



**Administration and Human Services**  
**Committee**  
**Standing Committee Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday, February 18, 2014**  
**4:35 PM**

**Location:**

Municipal Office Building  
701 N 7th Street  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101  
5th Floor Conference Room (Suite 515)

| <u>Name</u>   | <u>Absent</u>            |
|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="text" value="Commissioner Angela Markley, Chair"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="text" value="Commissioner Hal Walker, Co-Chair"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="text" value="Commissioner Tarence Maddox"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="text" value="Commissioner Mike Kane"/>             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="text" value="Commissioner Jane Philbrook"/>        | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**I.**        **Call to Order / Roll Call**

**II.**        **Approval of standing committee minutes from January 13, 2014.**

**III.**        **Outcomes**

**Item No. 1 - DISCUSSION ON GOALS**

**Synopsis:**

- a. Create searchable centralized online compilation of employment and educational recourses by September 15, 2014.
- b. Foster stronger relationships with Wyandotte County school districts by meeting with those districts at least twice a year beginning in 2014, and offering the same opportunities and partnerships to each school district. Commissioners representing areas within each school district should be invited to at least one of the two meetings.
- c. Work with Board of Regents' personnel, school districts, and KCKCC to improve processes and increase the number of students signed up to use the SB155

Program by 10% per district by Fall 2015.

- d. Research and identify our community's ten standout education and workforce development attributes to market to businesses as "star programs." Provide information about those programs on the centralized database and in our economic development materials by Fall 2015.

**Tracking #: 120153**

**IV.      Adjourn**

**ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN SERVICES  
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Monday, January 13, 2014**

The meeting of the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee was held on Monday, January 13, 2014, at 5:27 p.m., in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Municipal Office Building. The following members were present: Commissioner Markley, Chair; Commissioners Walker, Maddox, Kane, and Philbrook.

**Chairman Markley** called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and all members were present as shown above.

Approval of standing committee minutes from December 16, 2013. **On motion of Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Maddox, the minutes were approved.** Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Agenda:

**Item No. 1 –130428... Request of acceptance of \$10,000 of Certified Application Counselor (CAC) Incentive funds, submitted Joe Connor, Health Department Director. Funding was granted because of the Health Department’s efforts in training CACs to assist our residents in obtaining health insurance through the newly established Health Insurance Marketplace.**

**Chairman Markley** said I told Joe during agenda review that I love that every time he comes to us, he’s asking us to approve him getting money. That’s one of few people we can say that about. We appreciate it.

**Joe Connor, Health Dept. Director,** said every time’s a stretch, but thank you for that. What I have before you tonight is—I want to establish a grant fund in the amount of \$10,000. This money came from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City and it was an incentive

**January 13, 2014**

fund. We're a site now where certified application counselors can help people sign up for insurance in the new healthcare marketplace that's setup by the federal government. The incentive was to establish yourself as a site and train at least 5 people, that could be staff or volunteers, and you'll get a maximum of \$10,000. We currently have about 14 people that are certified application counselor trained, and we've got another 10 or so in the pipelines. We are going to have a couple of dozen people in the mix helping out people in our community.

Just for information purposes, we'll be opening tomorrow. It will be our first day. All day Tuesday, walk in. If you know somebody that is having trouble with their application or wants to start an application or needs to know if they even qualify for the application, we'll have people on site all day tomorrow at the Health Department.

**Commissioner Philbrook** asked how much use have you had at this so far. **Mr. Connor** said we'll find out tomorrow. **Commissioner Philbrook** asked so this is going to be your first. This is your trial run? **Mr. Connor** said our very first day. **Commissioner Philbrook** said good luck.

**Action:** **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Philbrook, to approve.** Roll call was taken on the motion and there were five "Ayes," Markley, Walker, Maddox, Kane, Philbrook.

**Item No. 2 –140019...** **A presentation and discussion from Election Commissioner Bruce Newby regarding a petition submitted by Ms. Mary Martin, dated November 26, 2013, submitted by Jody Boeding, Chief Legal Counsel, addressing questions raised by commissioners after Ms. Martin's presentation at December's Administration and Human Services Standing Committee meeting.**

**Jody Boeding, Chief Legal Counsel**, said I would just like to say Bruce's memo was so thorough and answered most of the legal questions, I think. I think I'll let him answer. I agree with his legal conclusions.

**Chairman Markley** said would you give sort of a very brief summary of your memo for those that are here in the audience and that are watching on television that might not have access to the paper version.

**Bruce Newby, Election Commissioner**, said the paper I presented to you that is in your packets is basically divided into two parts. The first part addresses special elections and the second part addresses petitions. Special elections exist for the purpose posing specific questions to voters. Special elections are also referred to as questions submitted elections. Special elections are commonly used for things like a school bond election, sales tax election, and obtaining voter approval for such things as gaming. They are always a yes, no question.

There is no provision in Kansas law for the election of a person to elective office to fill a vacancy. From US senator to city council, the method prescribed for filling a vacancy is always by appointment or selection by the governing body of the affective jurisdiction. Special elections are not used for filling elective position vacancies, although special elections can be accomplished in four months or less, a regular election usually takes six months or more to plan and execute.

Elections are expensive. The costs can range from \$10,000 to \$500,000, depending on the jurisdiction and the scope of the proposed election. For example, the school bond election that affects as few as 6,000 voters may cost \$10,000 while a presidential election involving all 85,000 voters in our county can be in the vicinity of \$500,000. I estimated on your packet that an election, if we could legally do so, an election of the nature that is being asked for in this petition would probably cost about \$250,000.

Petitions; shifting to that. There are mechanisms whereby voters can show their support of a particular issue. Kansas law defines the purpose and use of petitions. The various laws governing petitions define the requirements and formats for a petition to be considered valid. The petitions for which there is a statutory basis includes protest petitions, statutory initiative petitions, candidate petitions, recall petitions, political party recognition petitions, and grand jury

petitions. By example, copies of a repeal—I brought copies of a recall petition and what it looks like. I've described in the packet the required elements of the petition. Note that petitions minimally require the signature, printed name, address of the petition signer, and the date the petition was signed. Each petition page must contain an affidavit completed by the petition circulator and it must be notarized. The Kansas law authorizing a petition prescribes the number of persons who must sign the petition for it to be valid. The number of petition signers varies depending on the type of petition specified in the law. For example, the statutory initiative petition, which I cover in your packet, would require 4,224 signatures or 25% of the numbers of voters voting in the last general election. A grand jury petition would require 100 plus 2% of the number of votes cast for governor in the last election. That number would sit at 746. A recall petition requires not less than 40% of the votes cast for all candidates for the office. If we were talking about the mayorial office and a recall petition for that, that would require 6,758 valid signatures. There's no statutory authority to do an election, and the petition does not meet the requirements of law. That's the problem.

**Chairman Markley** said we did receive a letter from a community member. Clerk, if you didn't get a copy, I can certainly provide one to you to include in the minutes. Ms. Martin supplied a letter to us noting her understanding that her petition was likely not legally sound and just providing some feedback for the commission. That will go into our meeting minutes.

January 13, 2014

Unified Government  
Administration and Human Services Sanding Committee  
Municipal Office Building  
701 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 515  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

Dear Committee Chair:

I am writing this letter in response to the meeting to discuss the special election District One At-Large Seat, January 13, 2014.

Sense I am not allowed to speak at the meeting I felt it is imperative to write a short response.

It is now clear to me due to the Unified Government Charter; a special election to fill the District One At-Large seat is not legal or possible at this time.

Therefore, the question is what are the Commissioners going to do about filling the seat? Waiting is not an option. Change the charter or vote again until a winner is determined. Under the Federal Voting Rights Act, Section 2, our District One At-Large Seat should be filled now. What are you going to do on behalf of the Wyandotte County Citizens? Remember you were elected and the citizens are waiting and watching.

Sincerely,



Mary Martin  
Community Activist  
804 South 89<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas 66111  
(913) 788-7330

**Commissioner Maddox** said with you being the election commissioner, do you have any suggestions that maybe we can take as a commission in regards to filling this position, and what is your thought that we leave this seat vacant for 20 months. Is that a good thing or what are

**January 13, 2014**

some suggestions that you may have? **Mr. Newby** said well right now, the position's already been vacant for 10 months. By the time we were to hold an election of this magnitude, if an election were even possible, we're probably looking at June, July, or August before the person could be named for that position. The position is back up on the ballot in February and April of 2015. That person would effectively hold office for less than 8 months. Obviously, if they were appointed to it, they would have to immediately start campaigning for the next election. In terms of costs, in terms of being able to structure this to give any candidate a viable opportunity to run for the office, the time is just not there.

**Commissioner Maddox** said thank you and I understand that from an election standpoint all the things that come with hosting an election and running an election, it takes time and money. I do, as a representative of the 4<sup>th</sup> District who does not have an at-large commissioner to work with, find it somewhat strange that certain people and citizens in the community would go without fair representation for any amount of time be it 8 months or 7 months. That's something that I wanted to express.

I really appreciate what Ms. Martin has done. She just took it upon herself. She wanted fair representation. She didn't just talk about it, she went door-to-door and got petition signatures and even though it may not have been done the right way, she still put in effort. I get the calls. I don't know about other people, but I get the calls about people that are concerned about being taxed like every other citizen in this community but not having the fair representation of everybody in this community. That is something that I just wanted to address and that's why it's something that I went very hard on in the last two or three months because I wanted to know where do we stand. If people don't have the fair chance to vote or the fair chance for representation, then I don't know what government is for. I thought that's what government was about.

**Mr. Newby** said I understand and appreciate what you say. **Chairman Markley** said it was a very thorough memo. We appreciate your research.

**Action: No action required.**

Outcomes:

**January 13, 2014**

- Item No. 1 –120153...**
- a. Create searchable centralized online compilation of employment and educational recourses by September 15, 2014.**
  - b. Foster strong relationships with Wyandotte County school districts by meeting with those districts at least at least twice a year beginning in 2014, and offering the same opportunities and partnerships to each school district. Commissioners representing areas within each school district should be invited to at least one of the two meetings.**
  - c. Work with Board of Regents’ personnel, school districts, and KCKCC to improve processes and increase the number of students signed up to use the SB155 Program by 10% per district by Fall 2015.**
  - d. Research and identify our community’s ten standout education and workforce development attributes to market to businesses as “star programs.” Provide information about those programs on the centralized database and in our economic development materials by fall 2015.**

**Chairman Markley** said the list that you see in your packet is the list of education goals that we discussed several meetings ago. I provided you a draft of this language last meeting. Today, what I’m looking for is for us to review these goals. If anyone has changes or thoughts on the exact language, today would be a great time to express that. If not, I’m looking for us to adopt these goals with regard to workforce development.

**Commissioner Kane** said I’m already meeting with Wyandotte County, the KCK School District Cynthia Lane and the superintendent of the Piper School District Tim Conrad on a regular basis. It gives us an opportunity to talk about things that they’re concerned about that affect both the Unified Government and the school districts. I think that’s outstanding that we would do that across the board. I think we are headed in the right direction. I like the idea of talking with the Kansas City Kansas Community College—I see we have Mary Ann Flunder

**January 13, 2014**

here tonight—and talk to them about the challenges that they have so everyone understands when they're going through a process, that there's more than just the Unified Government involved in the process.

**Commissioner Philbrook** asked would you say a little bit about the last one, the research and identify. **Chairman Markley** said the idea is that we have certain programs in our community that we're particularly proud of or that we think are sort of star programs. That's the way I would say it. Star programs—things we're very proud of or that we think are unique to our community. I think as we're going out and we're talking to people who might bring businesses into our community, if we can match those businesses with a program that we think is particularly good that comes out of our community, we have a better case. Right?

I think our goal should be to identify those programs. For instance, Turner has always been particularly proud of their auto tech program and that is sort of their star tech program in their school. I think if we can be aware of those programs that we would identify as standout programs, then when somebody comes into our community and says I'm looking for this type of worker, we have a better case if we can point them in the direction of this program that's maybe a standout or maybe a little more specialized. I would want us, as a commission, and our staff as well because they're aware probably of more programs than we are to be able to identify those so we can use that in our marketing efforts.

As my husband always points out, our community college is one of the only ones in the area that has a mortuary science program. There you go. It's a standout just because it's unique to the area. That's my thought. If you think that can be worded better to get that point across I would—**Commissioner Philbrook** said no, I'm not worried about the wording. I just wanted to make sure—**Chairman Markley** asked you were on the same page. **Commissioner Philbrook** said yes, I want to understand the concept overall that you were thinking about.

**Action:** **Commissioner Walker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to adopt the goals as written.** Roll call was taken on the motion and there were five "Ayes," Markley, Walker, Maddox, Kane, Philbrook.

**Chairman Markley** adjourned the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

**January 13, 2014**

**tp**