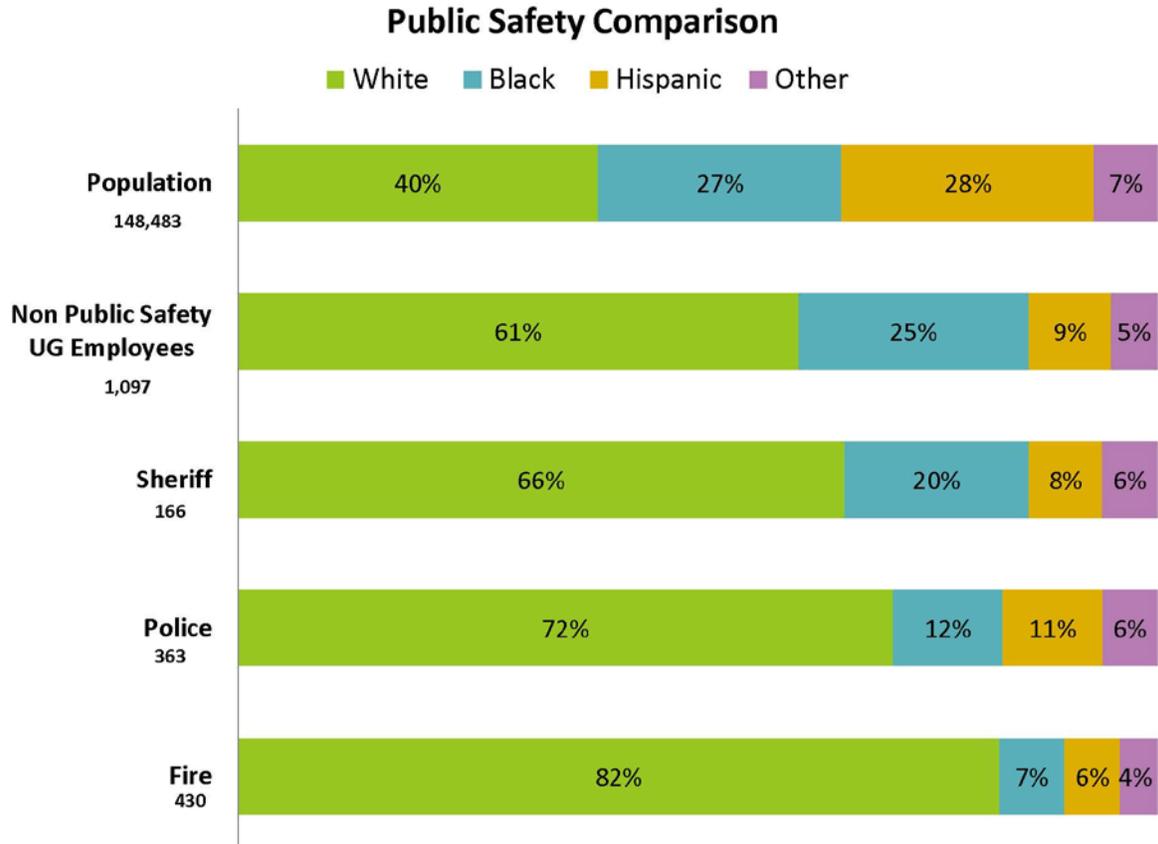
I also want to identify the leadership team that includes myself, Rev. Jimmie Banks, who is the Chairperson; Darryck Dean, our DOJ facilitator, you'll be hearing from both of them in a moment; Irene Caudillo, from El Centro; Bill Miller, a former UG Commissioner; Gordon Criswell, in the Administrator's Office; David Smith, from District 500; and Maureen Mahoney, my Chief of Staff. That's the leadership team and then we have the whole group that's working together on this.

As we begin, I would like to just start with—I recently had the privilege of meeting the regional director of the Black Firefighter's Association. In preparation for that meeting, I went to the website of the National Black Firefighter's Association and pulled down their mission statement and looked at what the goal was. The Black Firefighter's Association was founded in 1969 and in 1969 they set as their goal to recruit young black men into the service of the firefighters. That was their goal in 1969 and nearly a half century later we still have the same challenge not just for African American men, but women, Latino and Asian as well. The challenge of diversity has never been greater.

**February 5, 2015**



The statistics that we pulled—and I have just two slides—the first is the gender slides in our departments. When you look at our population of the whole city at the top, non-public safety UG employees, there's over 1,000. 1,100 non-public safety employees reflects the same gender diversity as the community, but then when you start getting into the public safety, sheriff obviously leading the way but police and fire with the diversity numbers for gender. I think those are issues we need to continue to address as we're looking at this because it's not simply ethnic diversity that we're looking for but also gender diversity in these departments.



The next slide looks at the ethnic breakdown. If you look at the top, again, I said we're one of the most diverse cities in the nation, about 40% White, 27% Black, 28% Hispanic and 7% which is a growing Asian population. We have a great diversity in our community. Our non-public safety employees, again, those 1,100 non-public safety employees, I think this is very interesting. We're pretty close on the Asian group, pretty close on the African American group. The growing Hispanic group, that's the fastest growing group in our city and clearly we have not caught up in hiring with that fast growing population. That's interesting on the non-public safety but then when you start getting into public safety, again, the Sheriff's Department is leading the way in diversity with numbers that are fairly reflective of the Unified Government as a whole. Then you can see the gap starting to grow with the Police and then with the Fire.

When I look at our Fire numbers especially, I want to repeat about our police, fire and sheriff people. We have great departments who are working very hard for our community every single day. This process is not an indictment on the men and women who put their lives on the line for our community everyday by any means. People come to work everyday working hard and committing themselves fully to this work. We need to just make sure that we're taking time

**February 5, 2015**

to thank them each time that we encounter them. I want to take this opportunity today just to thank the men and women on our departments who are doing the workforce. I think they deserve a round of applause from all of us.

The goal that we have today is I want to hear your concerns. I also want to hear your suggestions. There's a lot of passion around this issue but we need to be proactive in that. I've been asked a lot about Ferguson. Ferguson, MO, illustrated what happens when you look at red flags for 20 years and don't make the steps necessary to make changes. Ferguson did not happen overnight. It was a generation or more in the making. As we look at our numbers, we need to make sure that we have not created such a disconnect in our community between our public safety and our community that we have lost touch and have the possibility for a similar outbreak.

If we have a broken or negative event in our community, that's when people want to come out. I can't tell you how proud I am of Kansas City, Kansas, today to look out at the number of people who have come out on a proactive model as an opportunity to bring your voice before a major negative event happens and to help us create an environment in a community that we can all be proud of, to make sure that we're moving our community in the right direction. Your presence here tonight is a tribute to the strength of this community. It's a tribute to your commitment to our community, and it's a tribute to the Unified Government's intention to move our community forward in a positive way.

We have a couple of people who are going to make some comments. First, I'm going to invite Mr. Barry Grissom. He is the US Attorney. I met him at the Martin Luther King event in 2014. He was instrumental in helping us connect with the Department of Justice. I know he has a passion for these issues. I've asked him to just to say a few words of welcome. Mr. Grissom, welcome and thank you for being here.

**Barry Grissom, United States Attorney, District of Kansas**, said I'm from the Federal Government and I'm here to help. When I first got this job, Attorney General Holder said you know that you're the chief law enforcement prosecutor in the district of Kansas. I said well yes, sir, of course I do but he said you know what, you are more than that, much more than that. You are the chief problem solver. You have the ability to bring people together, to ask them to sit in the same room to talk. Keeping that in mind, shortly thereafter, I was over there at the Reardon Center, ML King Celebration, sitting next to the Mayor, who I had not had a chance to meet. He spoke before I did and he laid out his vision of what he thought would be a healthy, diverse public service Fire Department here in KCK.

**February 5, 2015**

When the event was over, I kind of ran him down and I asked what is it that we can do to help you. Right away him and Maureen set a meeting up and we had a meeting a week or so after that. We have resources in the federal government that helps bring people together to work in a way that you can achieve goals so it's a win, win for both sides. Because as the Mayor correctly pointed out, what happened in Ferguson was what happens when you are not proactive and you just sit around and wait for the other shoe to drop. It's a lose, lose. I want to applaud the efforts of the Mayor. I think this is an incredibly, incredibly exciting time for the city. This is something that will only—we hear the term value added, it only adds even greater value to this community. As I've told the Mayor and I will tell the council, we stand ready, willing and able to use any of our resources to help facilitate this process. We've already brought some folks in to help in that regard, but anything more that we can do we will certainly help you.

When I came in someone recognized me and asked are we in trouble. I said just the contrary. You're far from being in trouble. You are in a great place right now doing great things and you're to be commended for that. Again, anything we can do, we stand ready, willing and able to help you.

**Mayor Holland** said I also want to welcome to the podium the person who has agreed to be the chairperson of this event. When I was thinking about the scope and the complexity of the issues we're about to take on, I needed someone professional, I needed someone articulate, I needed someone who had a heart and a passion and a depth of respect in the community. Of course, I immediately turned to Rev. Jimmie Banks and he said yes that he'd be glad to help. Rev. Banks, I appreciate your leadership on this. I'm going to ask you to make a few comments.

**Rev. Jimmie Banks** said I am honored to have been asked to provide some sibilance of leadership and working with Bill Miller to fashion some remedies to address some challenges that we face as a community.

I came from Mississippi in 1956 and I left a system that did not present me with a lot of opportunities for future success. When I came to Kansas City, KS, things changed in my life and the life of my family. We were able to be educated, to go to college and to enjoy some good careers. It's all as a result of the sense of community and support that I enjoyed coming up and even now as I pastor the Stranger's Rest Baptist Church in Kansas City.

This is a challenge but it's also an opportunity for us to continue to pursue greatness. We've made a lot of success in a lot of areas and I think people are looking to Kansas City,

**February 5, 2015**

Kansas, to see if that pursuit can continue and even rise to higher heights. All of that involves us working together and leveraging our talents, skills, abilities and passion for equity, equality and justice so that the result of our actions results in a sense of community. I think that's the key to our future. Working with these talented people who are on the taskforce—and I'm glad to see these young people here so they can see the all American story being lived out and they are able to observe this process as we grapple with the opportunities for substantive change.

We're going to work hard. We're studying data, we're looking at the processes, and we're trying to remove any invidious barriers to a person being able to compete for a job. The president's talking about everybody having a fair shot and I think that's what we're about. At the end of all of this with your help, your ideas and your suggestions we plan to come back to this body and present a workable plan that allows us to have a sense of community and a hardworking competent staff that takes us well into the future and beyond. Thank you for this opportunity.

**Mayor Holland** said the process that is going to unfold next is the process we use for a public hearing at the Unified Government. We have a process where we have people sign in. If you would like to speak tonight, make sure you work your way over to the door and sign in. You can still sign in. You'll be given up to three minutes and as I say at every public hearing, you needn't use all three, Amen, but you're welcome to. We have an open policy. We will be here until everyone who desires to speak has spoken. This is your night and this is your opportunity so we are going to be here.

The way it works is the Clerk is going to call your name who is ready to speak and who is on deck because we love baseball, Amen. We use the on deck analogy. We would ask if you're on deck, if you're sitting in the middle somewhere, to be working your way to the edge so that you will have the opportunity to come up and it will keep it moving in a timely way. I would also remind you we do have overflow seating with video and audio in the lobby behind us. If you would like, if you get tired of standing, you're welcome to go out into the lobby and take a seat and you'll be able to observe all the proceedings from out there. That is an option as well.

We have some policies that we do adhere to. We do have a sense of decorum in our commission meetings. Passions are high on a lot of the topics we talk about up here. We do ask that as someone speaks and if you agree with them that you refrain from clapping. If you disagree with them, you refrain from booing or hissing. We are going to ask for that decorum. Everyone has a right to speak their mind. Some you will agree with, some you may not but the

**February 5, 2015**

level of decorum we expect is high. If there are reminders, I will make that reminder as we go through the meeting. I do ask that you hold your applause and any public comment for when you're at the microphone.

Also, to set the level of decorum, I'm very honored to introduce Mr. Darryck Dean. Mr. Darryck Dean is the facilitator from the Department of Justice who has been assigned to work with our community. Mr. Dean has a policy that he runs through with the Department of Justice in terms of decorum. I don't see him right now. Is Mr. Dean around a corner that I do not see? Mr. Dean is not here. He has been very helpful in this process moving through and has been helping with our taskforce process. If he does come in later in the meeting, I will make that introduction but anyway I did want to recognize him.

Without further ado, we are going to begin the public hearing process and I'm going to turn it over to the Clerk. She will be keeping time. She will say you have one minute remaining and then she will let you know when your time is up.

(Ms. Cobbins read the statement governing public meetings)

**Chana Robinson** said I am a resident of Wyandotte County. I stand before you as a proud resident and I credit my interpersonal, educational and professional success as having being cultivated within this county. I would like to talk to you about a young boy who had ambitions of wanting to be a firefighter. His grandparents could recall that as early as age four he told his preschool teacher he wanted to be a firefighter, a little boy with big dreams. Anytime he saw a firefighter in the community, he was so excited to learn about fire services, asking 101 questions, gathering as much information as possible. This big dream carried on through his adolescent and young adult years.

After serving faithfully for eight years with the Kansas City Parks and Maintenance Division by day, by night he attended courses at our local Kansas City, Kansas Community College where he successfully completed his EMT and Firefighter courses earning an A in both classes.

In 1995, now feeling equipped to apply for the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department, he pursues his course of action needed to take this journey by taking the entry level fire exam through Standard & Associates. After taking the exam twice, he learned that he did not make first band both times. Interestingly enough after requesting his test scores, he was told that this was not allowed as this was privy information. Although feeling defeated, wanting to make a big

**February 5, 2015**

dream his reality, he continued to persevere and was hired as a firefighter by another jurisdiction where he serves as driver operator and is well respected for his skills, knowledge and ability to execute fire safety. In terms of national certification, he successfully executed and completed Firefighter I, II, Hazmat, EMT and driver operation exams.

This young boy, now a man, has been my best for twenty years, my husband for seven and a half years and a wonderful father. He's never failed a drug test, never been arrested or sat in the back of a police car. This is fascinating to me because when he talks to his white counterparts that currently serve within the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department, his recruitment experience was much different from theirs.

I appreciate your time as I submit to you today that due to public safety practices of nepotism, lack of diversity of thought and institutionalized discrimination that has created disproportionately to affect African America representation, it is imperative that a strategic plan is implemented to enforce equitable recruitment.

**Mayor Holland** said again, I envision 30 eloquent speeches, Amen, so we'll just hold our applause and continue moving. Our next speaker please.

**Therryl Holland, 1315 N. 59<sup>th</sup> St.**, said I thank you for this opportunity to just ask a couple of questions and I will not be using all three minutes because I don't have an eloquent speech. I am a former employee of the UG and very early on in my employment I was told by someone who had worked here for a while that the EMT training that's required before firefighters can be employed or even make an application that it has to be completed. That was at the point when either Black or minority employment with the Fire Department dropped. So my question is those 75% of the people that are hired outside of Kansas City, do they have to pay for their EMT training out of their pocket or is it provided by their municipality, therefore giving them an advantage over Kansas City, Kansas residents who have to pay out of their pocket for the training?

The second thing, and I wondered how many military people in Kansas City, KS, who have served in the Armed Forces are available or would be available for employment should some things change. Finally, once people are employed, is there a mentoring program set up to make sure that they get through successfully. Those are the questions that I have no; eloquence.

**Malcolm Campbell, 9915 Webster Circle**, said I was asked to tell my story about my firefighter experience. I'm from Wyandotte County, graduated with honors at Schlagle, graduated at Alabama State University. After that I played professional basketball overseas for about three and a half, four years. I came back. I moved to California, moved to Atlanta and I came back to Kansas. I have a family who was always in law enforcement. My uncle, my cousins are all firefighters and police officers. I came here to be a firefighter myself.

I passed everything, got my EMT certification, Firefighter I, Firefighter II and Hazmat. I passed all the background test and everything. I got to the psych review. I think is the last step to become a firefighter which was around a two minute conversation and he asked me some basic questions and he asked me some really crazy questions, off the wall, that I answered yes or no to. After that he shook my hand, smiled at me, told me good job, good luck and I felt pretty good. You know I passed everything. I was just waiting for my paper to come into the mail to say hey, you've been accepted to be a firefighter. Two weeks have passed and I started wondering what was going on and I got the letter in the mail that said I was too much of a risk to be a firefighter. I called everybody that I could, the chief; you know I called my uncle who was a retired firefighter, everyone that I could.

I just wanted to know what the risk was. What was it that didn't allow me to become a firefighter? They told me it was confidential information. They couldn't let me know what was too much of a risk for me to become a firefighter. I still don't know to this day why I'm not a firefighter and this happened around I think three years ago. I still think about this. I could have been a firefighter for three or four years up to this point. I just wanted to let everybody know my story. Thanks a lot.

**Jehrome Randolph, 815 N. 63<sup>rd</sup> St.**, said good evening to all. Mister Mayor, first of all in my 40 year experience I have yet to see—you are the highest ranking city official that has taken this situation by the horns and applaud I you. I applaud you. I believe that if we are truly a unified government that we need to be a unified people. If we're going to be a unified people, we need to be a diversified people. It needs to happen from the top down. The body goes where the head goes.

We've had some serious issues within public safety, specifically the Fire Department. I stand with 27 years experience with the Fire Department, have been retired 13 years and in 40 years, we still have the same stories that we just heard from this young man, Mr. Campbell. Men who are qualified, men who have credentials, get the EMT on their own from the junior college,

**February 5, 2015**

spend their own money and come back and told they cannot pass a psychological evaluation. Something is seriously wrong and it needs to be fixed posthaste because we're losing a lot of good people to other jurisdictions, to other municipalities. We have a veteran that 20 years experience who fought the war in Iraq, given us this liberty that we have here tonight, but yet he can hold a gun but he can't hold a fire hose. Something's wrong.

We have another individual who 10 years from retirement from the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department will be retiring in 10 years as a detective and yet he could not become a firefighter here in Kanas City, Kansas. Something is wrong. We're losing a lot of good people. Both of these men are products of our school district; have done well. One went through the Explorer's Program, which was a very beginning stage where they did ride-alongs in the Fire Department, but yet they could not go any further.

We're not asking for any lowering of standards because we have people who are qualified, who have the skills, knowledge and ability to do this job. Again, if they can carry a gun, if they can fight for our county, they can surely hold a fire hose and carry a ladder.

I applaud you and I pray that we will continue to work steadfastly in this, but I believe we need to have some reorganization within the Fire Department. I believe it needs to start at the top and I believe that we need to quit the masquerading of people within our communities to make it look like something that we're not and bring on some people that will help us make this community the great community that it is. I believe that it can be done but we have to need people—for years and years we have had the ears of this council, every mayor, city administrator, council members, Fire Department—I have one more minute. **Ms. Cobbins** said I've already gave you your warning. **Mayor Holland** said she already gave you your warning. Your time is up. **Mr. Randolph** said oh, I didn't hear it. I'm so sorry. **Mayor Holland** said that's alright. As a preacher, I understand. I just want you to know, Pastor, I'm holding my restraint. I want to take an offering tonight and I'm not going to do it.

**Eric Copeland** said I was hired onto the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department in April 1990 and was just recently retired September 15, 2014. When I came onto the job I was very optimistic, upbeat and proud of making my way through rookie class with good test scores and one of three out of a class of twelve to go to EMS state boards and pass everything. Allen Bradley was one of the three.

I was able to get on HAZMAT during the next few years. I learned all I could about HAZMAT and the fire rigs in hopes of being promoted. Three degrees, a Bachelor's of Science  
**February 5, 2015**

from Baker's University, a Fire Science Degree from the Kansas City Kansas Community College and an advance Management Degree from Dillard University of New Orleans. I sat down to take the promotional driver's test at least fifteen times, passing it fifteen times. I couldn't get promoted. For twenty years I was allowed to drive fire trucks when the driver was off, ride the seat acting captain when the captain and driver were off, respectfully.

I took the driver's test for the last time in 2010. I scored 99 questions right on a test of 123 questions, 195 points out of 200 points on the driver's test. The reason I was given for scoring so low is that everyone else got 100 questions right. My reply after twenty years, I know how to operate every piece of equipment you have on this job and I can't get promoted but you promote guys who can't pump or drive. I apologize for raising my voice. At that point I knew I was dealing with structured racism.

When I let it be known I was retiring as soon as the first month of eligibility, an operations chief came to my station one morning and said to me, keep it in mind I have been on the job twenty-four years already. He said Eric, if you take the test again and you pass would you stay if you got promoted. My response, are you kidding me. I would take almost a \$3,000 cut in pay and I would not be able to recover that lost for almost four years. I should have been a driver in my sixth to eighth year and a captain in my tenth to fifteenth year. He just sat and listened while I vented. The system is designed to keep you in place until someone sees fit to say hey, let's promote them.

These are a few incidents that I have written on the paper. Almost twenty-five years of service, I have a lot to tell. It was in the news a few months back where a white reporter was interviewing a white representative from the department talking about how good things are across the board as far as hiring and promoting and I'm sitting there listening to this at home. I said to myself while watching the commentary on TV, why won't they ask somebody Black.

**Tommy Wilson** said good evening, Mister Mayor, commissioners and civic and community leaders. I'd like to say first of all I'm here to thank you also, Mister Mayor, for having the aspherical to bring this issue before the commission and the community by extension.

I was a part of the Fire Department for 23 years I believe. They run altogether after a while. I believe I was a part of the Black Firefighters organization when we felt like it was necessary to bring a suit against the city and Local 64. That suit was dismissed with prejudice based on some issues that many of us didn't have any control over. I feel that it's despicable that the city is in the same position now as they were back in '87 when I came on the job. No one has

**February 5, 2015**

addressed it. Former leaders of the leaders, former leaders of fire administration apparently felt no need to address the situation and I just want to thank you again, sir, you being upfront on this issue.

I want to offer a solution. I'm from the military, personally, and from my family. As a military brat, we always recognize on the post of Fire Prevention Week where the Fire Department came out with literature, trinkets, helmets, badges, coloring books and so forth for the kids in the local schools and this continued throughout elementary and middle school. I believe if a program such as that was implemented here locally that the kids would actually have a reference point as to where they would like to be at some point in their involvement with the community and being part of the community. So hopefully, at some point with all these minds working towards the conquering of this diversity issue that we can come up with solutions that will help ameliorate the situation and make our community the model that it can be.

**Karen Jones, 3400 N. 128<sup>th</sup> St.,** said good evening and thank you for this opportunity. I am a concerned citizen of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, and I also feel honored and privileged to also be serving as Pride's (The Black Firefighter's Association) representative on Mayor Holland's and the Department of Justice's diversity and public safety taskforce. Diversity, hiring African Americans and other people of color, including women has long been a concern of Pride. In fact, the lack of diversity within the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department is somewhat the nature of the existence of Pride. Although Pride has worked within the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department to do various things over the years to bring the serious lack of diversity to the attention of the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department's decision makers, Pride's concerns have seemingly fallen on deaf ears because nothing has largely changed and the numbers of African Americans, Hispanics, women and other minority groups continues to be shamefully dismal on the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department and has been for far too many years.

Pride certainly believes that it is about time that the lack of diversity within the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department is finally getting some real internal, external and public attention. On behalf of Pride we want to say thank you, thank you, thank you to Mayor Mark Holland for his fearless courage and clear understanding on the criticality of bringing this very important issue of diversity in hiring in public safety for the Fire, Police and Sheriff's Department to the forefront.

**February 5, 2015**

Mayor Holland is also to be commended for his unwillingness to sugarcoat the issue and for telling it like it T—I—is. Pride would also like to thank the Department of Justice for their role in getting this issue on the radar in an active and meaningful way with the commendable goal of laying the foundation for things to change and garnering some real results in a quantifiable way and ensuring that the employee demographics of our public safety departments look like the citizen demographics of Wyandotte County.

Lastly, and especially on behalf of Pride, I want to strongly encourage the Mayor, the Department of Justice and the taskforce to look closely at implementing long-term opportunities to make sure that the tide does indeed change and that it stays turned with an effective adequate amount of oversight being put in place to make sure that the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department going forward gets more diverse and stays that way but the resolution will unfortunately not be an overnight sensation. We don't want to just talk the talk, we want to boldly walk the walk and be able to do so proudly for years to come. Please take Pride's long-term oversight suggestion seriously. I again, on behalf of Pride, wholeheartedly volunteer to be a part of such an oversight committee.

**Maria Romero, 1401 New Jersey Ave.,** said thank you all for being here. I am currently a 10<sup>th</sup> Grade student in the public service community at Wyandotte High School. I believe if there were more summer jobs and paid internship opportunities for students in Wyandotte County, students would be better qualified for jobs in the public sector of Wyandotte County.

Providing more summer jobs and paid internships will keep students off the streets and allow them to earn income to support their families, therefore providing solid work experience and careers of interest to Wyandotte's students will open doors for full-time careers in the future.

Many Wyandotte County students like me have been working since a very young age outside of Wyandotte County because there were no job opportunities in our local community to help support our family. By having more opportunities for students to pursue jobs locally will keep Wyandotte County residents working in Kansas communities. Thank you for listening to my concerns. I look forward to seeing these changes in our community.

**Maria Kline, 1957 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.,** said I appreciate the length that you're going to make this possible, but I have been around for a very long time and we have talked but we never made a solution. I'm saying once you put this together, you have to make sure that it gets to everyone because a lot of times you cannot always figure that one way is going to work for the others.

**February 5, 2015**

Once you do put it in place, when it's due keep existing that it's not fair of how you hire. You need to put a committee together to see why. The way to heal in our community, we have to see different races being a part of it. That's the way of growing. So just don't say that you're doing it. Do it and let's see the result out of it.

**Ruby Ellington, 451 Walker Ave.,** said my question to you tonight is if you get a taskforce in place, will they be able to answer the citizens' questions. A couple of years ago I was confronted by one of the white firefighters as I was working a part-time job at the Hilton Garden Inn. The firefighter came in and drew a picture of a black firefighter and a white firefighter and said they needed to be in certain places. I made a complaint here at the city and to this day I haven't received an answer from that complaint. I was just wondering if you had any complaints on police officers or firefighters will it be addressed back to the citizen that made that complaint.

**Alan Rosales, 245 N. Thorp,** said I am currently a sophomore at Wyandotte High School and I believe everyone should receive many opportunities. By opportunities I mean by having field trips to the Unified Government building and find out what they do. Another great thing would be to have summer jobs to experience how it would be like later on when we actually do it. We would also like internships with companies that have tax abatements. We all deserve opportunities no matter the race. Everyone has something special in them they are waiting to release and show it off. Thank you for hearing what I have to say. I appreciate you having us here.

**Kamari Knott, 554 N. 55<sup>th</sup>.** A female said this is Kamari Knott. He was invited here. He got student of the month this year pre-K. We were invited here by Paul Jones, chief firefighter. He wants to tell his story on why he wanted to be here today. **Kamari Knott** said I wanted to be here because I want to be a fireman. A female said that's all he wanted everyone to hear because he loves Paul and what he does for the community here.

**Erick Ruiz, 2736 N. 11<sup>th</sup> St.,** said I hope you all are having a good evening. It's a pleasure to meet you all. I am currently a sophomore student at Wyandotte High School. I'm here to share some ideas that I have. I'm in a small committee public service. What we do there is we study, we work on stuff about law enforcement, helping the community. We have fieldtrips as well where we go and do community service, helping others like Harvesters. I don't know if you've

heard of that before. We are learning and trying to get to a career path now. It's a great opportunity that we've had thanks to our school to get to learn about new things.

Last year I was in the junior police academy where they taught us about how they train, how to get prepared for those kinds of fields as firemen. Not necessarily just a policeman, firemen, FBI, doctors, all those kinds of things. You see, what will make it better is if we had more scholarships. If you could offer a scholarship for us, internships or some kind of summer school programs that we could have during the summer that would give us that training and that support for us later on when we graduate and continue our life.

We would also like if we could have job shadowing. We could shadow a policeman, a fireman such as—like my friend here said earlier, Alan Rosales, fieldtrips, fieldtrips to government buildings also like the police academy. Trips that can give us an understanding and more of a learning of what we can choose and what we can go forward to as a career. That's basically it.

Also, one thing that I also have is that we should also stop the injustice and the discrimination in our community. We should make it a better place because when we work together, we can further things and we can accomplish a lot and success.

**Nancy Martinez, 2315 Lawrence Ave.,** said I am a paramedic student at KCKCC. I went through the fire academy at KCKCC and I did my EMT there as well. I will be applying for KCK Fire Department this month. I've lived in Wyandotte County my whole life. I live in Argentine and I'm well involved in my community. Being a fire medic for KCK would be a lifelong dream for me. This is what I want to do. I know this is my calling and I have a passion for patient care and just being there for my community and showing that I can make a difference.

When I asked my little brothers and my little sisters what they wanted to be when they grew up when they were younger they would tell me I want to be a police officer or a firefighter and now I ask them the same question and they tell me that they wouldn't even dare be a police officer or a firefighter because of what society and what the media has portrayed them to be. For example, they are looked upon as monsters when back then they were looked upon as heroes.

I believe that diversity begins with our youth and one thing I want to see in my community is being involved with children, starting out young and just showing them that it's okay to want to make a difference, that you don't have to be scared to want to be a police officer or a firefighter so they're not looked at monsters, how they are right now. I just think you can't have diversity when people don't want to apply for these positions for these very reasons.

**February 5, 2015**

**Terrance Henderson, 742 N. 74<sup>th</sup> Terr.,** said I'm a 24 year veteran of the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department and the president of the Kansas City, KS Black Firefighter's Association (Pride.) In September 1978, our organization was formed to address the lack of African Americans being recruited, hired and promoted in the fire service. Over those years, the organization has made many recommendations and proposals to assist in these efforts, however, things have went unchanged. So here we are today, but what we've always heard was that the pool of applicants has been too small so we're not being hired because of that.

Over my 24 years, I and this organization have actively recruited men and women for the fire service. Over the last year and a half we've stepped up efforts and with that, we have formed partnerships with the Kansas City, Kansas Community College, with the Kansas City, Kansas School District and with assistance from our present fire chief, we have developed recruiting, mentorship and tutoring with those applicants. Just to drive home the point, for several years now the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools has had a first responder's program with the Kansas City, Kansas Community College. The high school seniors were able to do this while they were there for free. Every year the numbers in those classes would be maybe four to five applicants, but over the last year with our active recruitment in those schools, the present class that is in the Kansas City, Kansas College is 24 students. Last year there were only four. Generally, that's been the high number, four.

The last point I'll give you, 10 years ago the chief of Sugarland Fire Department, a suburb of Houston, Texas, did a commission to study. He went back 25 years, took the projections of the hiring in the Fire Department nationally, he projected 25 years into the future and what he came up with was Blacks, minorities would be extinct in the fire service in 25 years. We're now just over 10 years into that. To drive home that point, in the last 4.5 years we have hired 108 people here in the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department, 6 have been Black. The thing is that we have to today take a truly active role in making sure—(3-minutes were up)

**Lamont Stewart, 3727 Bryant,** said I'm here to voice my concerns today as a concerned citizen with the lack of diversity within the current city employment and our public safety department. Many have done it but I just want to reiterate what's been said. I've been a resident of Kansas City, Kansas for over 40 years. I deem myself to be a connected studied resident. I have watched the northeast urban core of KCK literally dilapidate and become a heavily blighted area.

Our community is deemed a food desert and our leadership has not stepped up to deliver a relief grocery store for citizens.

I don't believe that northeast KCK up to midtown, known as the heart of the city, has reached these conditions by accident. Our businesses are gone, homes are steadily being condemned, financial prosperity, jobs and opportunity do not exist here but they once did. How did we get to this point you ask. I asked myself the same question. I begin to do some research and to look to see who has the power and the authority to change these conditions. The answer is you, the mayor and the commissioners.

I received five emails this evening about this hearing and I asked myself is this some sort of publicity stunt for reelection or you know what's really going on. Here's why I asked that question. I was an attendee at the 2014 Martin Luther King celebration where this Department of Justice process or taskforce was mentioned by the leadership, and since that MLK celebration, the KCK Fire Department has graduated an additional two classes, over 75 firemen and women; of those two classes, a few women, no African Americans and one Hispanic.

Just this past January of 2015, I sat in the same Martin Luther King celebration and heard the same similar speech as in 2014 but no real change has occurred over that year, with those two classes that have graduated after what the citizens were told at the MLK in 2014. Again I ask myself, is this some sort of stunt or is this the real deal. Will our community leadership stand up and do what's right by its citizens? Will public safety reflect the citizens in which they serve? Also, how did we get to this point? Someone must be held responsible for the staggering statistics that exist not just in public safety, but across the city in terms of employment. If the majority of the city's employment is derived from its citizen's taxpayers then the workforce should reflect those same taxpayers.

In 2013 I requested a copy of the Unified Government EE04 documents that entailed all of the city's departments, not just public safety, from top to bottom of the organization, all city, employees and departments. This analysis broke down all the departments, race, salary, age and gender. Ironically, but not to my surprise, these statistics across the department showed African American men and women make up only 5 to 10% of those departments. We just ask that you make a change for us man.

**Granville O'Neal, 1942 N. 79<sup>th</sup> Terr.,** said to the honorable Mayor Holland, to this august body that makes up the Unified Government of Kansas City, Kansas. I believe statically everything has been said concerning our public safety. What I would like to present to you are some  
**February 5, 2015**

recommendations to alleviate some of these problems, in particular, to the Fire Department. I served 32 years with the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department so I know a little something about it.

First of all first point is to develop a meaningful and resourceful recruiting team that can effectively recruit which includes African Americans and women recruits. Number two, drop the age requirement to 19, which would ensure a greater pool of applicants to pull from. Most of the departments across this country, the required age is 18 to 19. I believe that if we can train 18 year olds or 19 year olds to go and fight for this country, certainly we can train them to save people here in our communities at the age of 19.

The other point, revive the cadet program that was a part of the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department. My next recommendation would be to reestablish the EMT certification in-house. We have our sister city across the bridge there that prepares their firefighters with EMT certification in-house. I believe that we used to do it. I think that we could go back to doing just that.

My next point, seek a federally mandated consent decree that would be in effect at such time that the department personnel is reflective of the community it serves and continues to be in the future. My next point, create an environment that promotes accountability, transparency, diversity and lastly, and this is really ambitious, eliminate positions based on nepotism or religious affiliations and or patronage.

**Luiz Villarreal, 319 N. 14<sup>th</sup> St.**, said, Mayor Holland, distinguished members of this panel, ladies and gentlemen, good evening. I am a senior student at Bishop Ward High School. I'm also a member of the Junior Police Academy otherwise known as JPA. JPA is a program offered to partnership with the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department and the National Junior Police Academy. The program is currently being implemented in every high school in Kansas City, Kansas, and numerous high schools throughout the United States of America.

The JPA program is a course in character education that is geared toward high school students. The JPA is a great opportunity for students to learn what it takes to be a police officer. It also provides students with instructions on many different facets of the police profession including patrol work, handling crime scenes, SWAT operations, K-9 handling and conducting building searches. Furthermore, the JPA program teaches students about our rights and responsibility as members of our community.

In 2013, 11 Bishop Ward students graduated from the JPA program. In 2014, 26 students graduated from the JPA program. This year 31 students are participating and they are expected to graduate from the program. Out of the 31 students, 28 are minorities. When law enforcement officers and young people are brought together, wonderful things start to happen. Frame this image in your mind and glimpse the engine that powers JPA for youth, someone to champion justice, for the police officer; someone worth fighting for.

Please hire police cadets from within the junior police academy. Remember, together young people and police officers generate a unique American brand of idealism that is essential to both liberty, democracy and an enthusiasm for justice. Thank you for caring.

**Mary Martin, 804 S. 89<sup>th</sup> St.,** said Mayor, Commissioners and the public I'm here today to talk to you about what's going on in Wyandotte County. To me, if it walks like a duck, looks like a duck, it is a duck; therefore, we have massive discrimination in every level in Wyandotte. I'm a transplant here. I'm not born and raised in Wyandotte. I'm not going to apologize for it. It just is. What I'm saying to you is that on every level, even as I look at the commissioners sitting before us today, we have Murguia that's not here, we have an at-large seat that hasn't been filled for two years, we got Walker that isn't here, that just shows the seriousness and the urgency of what we're debating today. Some of ya'll don't care and, therefore, we get the public policies that we get.

Now in terms of why we have the Police Department, the Fire Department and the Sherriff Department underutilized and misrepresentative in terms of the community they serve, it's clear. It's an interviewing problem, it's a hiring problem and it's a testing problem. I think it's ya'll responsibility to take care of that. It's only three issues. Those individuals that are making those decisions that are not making the decision for the public at large. If you want to correct it, deal with that.

**Cielo Fernandez, El Centro, 650 Minnesota Ave.,** said El Centro's mission is to strengthen communities and improve the life of Latinos and others through social economic and educational opportunities. That's why on behalf of the board of El Centro our staff and especially the community that we serve and our clients, we totally support this workforce and this idea of changing this organization to look more like the community that they serve.

Most of our clients unfortunately do not trust people who work in uniforms, and unfortunately people in uniforms don't trust in communities or people that look or talk like me.

**February 5, 2015**

The idea of hiring a more diverse community that not only reflects the ethnicity, the language, the color or the accent but can refer the cultural competency and the knowledge I can understand exactly what is a community going on.

We will avoid to have El Centro have on a daily basis those families that come to us with horrible stories that instead of calling the police, they came to us because they trust us. That is something that the workforce has to develop so the community at large can trust the services. We applaud Mayor Holland and the commission for this vision to look forward to support and we look forward you in any way that we can.

**Brenda Shrivvers, 2202 S. 46<sup>th</sup> Terr.,** said in late 2013, Mr. Robert Milan, Sr., Virginia Sewing, and myself met with the former County Administrator, Dennis Hays, to discuss the inequities in the public safety department. This discussion was later continued with the present County Administrator, Doug Bach, Chief Paul Jones, Jason Banks and the Human Resources Director. At a follow-up meeting with the Administrator, and Human Resources Director, we were joined by LaDora Lattimore, Reverend Desmond Lamb, and Reverend Robert Milan, Jr. At the first meeting with the Administrator, a document was presented that specifically outlined inequities that existed in the Fire and Police Departments. With a population that is composed of over 60% underrepresented minorities, the public safety departments included less than 10% of the population.

We requested two things: 1) That the Unified Government make a concert effort to change these statistics by hiring more of the underrepresented. 2) Blacks and Hispanics be moved up to decision-making positions.

I will not go into Pride and all that they have done to increase the number of pool for employees in the Fire Department. I do want to say that in this discussion with the County Administrator, we talked about the fact that one of the things that kept minorities out of the Fire Department was the fact that the psychologist that they employed always found a reason not to hire minorities even though they would pass all the other tests. We asked that this be changed. Also, the administration pointed out that they were going to look in hiring or issuing a request for proposal and this had not been done as of the last Public Safety meeting. Please do something.

**Delores Butler, 5806 Georgia Ave.,** said I had a question and I spoke with the Mayor briefly at one of our Livable Neighborhood meetings about having a Career Day put back into the USD 500 system. I worked for the district for 25 years. A long time ago, we used to have a Career  
**February 5, 2015**

Day. The Career Day started at elementary through high school. When you put those positions back in where you make it mandatory—our children only know what they see or what they're introduced to.

I remember the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department coming next door to the elementary school and the kids actually got to see the fire trucks and try on some of the uniforms and stuff, but this makes an impression. Everything else impresses them. Impressing them how to shoot people, kill people, we see all this but we need to show them a positive side. We can implement the District 500 to put Career Day back as a part of their agenda. Every year, I think we did it during the month of May and you bring in all kinds of people. It doesn't have to be just the Police Department or the Fire Department, but if they're not exposed to this and they don't know anything about it, parents aren't going to say go join the Police Department, go join the Fire Department, they're not going to say that. I think that I would like to see that implemented back into the school system.

**Michelle D'Entremont, 3938 Springfield St.,** said I'm 34 year-old EMT, nursing student, an army veteran. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and training at the US Army Chemical School and US Army Engineer School. I'm a certified Firefighter I and II, HAZMAT Operations and 40 hour HazWoper.

Two and a half years ago I decided to pursue a longtime dream of mine to become a firefighter/paramedic and to actively begin working towards that goal. This summer I changed my mind when I saw the underbelly of the system; just a peak. I went through the Fire Academy at KCKCC. While in that program I was told by a female instructor, a captain with the KCKFD, that I would have to accept and live with certain expectations of my behavior because I am female. I should stop speaking out so much. I shouldn't volunteer for tasks that require extra heavy lifting to prove myself. I should act more female, whatever that means, so I don't make people uncomfortable because that's what's expected of me. Imagine how that sounds to me, an ex-army officer who was one of only six females in a combat engineer company. I don't know if I felt anger or pity that this strong female firefighter had internalized such horrible ideas.

Then I applied to the KCKCC Paramedic Program despite having a 4.0 GPA and an excellent resume with military experience and despite being told that they want more female candidates. I was not selected out of 26 applicants for 24 slots. I know why. It's because I'm different and I refuse to pretend to be the same. I refuse to sit quietly in a little box assigned to my demographic. There is a fundamental problem with the cultural expectations and our realm

**February 5, 2015**

of public safety. Diversity isn't just about seeing a better mix of brown and black amongst pasty pale faces and enough ponytails and lipstick strewn in for good measure. You'll never get more demographic diversity of race, gender, and religion until you make your organization open to a diversity of ideas, diversity of thinking, diversity of personalities, and diversity of backgrounds. You can't just say you want more diversity, you need to exemplify it.

I was in the Army. I understand that unit cohesion is necessary, however, diversity doesn't mean that token and diverse individuals need to make sure the majority feels comfortable with their existence. It means that the culture itself needs to change so that minority individuals feel included, wanted and valued for their skills and contributions, not excluded for their differences. If you truly want to find and retain talent from a broad pool of applicants, you need to make those applicants, feel as though they won't face a career long uphill battle due to the very nature of their existence. Tell us that we have a place here and then follow through.

**Mayor Holland** said, again, we appreciate the eloquence of all of the speeches. Thank you all for your decorum and I appreciate the contributions.

**Leroy Smith, 6664 Greeley Ave.,** said I've lived here over 40 years. I want you to know tonight that racism is running rapid in Kansas City, Kansas. If you stop at any service station until you get out west, there's not a restroom to be used. If you go down here to CVS on 10<sup>th</sup> Street, they don't have a restroom for you to use. If you go on 82<sup>nd</sup> & State, there's a restroom for you. It's running rapid in Kansas City, Kansas. It's not only in the Police Department and it's not only in the Fire Department. We're all Americans and we're all citizens. We shouldn't have to be going through this kind of stuff this day and age but we are. Something needs to change and it needs to change now.

Mayor Holland, I applaud what you're trying to get done. Rev. Banks, I applaud you. We're American citizens. We shouldn't have to go through this. It should already be a done deal but now we're dealing with it again.

I fought in the '60s. I had knots all upside my head for trying to eat at a restaurant. Now here we go again, same old stuff, same old day. We need to make a change and we don't need to wait very long to get it done. We need to do it now.

**Laura Hewitt, 1116 S. 57<sup>th</sup> Terr.,** said my commercial address is 2933 S. 47<sup>th</sup> St. I am a citizen. I'm a business owner. I own a small business here in Wyandotte County and I employ

about, depending on the month, about 20 people. They're a pretty diverse group with one exception. I can't find enough men to be dental assistants. They just don't want to do it. I found one and he decided that he was going to further his career and go to hygiene school so I lost him as an employee so we're a bunch of women, unfortunately. I tell my staff all the time I wish I could find some more guys because it would be great to have a couple of more men around. I absolutely understand that we're looking for some diversity in our workforce, absolutely. I think that we could use some more diversity in just about everything that we do. Not just racial diversity but diversity of backgrounds, diversity of ethnicity, diversity of income, just diversity of just about everything. That's a good thing. It can never be a bad thing to have diversity, absolutely.

My questions pertain to some of the data that we saw on the screen when we started here and some of the data that I heard spoken a few times in the beginning of this process. When Mr. Holland said that he attended a Fire Department graduation shortly after election and there were 42 graduates and only one of them a woman. That had to have been a culmination of more than one Fire Department graduation. There was not a class of 42 graduates since April 2013. That had to have been a compilation of more than one graduating class.

I heard it spoke that tonight not exactly—I heard it spoke that Fire Department careers start at \$55K a year at a speech right across the street over here within the last few years. That's not true. Tonight it was spoken that they start at about one and a half again of the countywide normal income or regular median income, I guess. If that is referring to the \$55K starting salary, that is not true. I would like for the Commission and the Mayor to examine the data that we started with and make sure we started with the correct data to make sure that we're using the correct data and we're speaking the correct data in sound bites on the radio and being quoted in the paper and on the screen here tonight. I know many, many of these things because I was there. I witnessed those graduations. I was present at those ceremonies and I'm certain that many people, many men and women that serve on the Fire Department ...(3 minutes were up)

**Mayor Holland** said I would take the opportunity to clarify, you are correct. There was a group of 42 hired and they went through two graduating classes, one with 26 and one of 16. The group of 26 graduated in the fall of 2013 and the group of 16 the following summer. It was correct, in the 26 there were no women. The woman was in the second group of 16. For simplicity purposes, because it was a single-hire offer, a conditional offer of employment, it was to 42

individuals. I do give the demographic of the combined graduations so I appreciate your clarification on that. Thank you.

**Mike Vitale, 4315 N. 112<sup>th</sup> St.**, said I'm here as Vice President of Academics of Kansas City, Kansas Community College. Just to make sure that everyone knows that following the Mayor's speech in January 2014, our EMT and Paramedic director immediately started on a recruitment project working directly with the high schools going out, taking equipment, taking a donated ambulance that we turned around to markings with KCKCC to show the students, to get the high school students to start seeing what the EMT was all about. We got our firefighters involved with that too.

As you heard Mr. Henderson mention, this year moving forward we have for the first time ever a full first responders class in the high schools. We are also working with KCK School District USD 500 to start a program this fall where we will be taking high school seniors in, putting them through the EMS/EMT Program and also giving them other academic credits and hopefully some fire forensic training to keep them excited as they wait for that 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. I understand Chief Jones has lowered the age to 19 now for hiring of firefighters in Kansas City, Kansas, or is certainly working toward that goal.

While we've heard a lot of very tragic and very disheartening and sad stories coming from a lot of people here tonight, we also heard a lot of positive things coming from the high school students, who some of them have already left, I guess the rest are leaving now, that they're still looking for that opportunity. They still have that belief that they can become the next Fire Chief, the next Police Chief, and the next Sheriff. Let's all keep working and make action so that those students' dreams can come true. It may be too late for some, but it's not too late for the future.

**Murray D. Anderson, Sr., 4101 Minnie**, said I have been a member of Wyandotte County for 60 years. There's been a lot of discussion about racism and how it affects our community; how it has adversely affected our community. The definition of racism in my mind and in my heart is corrupt capitalism practiced by a municipal government, state government or a federal government.

Under this administration in this 21<sup>st</sup> century in 2015, Mayor Holland, you have the power in your hand to change these circumstances and conditions immediately without waiting and without asking any of your colleagues. The Mayor/CEO has power and authority; it's totally

**February 5, 2015**

concentrated. The Commissioners have no authority to do anything that is representative of a democracy. We have had a history since 1997 that has been orchestrated that created these circumstances, and there is no reason why justice and shared prosperity can't be given the life that it deserves by your hand immediately without discussion because you have the authority and the power to do so. I trust that you will. I thank you for your time.

**Thomas Gordon, 2521 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St.,** said I'm a resident of Wyandotte County and I'm proud to be a Dotte, however, I was not going to speak this evening until someone said why don't you go tell your story.

In 1966, I graduated from Sumner High School. The next day I was in the Marine Corp. I stayed there for four years. I came out; I couldn't wait to get back home because I wanted to be a police officer here in Wyandotte County. I left the Marine Corp as a E5 Sergeant. I served 13 months in Vietnam and 13 months in Okinawa. When I took the test I passed the physical, I passed the academics but I failed the physiological test. Needless to say I was totally blown away. I had no idea how I could survive in Vietnam and fail the physiological test to be a police officer in Kansas City. I wondered had things really deteriorated that much in four years. However, when I asked why, I've heard it back in 1970, 45 years ago, and I still hear it today, it's confidential. That's got to change. Thank you.

**Joshua Hatchett, 8220 Splitlog,** said this is Malik. I'm a Kansas City, Kansas fireman. I wasn't going to bring him up but it's so close to 9:00 that were getting ready to go home and get to bed. I wanted to share my story. How are you doing, Mr. Kane? I wanted to state my story because I have been on the job seven years. I'm stationed at Station 11s at 31<sup>st</sup> & State Ave. I do a lot of my box time at 9s off of Central Avenue. I work hard. I feel like I have a pretty good reputation. I didn't have anything written because I wasn't going to say anything but the reality of diversifying the department and why it is important is because morale is stronger when you're working next to people that you feel like you have relatability to. One of my best friends on the job is named Milan Hydukovic. We've been friends since we were cadets. He's a Siberian guy which means he's white. I'm going to be in his wedding in May; close friend of mine. We've been cool for seven years, like brothers, but the reality is I would have never thought we would have been that close if we wouldn't have had opportunity to be cadets together.

When you work with people, when you have relatability with individuals, I watch guys at stations, on the job, they know each other from school, they know each other through parents,

**February 5, 2015**

they know each other they have relatability. So being in the academy is like an advance like a high school senior. It's like just a step up because they went to class together, they were in high school together, they have relatability. Morale is stronger when you work with people you can relate to. This is not coming from a guy whose retired, this is not coming from a person who tried to get on a job, this is coming from a guy who works the job. As another extension of my family, she's carrying my second son right now. She didn't want to come up but I love her too, but I did want to say that and that's how I feel.

**Morris Letcher, 10808 Augusta Dr.**, said I just want to thank everybody for being here, Commissioners, Mayor for having this forum where we can speak. I wasn't going to come and talk. I'm a 16-year veteran of the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department. I happen to be one of the captains on the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department. I've been a captain for approximately three years. I just want to tell my story.

I graduated Kansas City, Kansas public schools; was fortunate to go play college football. I tried out for professional football team, Miami Dolphins, in 1994. I could have went anywhere in the country to teach. I came back to Kansas City, Kansas because this is home. Came back to Kansas City, Kansas in 1995, applied for the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department, studied criminal justice, tip top shape, and did not get hired for the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department. Fortunately I was enough to get hired for the Wyandotte County Sheriff's Department where I worked for three years. Three years later, the Unified Government/city consolidated into the Unified Government.

They had a program where they allowed us to go to KCKCC and they paid for EMT school and we rolled right into the fire academy March 8, 1998. I'm a success story of that program. It needs to continue if possible. I tell people all the time, I'm a 16-year substitute teacher in the Kansas City, Kansas school district. I was on Piper School Board for a year. I'm now the first black head basketball coach at Piper High School. In order to be a man, you have to see a man. In order to be a fireman, you have to see fireman if that's what you want to be. Our kids need to see what they want to become. The reason why you see our kids running around with their pants down, sagging, cussing, disrespecting girls and things like because that is what they think they can be; what is available to them.

I want to thank Chief John Paul Jones because we have had dialogue that has never been had on the Fire Department since I've been on the job for 16 years. I can't say what I want to say in three minutes but I will tell you this. As long as we keep talking and we start

**February 5, 2015**

implementing things to progress, we can only get better. I thank you. I thank you for your time and I hope we continue our recruiting efforts in the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools.

We can do this you all. We just have to take a stand at this time. We can't say hold on, we have to step forward. Please don't get mad. If we get mad, we'll never go forward. That's what's wrong with America now. We need to be steadfast, recognize the problem and press forward. And the church said, Amen.

**Mayor Holland** said well, he was the last speaker. So I think an Amen was appropriate. I want to thank everyone for coming one more time and just tell you the process. We are going to take the comments; we've received a lot of suggestions. I've taken a lot of notes. Our clerk is here taking notes as well for the recommendations and the feedback that we've received tonight. I will tell you that I intend to set up a program. I'm not looking for a quick fix. I'm not looking to have a class go through, show some color and then we're done. We need a cultural, institutional change that will last for generations and will outlast me on this podium because God willing, I have a life after I'm on this podium. I will say that we have to have a system and that system has to be carried forward by the people of this community. It cannot be the agenda of one or two people. It has to be a community effort.

Part of what we're doing tonight is we are pushing ourselves down an irrevocable path because when you say it in public, the public's expectations go up and the public accountability goes up and the public will not be denied. We're not going to talk about it and then say wasn't that a nice evening we all had together. We will be judged by the changes that we make that are not short-term, that are not fast but are long lasting. In five years, in 10 years, in 20 years, we can look back tonight and say we made a difference. If we can't do that, we've wasted our time tonight. I want to thank you for coming out. I want to thank you for lifting up your voice.

I want to thank you for continuing to hold accountable your elected officials and your departments. You deserve the best and that's what we aim to deliver. Thank you for coming out tonight. I will ask for a 10 minute recess before we continue with the rest of our agenda.

**Mayor Holland** reconvened the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

**Mayor Holland** recognized Mary Ann Flunder, a fellow elected official from the community college. Welcome. In her regular assigned set. We appreciate that, first row, third seat from the end. I always miss you when you're not here ma'am.

**February 5, 2015**

**Mayor Holland** asked if there were any revisions to the agenda. **Ms. Cobbins** said yes, Mr. Mayor. A blue sheet has been distributed. Under Section 7, Consent Agenda, we have a corrected item, that's Item No. 6. Under the Administrator's Agenda, we have an update to Item No. 1 and Item No. 2. The totals reflected on the blue sheet are as a result of the bond sale that occurred today.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Mayor Holland** asked if there were any set-asides on the Consent Agenda. There were none. **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve the Consent Agenda.** Roll call was taken and there were seven "Ayes," Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

**Ms. Cobbins** stated under the Consent Agenda, we will need to do a vote for the taxable billboards. That item requires eight votes and we have a seven to zero vote. **Mayor Holland** stated "Aye." **Ms. Cobbins** stated that vote is eight to zero for that Consent Agenda item.

**Action:** **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were seven "Ayes," Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

### **ITEM NO. 1 – 150007...GRANT: STORMWATER QUALITY EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**SYNOPSIS:** Request approval of a Stormwater Quality Education Grant Program as a requirement of the UG's Stormwater Management Plan and the EPA Consent Order, submitted by Sarah Fjell, Engineering. The grant would be implemented in 2015 with an annual budget of \$30,000 funded from the Stormwater Utility Fund. On January 20, 2015, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Kane, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

### **ITEM NO. 2 – 150012...REQUEST: SOLID WASTE MASTER PLAN**

**SYNOPSIS:** Request approval of the Solid Waste Master Plan as required by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), submitted by Tim Nick, Public Works. On

January 20, 2015, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Kane, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

**Action:** **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were seven “Ayes,” Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

### **ITEM NO. 3 – 150014...RESOLUTION: WAIVE FEES FOR NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION**

**SYNOPSIS:** A resolution waiving the fees for new residential home construction in 2015, submitted by Gordon Criswell, Assistant County Administrator. The waiver of these fees ended on December 31, 2014. On January 20, 2015, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Kane, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

**Action:** **RESOLUTION NO. R-6-15,** “A resolution authorizing waiver of building permit and sanitary sewer connection fees for single-family construction through December 31, 2015.” **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were seven “Ayes,” Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

### **ITEM NO. 4 – 150011...REQUEST: PROPOSED CHANGES TO FMLA**

**SYNOPSIS:** Request approval of proposed changes to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to comply with Federal Regulations and Department of Labor Regulations, submitted by Renee Ramirez, Director of Human Resources. On January 20, 2015, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Markley, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

**Action:** **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were seven “Ayes,” Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

**ITEM NO. 5 – 150001... GRANT: REACH**

**SYNOPSIS:** Request acceptance to receive grant funds amounting to \$15,000 per year for three years, submitted by Terry Brecheisen, Interim Director of Public Health. The funds will be used to help promote activities and make improvements to new and existing trails (including the two new levee trails). The Latino Health for All Coalition received the grant from the CDC called Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH). Because the activities of the grant in the active living/infrastructure are so aligned with the work of our infrastructure team, Healthy Communities Wyandotte submitted a letter of involvement to participate and receive money from the grant. On January 20, 2015, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Markley, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

**Action:** **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were seven “Ayes,” Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

**ITEM NO. 6 – 140299...ORDINANCE: SET OCCUPATION TAX FOR DIGITAL BILLBOARDS**

**SYNOPSIS:** Ordinance setting the occupation tax amount for digital outdoor advertising services, submitted by Patrick Waters, Legal. Action on this item was deferred to February 5, 2015, since it requires a vote of no less than two-thirds of the members-elect.

**Action:** **ORDINANCE NO. O-11-15, “An ordinance levying and imposing taxes upon and for the privilege of engaging in the business or providing digital outdoor advertising services in Kansas City, Kansas; amending Chapter 34 Taxation, Section 34-77 of the 2008 Code of Ordinances and Resolutions of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.” Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve the ordinance.** Roll call was taken and there were eight “Ayes,” Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan, Holland.

**ITEM NO. 7 – 150026...REPORT: 2014 REPORT ON BOC/MAYOR TRAVEL/EXPENDITURES**

**SYNOPSIS:** 2014 Report on Board of Commission/Mayor Travel and Community Event Expenditures, submitted by Thomas Wiss, Legislative Auditor. Per Resolution No. R-13-13, which was unanimously adopted by the commission on February 7, 2013, at the first commission meeting in February, the Legislative Auditor is directed to publish and present a detailed report of each commissioner's travel expenditures for the preceding year.

**Action:** For information only.

**ITEM NO. 8 - 970013...APPOINTMENT: BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**SYNOPSIS:** Appointment to Boards and Commissions: Chris Bergman to Golf Advisory Board, 2/5/15 to 5/30/15, submitted by Commissioner Murguia.

**Action:** **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were seven “Ayes,” Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

**ITEM NO. 9 - MINUTES**

**SYNOPSIS:** Minutes from special sessions of December 18, 2014, and January 8, 2015; and regular session of January 8, 2015.

**Action:** **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were seven “Ayes,” Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

**ITEM NO. 10 - WEEKLY BUSINESS MATERIAL**

**SYNOPSIS:** Weekly business material dated January 15, 22, and 29, 2015.

**Action:** Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve and authorize fund transfers. Roll call was taken and there were seven “Ayes,” Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

### **PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA**

No items of business.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES’ AGENDA**

No items of business.

### **ADMINISTRATOR’S AGENDA**

#### **ITEM NO. 1 – 150027... 2 RESOLUTIONS: ISSUANCE OF MUNICIPAL TEMPORARY NOTES**

**SYNOPSIS:** Two resolutions authorizing the issuance, sale, and delivery of the following municipal temporary notes, submitted by Lew Levin, Chief Financial Officer. All projects and equipment were previously authorized by the commission and consistent with the CMIP. On December 18, 2014, the full commission adopted Resolution No. R-125-14, authorizing the offering for sale of general obligation bonds and/or temporary notes to cover the costs.

- Approve resolution for Series 2015-I, estimated cost \$60,275,000
- Approve resolution for Series 2015-II (Taxable), estimated cost \$7,135,000

**Doug Bach, County Administrator,** said as the Commission’s aware, the bond sale that we went out on, these were previously approved projects that have been brought forth to the Commission, approved for us to moved forward and put into the bond sale and also constitute some temporary notes that we had last year that will move from temporary notes to bonds. This action was approved to move forward by the governing body and today or yesterday we conducted our actual bond sale. Mr. Levin, our Chief Financial Officer, is here today to just give closing comments on the results of our bond sale for your approval.

**Mayor Holland** said we heard a presentation on this earlier at our 5:30 Special Session.

**Action:** **RESOLUTION NO. R-7-15**, “A resolution authorizing and directing the issuance, sale and delivery of Municipal Temporary Notes, Series 2015-I, of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas; providing for the levy and collection of an annual tax, if necessary, for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on said notes as they become due; making certain covenants and agreements to provide for the payment and security thereof; and authorizing certain other documents and actions connected therewith.” **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were seven “Ayes,” Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

**Action:** **RESOLUTION NO. R-8-15**, “A resolution authorizing and directing the issuance, sale and delivery of Taxable Municipal Temporary Notes, Series 2015-II, of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas; providing for the levy and collection of an annual tax, if necessary, for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on said notes as they become due; making certain covenants and agreements to provide for the payment and security thereof; and authorizing certain other documents and actions connected therewith.” **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were seven “Ayes,” Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

## **ITEM NO. 2 – 150028...3 ORDINANCES/4 RESOLUTIONS: ISSUANCE/SALE OF BONDS**

**SYNOPSIS:** Ordinances and resolutions providing for the issuance, sale, and delivery of the following general obligation improvement bonds, submitted by Lew Levin, Chief Financial Officer. All projects and equipment were previously authorized by the commission and consistent with the CMIP. On December 18, 2014, the full commission adopted Resolution No. R-125-14, authorizing the offering for sale of General Obligation Bonds 2015-A, 2015-B, and 2015- C, and/or temporary notes to cover the costs. On January 8, 2015, the full commission adopted Resolution No. R-1-15, authorizing the offering for sale of General Obligation Refunding Bonds 2015-D, and Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds referred to as 2015-E, but which has been combined into 2015-B, to cover the costs.

**February 5, 2015**

- Approve ordinance for Series 2015-A – General Obligation Bonds (KCK), estimated amount \$29,995,000
- Adopt resolution for Series 2015-A – General Obligation Bonds (KCK), estimated amount \$29,995,000
- Approve ordinance for Series 2015-B – Taxable General Obligation Improvement and Refunding Bonds (KCK), estimated amount \$3,850,000
- Adopt resolution for Series 2015-B – Taxable General Obligation Improvement and Refunding Bonds (KCK), estimated amount \$3,850,000
- Adopt resolution for Series 2015-C – General Obligation Bonds (WyCo), estimated amount \$5,255,000
- Approve ordinance for Series 2015-D General Obligation Refunding Bonds (KCK), estimated amount \$21,955,000
- Adopt resolution for Series 2015-D General Obligation Refunding Bonds (KCK), estimated amount \$21,955,000

**Action:**        **ORDINANCE NO. O-12-15**, “An ordinance authorizing and providing for the issuance of General Obligation Improvement Bonds, Series 2015-A, of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas; providing for the levy and collection of an annual tax for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on said bonds as they become due; authorizing certain other documents and actions in connection therewith; and making certain covenants with respect thereto.” **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to approve the ordinance.** Roll call was taken and there were seven “Ayes,” Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

**Action:**        **RESOLUTION NO. R-9-15**, “A resolution prescribing the form and details of and authorizing and directing the sale and delivery of General Obligation Improvement Bonds, Series 2015-A, of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, previously authorized by Ordinance No. O-12-15 of the issuer; making certain covenants and agreements to provide for the payment and security thereof; and authorizing certain other documents and actions connected therewith.” **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were seven “Ayes,” Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

**Action:** **ORDINANCE NO. O-13-15**, “An ordinance authorizing and providing for the issuance of Taxable General Obligation Improvement and Refunding Bonds, Series 2015-B, of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas; providing for the levy and collection of an annual tax for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on said bonds as they become due; authorizing certain other documents and actions in connection therewith; and making certain covenants with respect thereto.” **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to approve the ordinance.** Roll call was taken and there were seven “Ayes,” Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

**Action:** **RESOLUTION NO. R-10-15**, “A resolution prescribing the form and details of and authorizing and directing the sale and delivery of Taxable General Obligation Improvement and Refunding Bonds, Series 2015-B, of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, previously authorized by Ordinance No. O-13-15 of the issuer; making certain covenants and agreements to provide for the payment and security thereof; and authorizing certain other documents and actions connected therewith.” **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were seven “Ayes,” Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

**Action:** **RESOLUTION NO. R-11-15**, “A resolution authorizing and directing the issuance, sale and delivery of General Obligation Improvement Bonds, Series 2015-C (Wyandotte County Projects), of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas; providing for the levy and collection of an annual tax for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on said bonds as they become due; making certain covenants and agreements to provide for the payment and security thereof; and authorizing certain other documents and actions connected therewith.” **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there

were seven “Ayes,” Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

**Action:** **ORDINANCE NO. O-14-15**, “An ordinance authorizing and providing for the issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2015-D, of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, for the purpose of providing funds to refund a portion of the city’s outstanding general obligation bonds; providing for the levy and collection of an annual tax for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on said bonds as they become due; authorizing certain other documents and actions in connection therewith; and making certain covenants with respect thereto.” **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to approve the ordinance.** Roll call was taken and there were seven “Ayes,” Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

**Action:** **RESOLUTION NO. R-12-15**, “A resolution prescribing the form and details of and authorizing and directing the sale and delivery of General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2015-D, of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, previously authorized by Ordinance No. O-14-15 of the issuer; making certain covenants and agreements to provide for the payment and security thereof; and authorizing certain other documents and actions connected therewith.” **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Philbrook, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were seven “Ayes,” Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

**Mayor Holland** said, Mr. Levin, thank you. Excellent work with you and your team. It’s a lot of work and we appreciate all that you’ve done.

### **ITEM NO. 3 - 150013... RESOLUTION: FIRE/WPC MAINTENANCE FACILITY**

**SYNOPSIS:** A resolution of intent to increase the CMIP budget for the proposed construction of a facility that would house Fire Maintenance and Supply and the Water Pollution Control Sewer Maintenance Construction, Sewer Maintenance Operations & Maintenance, WPC

**February 5, 2015**

Records and Mapping and Pump Station Operations and Maintenance, submitted by Mike Tobin, Public Works Interim Director. On January 20, 2015, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Kane, voted unanimously to forward to full commission.

**Action:**       **RESOLUTION NO. R-13-15**, “A resolution amending the 2015 CMIP budget to authorize construction and to provide additional funding for office, maintenance and storage facilities for the Fire Department and Water Pollution Control Division.” **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were seven “Ayes,” Maddox, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Townsend, McKiernan.

**Mayor Holland** said excellent work, Commission. I want to just reiterate. **Mike Tobin, Interim Public Works Director**, said I did want to say thank you. I just didn’t want to interrupt you. **Mayor Holland** said thank you for your thanks and your courtesy.

**Mayor Holland** said those are all the items that we’ve had. This has been a good night. I just want to express my appreciation to the Commission for your patience and diligence for the work that we’re doing together. Thank you very much. Have a good evening. Thank you, again, to Building and Logistics for coming up on short order with a microphone.

#### **COMMISSIONERS’ AGENDA**

No items of business.

#### **LAND BANK BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ AGENDA**

No items of business.

#### **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No items of business.

**MAYOR HOLLAND ADJOURNED  
THE MEETING AT 9:10 P.M.  
February 5, 2015**

**tpl/tk**

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Bridgette D. Cobbins  
Unified Government Clerk