



**Administration and Human Services**  
**Committee**  
**Standing Committee Meeting Agenda**  
**Monday, May 12, 2014**  
**5:30 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 March 24, 2014.**

**III.**        **Outcomes**

**Item No. 1 - UPDATE: HEALTHY COMMUNITIES WYANDOTTE**

**Synopsis:**

Update on activities regarding Healthy Communities Wyandotte, provided by the Health Department.

*No action required.*

**Tracking #: 140151**

**IV.     Adjourn**

**ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN SERVICES  
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Monday, March 24, 2014**

The meeting of the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee was held on March 24, 2014, at 6:47 p.m., in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Municipal Office Building. The following members were present: Commissioner Markley, Chairman; 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 February 18, 2014. **On motion of Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Walker, the minutes were approved.** Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Agenda:

**Item No. 1 –140091...DISCUSSION: VACANT BUILDING REGISTRATION**

**Synopsis: At the request of Commissioner Markley and Commissioner McKiernan, the Vacant Structure Task Force would like to discuss the creation of a vacant building registration requirement, submitted by Colin Welsh, Legal.**

**Colin Welsh, Legal**, said I'm here to invite discussion about vacant property registration ordinances (VPROs.) These were started by local governments as a way to try to reduce the drag on communities by abandoned properties. The idea is that it would spur owners to find a beneficial use for properties and it would also provide a clearinghouse for contact information which would enable better code enforcement. At their simplest, VPROs require the owner of a property, or often the mortgagee of a property, to register with the local government contact information for a party responsible for that property.

This comes before this committee in part because of Commissioner Markley's request to the Legal Department to look into the possibility of placing a higher tax rate on

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vacant/abandoned properties. We looked into that and found that it would be unconstitutional and have suggested this as an alternative.

The Abandoned Housing Taskforce has been meeting for a couple of years anyhow and they've batted around the idea of this VPRO. They kind of stepped away from that after August of last year when a federal court found that any mortgage backed by Fannie or Freddie could not be subject to the VPRO. That kind of took the wind out of the sails of current and potential VPRO programs due to the large number of mortgages that are backed by Fannie and Freddie.

With that in the background, it's possible that these are still a worthy tool for fighting neighborhood deterioration. Mr. Talkin and I are here to ask you if you think it would be a worthy tool here. If you've had an opportunity to review the memo and the attachments that Chief Counsel Boeding sent out, then you know there are a lot of moving parts to these and a lot of different tactics that you can take with them. Any guidance you can give us on how you'd like to go about determining the specifics, if we're going to go this direction, would be much appreciated.

**Chairman Markley** said I could give just a little background. My mom works in insurance and I know that if you are getting home insurance and your house is vacant, you pay extra because the theory is that the house is at greater risk. My question to Legal is, can we charge extra because we're spending additional funds on these vacant structures. We're sending cops out there more often. There's a higher risk they're going to be robbed so we're dealing with that and we're dealing with code enforcement issues. Obviously, we're spending our \$90,000 to mow the lawn at some of these vacant houses as well. So I said how can we do the same thing as these insurance companies, kind of recoup our losses and somehow charge extra to these homes. Kudos to the Legal Department. Instead of just coming back and telling me no, you can't charge more in taxes, they came back with this concept.

One of the questions that I asked Doug Bach actually, but I don't know if it got back to you is, how are other cities feeling about this now that they have it in place. Minneapolis, I know, is kind of the poster child. Are they seeing any results? Do they have enough information yet to know whether that's the case? I'm curious. Obviously, if somebody else has already treaded these waters, I'd like to know what their experience has been.

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**Mr. Welsh** said I should have said Mr. Talkin has come to the table with some pros and cons as he sees it. Of course, he has his ear to the ground on the code enforcement side.

**Greg Talkin, Director of Neighborhood Resource Center**, said I don't really have a lot of feedback from Minnesota, Detroit, or some of the other cities except for Kansas City, MO. I've been in contact several times with David Parks in Kansas City, MO. They implemented one about a year ago, maybe a year and a half ago. Of course, they didn't put a fee or a cost on theirs unlike some of others. The reason why they did not do that is because to impose a fee for Kansas City, MO, they would have had to put that to the public for vote and for some reason they either didn't feel comfortable or time didn't allow that to happen. I think they wish they could've charged a fee. Now they can charge a fine if they don't register in an appropriate time.

Kansas City, MO, is not real happy with the outcome and the number of people that are actually registering; however, those that are registering, it does give them quick access to a contact person where we can generally in those same circumstances find somebody, but it does take us a little bit more time.

The other advantage that they found with it was that it does help their fire department and police department too because they have a contact also when they have an emergency. Their biggest disappointment, it sounds like at this time is, are the number of people that are actually registering. It's similar here. We had a vacant property issue even before the mortgage crisis. The mortgage crisis just really blew that thing up on the residential scene and the residential side. Those properties—before they were either abandoned because of deaths in the family and nobody took it over through probate or people just got up and left because the property was so deplorable and they just left and we couldn't find anybody. This type of registration still won't help in that area because we're not going to find anybody.

The areas it would help would be the mortgage companies. We have a lot of them calling us and actually wanting to register or seeing if we have a registration but once again, we can find those individuals already through a couple of different angles. It just takes us a little bit longer. Of course, if there was the ability to attach fees and a cost to this, I think it would be an incentive for those we can find, to get them off-centered to either sell the property to somebody that will do something, invest in it, or do something with it instead of just sitting on it, speculating, or just holding onto it for family value. Right now, we don't believe—we're kind of waiting for a few of these court cases to play out to see if fees can be charged across the board or if we would have

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to limit those to non-federally backed properties through mortgage. I guess the gist of it is, the number of properties we feel like we could get registered and it would apply to might not be enough to actually pay us back for an investment of time in putting this together.

**Commissioner Walker** said you know, in different times looking at this issue, the problem was rarely that you had a vacant, abandoned building that still had a mortgage on it. The real problem was the numerous houses that had either been passed down through families, abandoned, you know they just pick up and go, they move to another state, somebody dies without an heir or an heir that doesn't want the property. We should be so lucky that all these properties would have a mortgage on them because the bank then has a vested interest, at least in some, in actually doing something.

The other problem is that when they do have a mortgage, we have no law to compel them to come in and take care of the property, to cut the grass, to board up the windows or do the various things to make sure the pipes don't freeze. There's no enforcement of that. The idea that we're going to get a few fees out of the mortgage, it's probably cheaper for the mortgage company to pay the fees, if they even would pay the fees, than it would be to maintain the property. That's why they sit there like they do. Again, I don't know, there's really—I would like to think that this would be effective. I would think it would be, again, another law that we pass with the best of intent and we would have a small amount of response. We wouldn't have enough response, enough fees generated to even pay for the enforcement officers necessary to do the job.

**Commissioner Maddox** asked is there somebody with an extra copy of the paperwork that was sent out about it because I don't even know. **Chairman Markley** said I don't think it was in your packet. It was sent out by email after we had the discussion about vacant housing at one of our other special sessions. It came from Jody by email.

I'll just say a couple of things. One thing that you guys should know is that as you've heard Brian McKiernan and I say, we were working on sort of parallel tracks on vacant housing issues. Brian is also working on a concept for vacant housing that would involve putting building properties, properties with buildings on them, into our Land Bank in certain circumstances. Our hope is that we would sort of process a package of changes to our policies

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and ordinances impacting vacant housing all at the same time. I don't think we would propose necessarily moving this forward until we're also moving forward with that other part so we can see the full impact of all of our changes at once. Brian was here earlier. He was here to talk about this issue. He didn't realize how late we were going to run so he had to scoot out for another meeting. I'm sure he'd be happy to fill you guys in at another time on what he is working on.

**Commissioner Kane** said we've been here a while. Commissioner McKiernan working on that, I don't know—these either two could work together or they could collide. I don't think we have enough information tonight to make a decision one way or the other because we're not sure how it's going to work out. I would also want to find out how the other court cases and how they came out so that information you could talk to Commissioner McKiernan and Angela and say here's what happened here and will this work or will it not work, then they could give us their best opinion there. With the two, his side working one angle and you guys working the other, I'm not sure we can meet in the middle yet.

**Chairman Markley** said what he really means is he wants to go home. I can interpret that. **Commissioner Kane** said oh, no. We have our second issue sitting right behind them.

**Commissioner Walker** said don't misunderstand my comments. I'm throwing everything we can at this problem. If it works a few times to get rid of a few buildings or if it improves, I'm for it. I just don't see it as the big solution to the whole problem. It may be that it's going to take a combination of efforts on our part and new initiatives to get a handle on it. If this thing works and it flies and it's part of the package, I'm for it. My experience has been banks don't take care of their property, especially if the mortgage is more than the property is worth.

**Mr. Talkin** said if I could make one more comment to that fact. Foreclosures have been going on since 2008. We have hundreds of properties out there in the community as well as other communities where banks started foreclosures, didn't finish them because they found that the value of the property and the owners that were living there at the time left, had no idea that they owned the property and we can't find them. We have numerous cases like that.

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**Commissioner Maddox** said I'm trying to understand. Are we talking about taxing mortgage, the people that give mortgages as well as homeowners a higher tax if their property is vacant. **Mr. Talkin** said it wouldn't be a tax; it would be a fee. The fee would be based upon vacancy which relates to the conditions, wide open, abandoned, vacant. We could make our definition of abandon however we would see fit. It would be a fee for registration. A lot of cities that impose those fees, they make them increase over time. If you have a six-month registration period and you require registration every six months, if they didn't do certain aspects of what your ordinance requires, that fee could escalate or double or something along that line.

**Commissioner Maddox** said thank you. I appreciate this but it almost seems like a recipe for a lawsuit or disaster. If there is a homeowner and we're telling them because their property is vacant and they don't have anybody to rent it and the housing market might be down or it's just poverty in that area where the resident resides that we're going to charge them extra. It just seems like it's a recipe for disaster. **Chairman Markley** said that's exactly what we're telling them.

**Mr. Talkin** said if you don't mind, I would like to comment about one thing that we do currently enforce and we chose this path a few years back. We have a boarding ordinance that's already adopted and in place. Basically it's included in our standard violations when a property is open and vacant that individuals are required, if we can find the owner, they are required to come in and get a boarding permit from us and secure the property to a minimum standard. At that point, because it was vacant, abandoned, and wide open, we kind of monitor that requiring them to renew that every year. That fee also escalates in our effort to try to either push them to market or sell it, but that only applies if it's vacant, open, or abandoned; not vacant in general terms like we're talking about here. We're talking about all vacant property and that's a little bit more proactive where we're more reactive once it's vacant and people are going in it and opening them.

**Chairman Markley** said one thing that I'd still like to see is just information from some of these cities that have been using this program for longer periods to see what impacts they're seeing, whether they're bringing in revenues, whether they think—one advantage I think that we have is that it seems to me, at least, that my code enforcement officer is pretty aware of which properties

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are vacant so he knows already which ones would need to be registering and if they're not, they could be fined. I think for the most part our code enforcement personnel are pretty aware of what's vacant and what's not at this time.

I'd be interested just to know that other communities, how they started out, whether they sort of started the whole program at once or what pieces went first or second, and whether it was part of a larger package. I'm just interested in how they came to this because I just don't want to reinvent the wheel if Minneapolis is saying why did we do this; it was a dumb idea. I don't want us to get into that boat. If Minneapolis is saying it was a great idea but we should have done this differently, I want to know that before we get into it as well. I don't know how we can best get that information. When we first started these discussions, that's what I said we need to get. I just don't want to get us in a situation where we're addressing the same problems as these other cities and we are unaware of the issues they've already ran across.

**Mr. Talkin** said I have spoken with Chula Vista. That's one of the preeminent ordinances. I think that they've had a lot of income from the program and a lot of impact early on in the mortgage crisis. Their market has rebounded. Initially, they got a lot of money from the registration and then they were using that information to enforce codes. They also were very successful on that front but at that time, I'd hazard to guess that was before the banks had kind of caught up. Now the market has rebounded out there. That's in San Diego Bay, right. It's different real estate for sure. I will find a more comparable entity that's done this and contact them.

**Chairman Markley** said my understanding is that you are probably going to be called before the other standing committee where you're going to chat with them about this and about Brian's program. You'll be around the block again. It would be great if anybody could pull information about what these other cities are doing between now and then so they could have maybe a better image of what the possibilities are and what maybe the better choices would be if we were going to move forward in terms of the different options from these other cities.

**Action: For discussion only.**

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**Item No. 2 –140095...GRANT APPLICATION: SAMSHA GRANT**

**Synopsis: This is a request to apply for a SAMSHA grant to establish a Mental Health Court, submitted by Brandelyn Nichols, Legal. This grant is a four-year grant which provides up to \$384,000 per year. There is no match requirement.**

**Brandelyn Nichols, Municipal Court Judge**, said what we are here asking for is permission to apply for a SAMSHA grant. What it would be for is to expand behavioral health treatment court collaboratives is the technical name of it. Let me go through the first things that you might want to know right off the bat. There is no match, no cost sharing. It is a four-year grant. It's up to \$348,000 per year for the four years. The really exciting thing as far as grant goes, which tells you my life excitement, is the 2% is allowed to cover the cost of administration and oversight of the grant. A lot of our grants that I'm familiar with, you actually have to donate your time as far as they're concerned to administer the grant. This one is not. Also, 30% of that amount the first year is allowed in infrastructure cost. What they consider that is computer upgrades, computer systems, meetings, and all of the trainings that are required for this grant. Years two-four, that goes down to 15%.

The purpose of this is to try to catch the adult defendants in the criminal justice system that have behavioral health issues either through substance abuse, mental health, or both. It's a collaborative between Municipal Court and District Court that would allow us to work together and try to get these defendants a little earlier into the system.

We did a first—there are a couple of prongs there. We did a quick informal—I'm talking. I never allowed Judge Lynch to introduce herself.

**Judge Kate Lynch, District Court**, said I handle what's been called the care and treatment docket. I like to think of it as a wellness docket, but it's the care and treatment docket for the mentally ill and substance abuse. It's an involuntary commitment docket.

**Judge Nichols** said she's very important to this. I apologize. I'm not used to having such a great partner in crime. What we are asking for is to apply for this grant to allow us to collaborate with District Court. An informal care and treatment docket comparison up to our docket showed that 66% of her care and treatment defendants were actually defendants in Municipal Court as

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well. We see a big overlap. We see a lack of efficiency and quite frankly, this is something Municipal Court has been doing informally for years.

If we applied for the grant, the two things that we would do is first off we would ask to enter into a memorandum of understanding which would allow District Court, through the care and treatment docket, to handle the misdemeanors that are in our court. This would add efficiency. They would be handled. Some of the issues that come up are indirect versus direct contempt. That would not be a problem if they were seeing one judge all of the time.

The second prong would be one time a month, we would have a mental health court in our court system, Municipal Court. The hope for this would be for those that aren't rising to a level of danger to themselves or others but they're behavioral health issues are such that they are in our criminal justice system and we are not getting the help that they need. We would work with our designated mental health center, which is Wyandot Center. In order to do the grant, you have to be willing to divert some issues, some programs, and some fines to move forward.

That's what we would like to do. I have more information, unfortunately we had such a quick turnaround that to ask for permission, we're like a week into this as we're gathering. We're here first, and then April 10th is the full commission meeting, I think, we're set for. April 18th is when the deadline is. In the next week, this is really where it's going to come together where we know exactly what funds we'd be asking for and what that would look like.

**Commissioner Walker** said judge. **Judge Lynch** asked which one. **Chairman Markley** said whichever one answers first. **Judge Lynch** said he made us both. He's the judge maker. **Commissioner Walker** said either one of you. Is there any issue with the Kansas Supreme Court? There was a ruling that I was involved in, in which there was a holding that we could not impose duties upon a state district court judge. Essentially, we couldn't make them do it, but if they wanted to do it voluntarily, it was okay. If you look at that opinion, it's pretty clear that they're guarding their turf. Who approves this on your side of the equation? **Judge Lynch** said, Commissioner Walker, I think you know that I don't, having worked for you, I always consult my boss before I do anything. I talked to Judge Lampson and we also talked to OJA. OJA is the Office of Judicial Administration in Topeka. They have both given their verbal blessing on this. Judge Lampson went so far as to provide me a couple of MOUs that we have entered into with the Unified Government over the years. For instance, the one with the supervised visitation

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exchange center so that we didn't have to reinvent the wheel. I understand that. The practical situation is, I'm kind of doing that now by when I'm sitting on the bench and I'm about to send somebody to the state hospital and they say but I have court on Tuesday or I have court on Friday. I turn on my computer and send an email to Judge Ryan and Judge Brajkovic and say oh by the way, a case manager is going to come over, hold those tickets, don't issue the warrants. The problem is if we get them out on outpatient treatment orders from the state hospital and there are warrants out there, they get yanked back into the jail which, of course, you guys already know how much it is to house a mentally ill patient in the jail. It interrupts their treatment and we end up treating the symptom and not the core issue of the problem. **Commissioner Walker** said that's fine.

**Commissioner Maddox** said this is just a clarification question. For the mentally ill constituents that are in my district, we have one location, I believe, it's the Wyandotte Tower. There's a lot of individuals who suffer from different things. If we receive this grant, how will this assist them, help them, or make them—I guess I want to know how will it affect the individual who has mental illness? **Judge Lynch** said we are approaching this from a problem solving standpoint in that right now, without a lot of direct collaboration, the folks that appear on my outpatient treatment orders. What that is, once they're out of the state hospital, we place them on an outpatient treatment order so that we can make sure that all those pieces of the puzzle are connected so that they can be successful in community-based mental health treatment. We do that with the collaboration through Wyandot Center as our designated mental health center.

What happens is without the communication of Municipal Court, these are the folks that might get into trouble for loitering or unfortunately sometimes urinating in public or trespassing. If they're getting that treatment and they're out and they get in contact with law enforcement and there's a bench warrant out, then they get pulled out of their treatment, placed in the jail and that. From my standpoint, Commissioner Maddox, I think it would only enhance it because it would be yet another safety net for them so that we know that all the pieces of the puzzle are coming together so that they can be successful in community-based mental health. There is no other set of mental health treatment on the horizon.

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**Judge Nichols** asked can I just clarify real quickly. Judge Ryan and I've discussed too. We feel like it would be helpful because this population is also people that traditionally don't have money to pay fines and we have 15-year old cases where they just keep getting booked and forfeiting bonds and getting booked. For us, I think we would feel like it would clear up our docket a little bit as far as if we have some good strong case managers/probation officers that we can actually do sort of a community service type idea where the minimal fines they're working off by going through treatment, we could close these cases out too and not constantly jailing people on 15-year old unpayable tickets. I just wanted to let you know our approach as well.

**Commissioner Kane** said this looks really good to me. I just have one question. Do we think this—what's going to happen at the end of four years? **Judge Lynch** said we're hoping by the end of the four years that we will have all of the data supplied by, of course, federal dollars to show that the program has actually ended up saving you money and you will continue the program. Now, really where I see this as being a big, huge benefit to you is the amount of money we're going to save you from keeping these folks out of the jail and clogging up your municipal court. We're also going to keep them out of the state hospital as an overall tax savings to the state of Kansas. At the end of four years, I'm hoping we have enough data that we can structure something between the two courts and it goes on forever.

**Judge Nichols** said that's what this grant is actually, I think, designed to do is to help us get evidence based and collection so that we can actually see that and change it as we need to change it. **Commissioner Kane** said I like it because it's a long-term solution and it takes stuff out of our hands and puts it where it belongs.

**Judge Nichols** said there is also one other component that I failed to mention that I think is very interesting. There is a requirement that you must address veterans and members of the military specifically as well to make sure that you're addressing their own behavioral health needs. It would be a mental health/veteran's court.

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

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Outcomes:

**Item No. 1 – 140092...PUBLIC DATA ACCESS**

**Synopsis: Public Data Access**

- A brief discussion about the data information.
- A tour of a handful of UG web applications that allow public data access.

**DOTMAPS**

[www.wycokck.org/dotmaps](http://www.wycokck.org/dotmaps)

**LANDSWEB**

[www.wycokck.org/landsweb](http://www.wycokck.org/landsweb)

**APPRAISER PARCEL SEARCH**

[www.wycokck.org/appraisal/publicaccess](http://www.wycokck.org/appraisal/publicaccess)

**NRC E-LINK**

[maui.wycokck.org/citizenaccess/](http://maui.wycokck.org/citizenaccess/)

**SPOTCRIME**

<http://spotcrime.com/>

- A discussion about t barriers to data use and strategies to overcome those barriers.

Chris Cooley, GIS Director, said we can talk about this as little or as long as you want to. It's been a long night for all of us, I think. The purpose of this is to go over some things that we had talked with Commissioner McKiernan and his committee and with him from some things that he had done. Commissioner Markley, at the commission special session where Rebecca Williams from Sunlight Foundation spoke and said she was very interested in data and the things that we were doing with data and how we could do that. It's seems appropriate to update this half of the commission on the things that the other half of the commission has been discussing.

## WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

**Data...**

**Reports...**

**Applications...**



# REPORT

## Synthesized Data

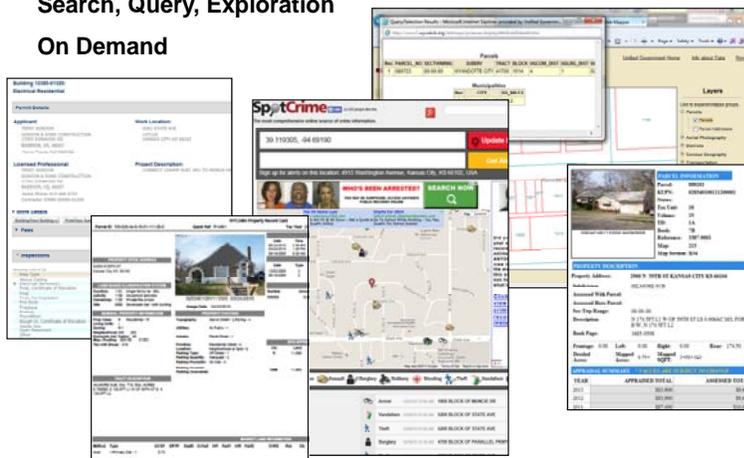
Population Change, 1990-2000 For Wyandotte County Neighborhoods				
Neighborhood	1990 Total Population	2000 Total Population	Net Change 1990-2000	Pct. Change 1990-2000
Fairfax	1	1	0	0.0
C.I.D.	0	0	0	0.0
Northeast	14,313	10,256	-4,057	-28.3
Northwest	12,575	11,004	-1,571	-12.5
Kensington	7,300	8,062	762	10.4
Riverside	17,561	18,503	942	5.4
Armourdale	3,478	3,213	-265	-7.6
Shawnee Heights	4,515	4,215	-300	-6.6
Rosedale	9,992	10,324	332	3.3
Argentine	11,140	11,054	-86	-0.8
Turner	11,546	11,749	203	1.8
Santa Fe	23	14	-9	-39.1
Morris	1,577	1,424	-153	-9.7
Coronado	8,618	7,752	-866	-10.0
Muncie	7,576	7,412	-164	-2.2
Victory Hills	17,644	17,668	24	0.1
Bethel-Harborn	11,995	11,824	-171	-1.3
Quindaro Bluffs	2,640	2,324	-316	-12.0
Nearman Hills	3,221	2,922	-299	-9.3
Nearman	0	0	0	0.0
Woburn	34	0	-34	-100.0
1-635 West-KC, KS	4,025	5,019	994	24.7
Prairie/Piper-KC, KS	1,797	2,175	378	21.0
Edwardsville	3,070	4,145	1,075	34.9
Bonner-Loring	6,486	6,821	335	5.2
East of I-635	90,875	76,632	-14,243	-15.7
West of I-635	81,151	81,250	99	0.1
Kansas City, KS*	151,521	146,866	-4,655	-3.1
Wyandotte County	162,026	157,882	-4,144	-2.6

Source: 1990 & 2000 U.S. Census  
\*1990 Kansas City, MO population total includes annexation after 1990.

This is an example of census data from 1990-2000 showing increases and decreases in different parts of the city. This was prepared by Information and Research a few years ago. Like I said, it's 1990-2000. This data originally looked like this, kind of meaningless. It gets synthesized into something that you could actually make decisions on or policy and so forth.

# APPLICATION

## Search, Query, Exploration On Demand



The next kind of thing that people look at is applications, something that allows users, citizens, staff and anybody else to interact with the data.

What I'm going to do is give you guys kind of a world one tour of applications. The other meeting we had staff members from the respected departments talk about this. If you have specific questions that are beyond my capabilities, I will certainly follow-up with those departments and see what we can do to answer those. I hope you will find that this is enlightening. We, as staff, found it enlightening. We are only dealing with a handful of departments here and these other departments that have information. The other half of the commission found it informative.

## DOTMAPS

[www.wycokck.org/dotmaps](http://www.wycokck.org/dotmaps)

- maps
- parcels
- aerial photography
- basic parcel information (address, parcel id)

We'll talk about some of the public facing applications for the search, query, and exploration of some of our public data. The first one would be the one that my department maintains, it's our DOTmaps application. It's an interactive web mapping application. Hopefully the links work tonight and we'll get everything to go. I might have a few problems because this application does require popups which is a challenge we have. It allows us to search by parcel ID or by address. Let me see if I can get my favorite parcel in here to search. I have to allow my popups and retry this. Oh boy, we're going to make a lot of noise. If this doesn't work, I apologize.

**Commissioner Maddox** asked how does one know what a parcel—like with their address parcel. **Mr. Cooley** said I'll get through that and follow-up with that question afterwards. Let's see if we can get this to work here. I'll try this again after I enable the popups. I entered a parcel number for one that I already knew. There's basic information we can tell about the property.

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We can use the identify tool. This application provides what we call basic pan, zoom, and identify capabilities. It zoomed into a parcel. I can click on it and I can identify other parcels and see some basic information about it. Commissioner, you asked about searching by address. It's certainly another option. If somebody has an address, they can put in their address here and it would bring back a result. This application, in the mapping area, we deal with layer and theme or we think of data in themes or layers. The most common ones are parcels, streets, as well as aerial photography and things like that. We get aerial photography updated on a fairly regular—every other year basis. Just a quick showing of that. Moving on.

## LANDSWEB

[www.wycokck.org/landswweb](http://www.wycokck.org/landswweb)

- detailed parcel information
- parcel number
- address
- owner name (if logged in)
- value
- taxes

The next application we'll show is the Landsweb application which also deals with our parcel information. It shows address, owner name, values, and taxes. The owner name is only available if you become an authenticated user. It's a decision we made when we deployed this application and applications like it many years ago. There's concerns about parcel information. People being able to do a search by owner name or find an owner name freely and anonymously. It goes to a larger policy discussion that staff is having and that we certainly want to follow-up with you.

**Commissioner Walker** said the aerials that we take, who besides us gets those. **Mr. Cooley** said who—what do you mean, who besides us. **Commissioner Walker** asked any entities. **Mr. Cooley** said anybody that requests them. I actually have another website where I serve the raw data out that engineers, architects, surveyors, and realtors can download the data and consume it.

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I would be more than happy to share it with Microsoft to Bingmaps, with Google and Bingmaps or excuse me, Google... **Commissioner Walker** said well, I guess that's what I'm getting at. Does Google Earth do its own? **Mr. Cooley** said Google Earth does its own.

**Commissioner Walker** said well, then the question becomes if Google Earth is doing what I seem to think they do, why are we spending the money to do it independently when we could—furlong it, if you will, from Google Earth. **Mr. Cooley** said a couple of reasons is that we request aerial photography that meets a certain industry specification so what we consider an ASPRS Class 1 ortho product. ASPRS is a photogrammetry and remote sensing numerical society for grammatical and remote sensing. **Commissioner Walker** said I know you understand what you're talking about but I have no idea what you just said. **Mr. Cooley** said what it means is that we purchase to a certain engineering standard that can be used for certain engineering applications.

Aerial photography isn't just hanging out the side of a plane with a 35mm camera. We use specialized cameras, specialized technicians and when they get the data in they bring it back and they process it for correction of the attitude of the plan, the all pitch and roll of the plane, as well as, you know, the height, elevation, and terrain effects that may happen with the photography. Those are the things that we contract for.

The other thing that we also contract for is we, like I said, we have a certain level of specifications that we're trying to meet. One of the biggest ones is leaf-off conditions. Google is getting into the market and things are changing. We're not opposed to using Google imagery, but until now, they have not flown leaf-off which means that people in Engineering or in the Appraisal Department, those people that want to see features on the ground, sometimes it's obstructed by the leaves because they're out in the summertime.

We're having a flight done this year. We participate in a regional program with Mid-America Regional Council, actually a cost savings so that the region is purchasing aerials every two years. Our cost for doing that this year is about \$8,500. The cost for that has been decreasing year by year by year. Not to say that will stay consistent. Part of that is funded by the federal government. USGS is one of the partners there. Federal government, those funds are drying up. Those opportunities are disappearing. We don't know what their commitment is going to be in future flights. We, as a region through the Mid-America Regional Council,

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always consider that every two years when we're looking to continue the program. Do we need to do it so frequently? Do we need to do it—are there other options we can explore?

The other thing with Google imagery is it doesn't become an open resource like ours is. Google retains the licensing to it versus when we buy aerials, we own them. We can reproduce, we can distribute them freely as much or as little as we want. This discussion is about open data so I open them up and give them to anyone and everyone so that they can use them. I feel that if we purchase the imagery, we share it with Google, Bing or any other site. There is some economic benefit to that down the road to other users. What if I share my imagery with Google and that Google imagery gets incorporated to realator.com or something like that, that's helping out the realtors in our area and our region. There's an indirect economic cost benefit to our city and our county. There's a lot to it. It's a valid question.

We were recently asking ourselves, if these other people are doing it, why do we have to continue doing it. Can we see a reduction in cost? It's something that as the marketplace changes, we'll keep asking that question.

**Commissioner Maddox** said if I've got my surface at home and I've tried to use that app—I've tried to use that same thing here that you just did and it did the same thing. **Mr. Cooley** said the challenges are that it requires popups. Now, we're looking at trying to upgrade to a newer application that's using newer technology that doesn't require popups to be enabled for the site. That's going to be the solution. We have to upgrade the system to better support more devices.

**Mr. Cooley** said moving along; back to the PowerPoint briefly. I was going to talk about the, sorry about that, the Landsweb application, which is our public facing real estate application. This is the landing page for that. When people log in, they'll certainly see the owner name. This allows users to search by parcel numbers as I mentioned or the address. Computers are very literal. I always tell people that less is more. If I have an address of 1234 N. Main St., Kansas City, KS 66101. If I misplace any one of those data elements, the computer is not going to return a result. I tell people to start with the street number and the street name and nothing else. If you get too much, you can always sort it down from there. A common problem we have is that people will search with too many of the things filled in and they'll get a result—they get nothing back.

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Anyway, this is a result that comes back here. We get some basic parcel information, the parcel ID and the address. Like I say, if I was logged into the system, I would see the owner name. There's some basic mapping information as far as dimensions on the property. You can view a PDF copy of our quarter section parcel map which is the entire one-half mile by one-half mile map sheet that this parcel is on. Some other legal documents, the plat map. The property value, these are tentative 2014 values. They don't become official until the appraiser certifies values in June, but that's a tentative value that's going to touch the property. The tax is going back several years as well as some political district information. It's a nice information page that a lot of people use, realtors and such, as well as a lot of the public.

## APPRAISER PARCEL SEARCH

[appr.wycokck.org/appraisal/publicaccess/](http://appr.wycokck.org/appraisal/publicaccess/)

- detailed datasheet
- comp sales
- property images
- value
- sales history

Continuing on, talk about the next application that we have going on is the Appraiser's Department maintains their own public access site which is very similar. I'm going to search by the property ID right now because it's the easiest for me. When you go here, you see more details of what the Appraiser's Office is using to support their operating needs. Obviously, the 2014 values, a full data sheet which is they used to call this their inventory and content sheet which has detailed information about all the attributes of the property they used to value it. They aren't just looking at this picture. They're looking at, is it a single-family structure, how many rooms does it have, what's the square footage of the living area, what's the age, and any additions.

The other thing they look at is sales data. You can see there's some sales information here. There was a sale that occurred in 2009. It was a valid sale for \$79,000. That information

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is available here along with the comparable sales that were used to compute that market value on the property by the Appraiser's Office. The Appraiser has a lot of data that they're gathering and mining in order to compute values. Values notices, just as we know... **Commissioner Walker** asked is it open to the public. **Mr. Cooley** said this is open to the public today. If you're considering an appeal, you can certainly go out there and see all this information. These are the comparables that were used in the computation of the value of that property. **Commissioner Maddox** asked and you clicked on the Unified Appraiser for that. **Mr. Cooley** said this is the link I provided, but you can navigate to it through departments and they call it their appraisal search application is the way it's named on their department, but I can certainly provide these direct links to anybody that is interested.

One of the outcomes of the previous meeting was to have a common landing page for these things because right now you have to go to five different departments to talk about these five different things. We're kind of influx with a web developer as of recent with staffing issues, but it's one of those things that when we get that staffing available, we can park these as well as other applications on a single location so that people can look at them and say these are our offerings as far as applications for search and ways to explore data the Unified Government has.

## NRC E-LINK

[mauwi.wycokck.org/citizenaccess/](http://mauwi.wycokck.org/citizenaccess/)

- building permits
- code enforcement
- license

Next, the NRC. I was having problems with this direct link—with that link directly out of the PowerPoint. If we go to the Neighborhood Resource Center and they have their NRC e-link over here, this allows you to—it's not working for me today. What are you mumbling, Greg? **Mr.**

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**Talkin** said since we've upgraded, I don't know if we've made that live again yet. **Mr. Cooley** said okay. I got it to work in my office earlier. Here we go. I was able to get something to work. Greg is letting me know that this is being upgraded so it's kind of influx.

This allows once again, searching by address or parcel or a date range or something like that. I'm just going to do a search on a license. It will take a second to come up here. I'm going to change this to an address search and put in one of those addresses I was playing with earlier of what I know to be a known rental property. We can certainly see there's been rental licenses issued there. We can click on that and we can see details of that. This allows us to drill into that.

The other thing this allows us to do is use code enforcement data so if somebody was considering in buying a house or something like that, they want to know what the code enforcement is like in that neighborhood, they could look at the net. They could do the same kind of a search but on the Code Enforcement tab up here and they could see what kind of code enforcement is happening at that address or maybe one of the adjacent addresses. It didn't like what I was clicking earlier. Nothing like a live demo to test things out and see what you know. **Commissioner Kane** said at least you understand what's going on. **Commissioner Maddox** asked, Chris, can you email these links to me. **Mr. Cooley** said yes, I'll certainly get them all to the commissioners.

There we go, we see, here's a rental license. This is a very old one from 2000. I don't know if you—my eyes can barely see that. It'll just show some of the information on issuing the license, who issued it and things like that. Certainly, the same kind of thing can be done with code enforcement, building permits. If you know that the house has had an addition and you check the building permit on it or something like that, you can go to the building permit and search by the address and see the results. **Chairman Markley** said so you can creepily stalk your neighbors on all these search engines is what he's telling you. You can check their valuation, check if they have building permits. **Commissioner Philbrook** said check on myself. **Mr. Cooley** said check on yourself.

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## SPOTCRIME

[spotcrime.com/](http://spotcrime.com/)

-list of crime incidents in an area

arrest  
arson  
assault  
burglary  
robbery  
shooting  
theft  
vandalism  
other

Next would be the Police Department's SpotCrime. Some of the commissioners—the existing commissioners should be aware that the Police Department requested this about a year and one-half ago, I believe, to publish some of their crime data through this third party called SpotCrime. They're making it publicly available. Always allow some popups here. I can see here for Kansas City, KS, you can zoom in. You can also sign up and get alerts. You can register as a user so it'll let you know when certain crimes happen in your neighborhood. This is a subset of crimes. This isn't everything that happens. You can drill into these. You can zoom in a little bit and click on one of these and see what was going on there. You can see this was a theft in the 1300 Block. They're cleansed and generalized so we're not seeing very personal information to see that there was an assault and battery or robbery at this particular address. We just see the hundred block where something was occurring. It gives you a general idea of the crime in the neighborhood.

This data is usually displaying only the most current. I believe the Police Department said it's 30 days or 300 incidents. That's all that's displayed up here. If you need specifics on that, we can certainly follow-up with the Police Department to find that out. It's something to play with. There are a couple of different ways to look at this. If you drill in different ways, you can turn on different stuff to just look at that. You can scroll through. You can see that this is fairly recent stuff from 3/16 so it's not that old as far as the data that's being put out there. It's not months old, just maybe a week or two old.

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That takes us to the end of talking about the applications that we have for exploring the data or that we kind of surveyed. There are certainly others that other departments may have but these were the ones that are at the top with the greatest number of questions. People are usually asking them about their property, their taxes, code enforcement stuff, and certainly crime. If you're wanting to buy a property or sell a property or know about a neighborhood or how your neighborhood is, those are the things people ask about a lot. That isn't the limit of what we have.

#### THE CHALLENGE

# NEXT STEP

#### COMMISSIONER MCKIERNAN REFERRED THE FOLLOWING TASKS BACK TO STAFF:

- 1) Have a brainstorming discussion about the barriers and challenges we face with collecting and reporting data and how we can do better.
- 2) Brainstorm how we can use our data for public consumption to drive decision making, policy creation and problem solving.

The next step. Commissioner McKiernan challenged us to go back to staff and have a discussion. He wanted us to have a brainstorming to talk about ways that we can use the data we

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collect to support other things that we do. What are some of the things that are holding up, the challenges we have for opening up public data or making it accessible to citizens as well as staff. This next part is talking about that discussion, which we had.

## BARRIERS & CHALLENGES

**Heterogeneous Data and Systems**

**Resources**

**Legal and Privacy Concerns**

**Loss of Control of Data**

**Bad or Non-Existent Data**

**Lack of Understanding**

Barriers and challenges, these are the things that we came up with. The data isn't always heterogeneous meaning that the systems don't talk to each other very well. Sometimes it's a very sophisticated enterprise data system like Maui out at the NRC to maybe it's just a spreadsheet that an individual person in the Health Department is maintaining. Those things don't go together very well. Sometimes we have systems that are mandated by the state. Sometimes they're systems that we purchase off the shelf, while other times they're things we've grown internally. You guys are fairly familiar with our agenda system and that's something that we've built and maintained internally.

Getting those things to talk isn't always easy, but the solution that people come up with is why don't we just have one that handles it all. Finding one system that does it all is a pretty daunting task and it can be pretty overwhelming to think about all the operational needs of every department and getting those to work together in one computer system. Maintaining the infrastructure in a homogeneous way is the best that we hope for. Where there are operational needs and efficiencies, then let's look at integration in trying to get systems to talk together.

Resources. All departments are complaining about resources but certainly the technology and people to support that technology, that's a barrier too supporting any of this or anything that

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people may ask for. Some data is fairly simple. Some data requires some pretty extensive subject matter and expertise to be able to understand. Computing a tax bill out of that tax roll, there's lots of gotchas in that. I believe the first 20,000 of the school mill levy is exempt because that's the way the state law is. It isn't just a straight calculation of the levy and everything like that. There are little things like that you've got to consider in the calculations.

There are certainly legal and privacy concerns. The data that we have is open. It's public data and the move, the example set by the federal government, President Obama, is that we're open by default which means that we're no longer trying to fill this reactive role in waiting for the request and then responding to it. We're now wanting to be more proactive and put it out there; however, there's legitimate concerns about the personal information that we may have on people. I'm not talking about stuff that's very explicitly protected or exempt, HIPPA information or anything that the Health Department has that might be that way or crime victim information that is protected by the state or federal laws. That's not what I'm talking about but certainly owner name of properties. There's some personal information there and there's some policy concerns that we may have and need to discuss as far as any kind of backlash we might have from the citizens.

Certainly some of the staff felt that there's a potential for loss of control of the data. Once we open the data up, once we release it, it's subject to misuse, misinterpretation, misrepresentation and all those kinds of things. There's certainly a barrier there, a concern there that it could come back to bite us or that people may use it for their own evil ends. I tend to be an optimist and think that people that want the data genuinely have a genuine use for the data. There's legitimate concerns there.

In some circumstances we don't have good data. It was poorly collected or we lost staff and couldn't maintain it anymore. Sometimes the questions we ask, we're not able to maintain the data. The judges just talking here recently, they don't have data to support what they're needing today so them having a program to be able to gather that data and then at the end of four years make a data driven decision on that, that's an ideal thing that we need to be doing more of but we have to collect the data.

Certainly, by staff, there's a little bit of a lack of understanding about why do we need to open up the data. What's the benefit to me? What's the benefit to other staff members? Some of the strategies we have begin small. We don't want to eat the elephant all at once. Take a

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spoonful at a time. We're not trying to build that grand unified information system, but there are some little wins we can make here and there.

We recommend developing a user group of subject matter experts (SMEs). Certainly documenting our data. Any data that we publish or release, whether it be internally or externally, having documentation on that so that it's on the user then when they misinterpret or misuse it. We can easily say to them, yes, you're looking at the tax roll information, but did you do this or did you look at this that was in the documentation that supported it.

We want to create and maintain an enterprise inventory. Looking at all the data sets that we have in every department would certainly be a next step or strategy. Understanding what every department has and how it might be useful or not useful. What are its limitations? What are its abilities to be released or opened?

Address resource issues. Like all departments, and this isn't necessarily a technology issue but maybe a user department or something like that, they need the resources to support this or collect the right data. Those things need to be addressed in some circumstances to move ahead with some of the questions that might be asked. Certainly develop a road map. This can be as simple as an informal prioritization among the stakeholders to an enterprise wide kind of thing developed by consultants.

This kind of leads us to the end of what's the future. I know the Mayor has spoken very strongly on wanting innovation, open data and wanting us to make data driven decisions. This all relates to our experiences with Code for America in learning about, as a community, at the cornerstone we open up our data both internally and externally. The lessons learned from opening data is that the biggest users the first time around are internal customers. Government is notorious for staying in our little silos not because of turf wars and things like that, that's certainly encouraged, but because we have an operational thing to focus on.

The Animal Control is very focused on picking up animals. The judges are very focused on processing their docket and getting that reduced. If we share data across those lines, there are certain circumstances where that data could be used by other departments and help them make decisions and develop policies. It could certainly impact our budgetary decisions and so forth.

**Chairman Markley** asked can applications solve any of the not talking between programs issues or are the programs closed in a way that we can't do anything to make them talk. **Mr. Cooley** said it depends on the application. There's usually a cost involved. This comes down to a

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resource issue. If there's an operational need and we can show a benefit to making that integration occur, then it's worth the investment in that interface. Right now, I know the one I'm familiar with is an interface between the tax roll information and the Mauwi application. Our ownership, our property addresses and that stuff goes over there to support them and their needs on a regular basis. That interface was a requirement of the system. It depends on our business need. There's opportunity to open up data and just make it available either for download or for exploration that other departments can use as well. Maybe there are things there that they didn't realize.

**Chairman Markley** asked are we having any contact so far in our discussions with outside parties. I'm thinking specifically of a startup village group that does like little brainstorming sessions. **Mr. Cooley** said we've had some discussions with some of the groups. I know one of your constituents has contacted me and we've talked to him about a Land Bank application that he's done on his own. What we're kind of talking about there is specific hacking. We use the term hack; use the positive definition of the term which relates back to—you think during World War II in the Pacific Theater, aircraft were being heavily damaged and they would come back in the early part of the war and hacking crews would go out and literally disassemble one of the planes and take the parts off of it and put it onto another plane. They were called hacking crews because their tool of choice was a hawksaw. We're thinking taking back the term hacker in a positive sense of building something, something that may be broken or needs recycling or something like that.

Civic hacking, there's plenty of people that participate in that. That's part of the Code for America mantra. Internally in the metro area we have the Code for America Brigade, which is a group of civic developers/civic hackers that want to come together, want to use and consume public data to either maybe develop their own application that they'll make money with. You look at the federal government and the sharing of their data. The big ones would be like the National Weather Service data. That data is provided freely and look at all the cell phone applications and everything like that, that developers and hackers have developed that work off of the weather data.

What if we share some of our data and somebody develops an application and they make a few cents off of it? I see that as an excellent economic development and a good thing. Those

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people working in the community, there's a lot that they can do but I think we need to have a policy discussion. Commissioner McKiernan has his concerns. He compares it to the person that maintains the church bulletin or the church website for many years. There are very capable and competent people in our community. It's only good until somebody—as long as they don't want to get paid from us for it or as long as they're still doing it when they decide they want to stop maintaining the church bulletin, then who's going to pick it up from there. Some things to discuss.

**Commissioner Maddox** said that was going to be my question. What would it be to form an actual app with all of that stuff involved in it. I think it would be easy for the developer, the actual homeowner to be able to pull up an app, whatever applications need to be put in, codes, all that stuff is an application. I say that to say because one of the biggest dilemmas that I hear from constituents is the breakdown in communication when it goes to, you know, speaking about their property, communicating to codes what may be the issue. It just becomes clouded. When an app is direct and technology is tapped in it and you do your paperwork, send it through you know...

**Mr. Cooley** said one of the things we're exploring is being able to try to answer that question. Certainly the first step is uniting these kinds of things to a single landing page so that you don't have to go to five different departments. If you could go to one place and type in your address once and see all this stuff there, maybe click on a different tab to see what's going on there, it requires a little bit more. Answering that question is a difficult one to answer. We look at it from an IT or a computing question. How do we answer that question? It's costly. Yes, you're talking about, I would say a fairly sophisticated app to bring lots of that information together. Now could somebody do it freely and openly, possibly or maybe they charge a little bit for it. Maybe they charge a \$1 and you download it on your cell phone and you do it that way. I don't know.

**Commissioner Maddox** said it was a couple of groups through the NLC that put apps together for city municipalities and they just charge a small amount but they operate the application year round. I mean that's something possibly to look into. I think it takes a lot of hiccups and stumbling blocks out of the way when it comes to communication. **Mr. Cooley** said right. There are certainly, you know—developing the apps to reveal that stuff or to make those efficiencies., that's one question. The other question is where does the data come from.

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That's kind of what we're talking about. If we open up the data, the things that Rebecca Williams was talking about from the Sunlight Foundation—if we open up the data, we make it available, then we're enabling those people to do those things, to do that and take advantage of our data.

**Chairman Markley** said we can certainly also have additional discussion under our outcomes in future meetings. We're running rather long tonight. If you have something on your mind and you don't really want to start the discussion tonight, we can do that next time. **Mr. Cooley** said I can come back. I can certainly follow-up and fill you in on anything else we have discussed. Are there any challenges you'd like to give us; things you'd like to take back to staff to discuss?

**Chairman Markley** said you know, I would like to see us start to involve some of those outside groups just because I think they can help us start to prioritize and to kind of give us an idea of what they would prefer, what they would like to see and what would be helpful to them if they are looking to, you know, make applications or if they have needs that we could address. I think that would be my thought in addition to Commissioner McKiernan's challenge, just to bring some of those third parties in and say, you know, we're really doing this. We're doing it for us internally, but we're doing it for these third parties as well. What do you want from us? What would be best?

**Commissioner Walker** said I think if we have Mr. Cooley back that we should do our best to put him first on the agenda. **Chairman Markley** said I agree. **Mr. Cooley** said I appreciate that.

**Chairman Markley** adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

tp

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# Staff Request for Commission Action

Tracking No. 140151

- Revised  
 On Going

**Type:** Standard

**Committee:** Administration and Human Services Committee

Date of Standing Committee Action: 5/12/2014  
 (If none, please explain):

**Proposed for the following Full Commission Meeting Date:**

**Confirmed Date:** 5/15/2014

5/15/2014

**Changes Recommended By Standing Committee (New Action Form required with signatures)**

Date:	Contact Name:	Contact Phone:	Contact Email:	Ref:	Department / Division:
4/29/2014	Joe Connor	573-6724	ljenicke@wycokck.org		Public Health

Item Description:

The Public Health Department is providing an update of activities regarding Healthy Communities Wyandotte.

Action Requested:

No action required. This information is being provided as an outcomes update and will not need to go before full commission.

Publication Required

Budget Impact: (if applicable)

Amount: \$

Source:

- Included In Budget  
 Other (explain)

	File Attachment	File Attachment	File Attachment
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## Survey of Activities and Accomplishments

Last Updated April 29, 2014

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### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

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#### ACTION TEAMS

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*ALL FIVE ACTION TEAMS ARE NOW ENGAGED IN IMPLEMENTING OUR COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN.*

○ **Infrastructure Action Team –**

- **Bike route recommendations:** The IAT recently published *Wyandotte County Bike Route Recommendations* report, recommending 20+ miles of priority corridors for bicycle lanes and other on-street bike infrastructure. The team has briefed County Commissioners and is now in a public comment period.
- **Funding Proposals:** The IAT is working with the County Engineer to use the *Bike Route Recommendations* to create funding proposals. The team submitted 10<sup>th</sup> street improvements as a funding request through the Commission's public budget process. It also submitted a grant request to MARC for national transportation funds for the same project.
- **River Trails:** Building recreational trails on the river levees is another team goal, and exciting progress has been made. The Fairfax Levee submitted a proposal for a trail opening to the Public Works Standing Committee on April 21. A trail on the Kaw Valley Levee is also a focus of the team. We will hear back on June 11 about a \$65,000 Health Care Foundation grant request to mobilize and educate the community around river trails.

○ **Nutrition Action Team –**

- **2014 Wyandotte County Mayor's Food Summit:** The NAT will be hosting the Mayor's Food Summit on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. This summit will

convene leaders and quip them to take action on the Nutrition strategies within the *Recommendations for a Better Future*, our community health improvement plan. The goal is to increase access to healthy food in Wyandotte County. The Planning Committee raised over \$20,000 to host the event. As of April 29, 230 local leaders have RSVP'd.

- **Health Services Action Team** –
  - **Enroll Wyandotte health insurance enrollment campaign:** Healthy Communities Wyandotte founded and helps lead the Enroll Wyandotte effort. The goal is to enroll uninsured residents in health insurance options newly available through the Affordable Care Act. We raised over \$80,000 for the campaign, and trained more than 100 volunteers as enrollment assisters. As of April 15, we had helped more than 500 Wyandotte County residents complete health insurance applications. About 170 of these were assisted at the Health Department.
    - Enroll Wyandotte's good performance and unique model of massive volunteer recruitment earned it national media coverage in the Wall Street Journal.
- **Education Action Team** – this group has reconvened under the leadership of Dr. Ray Daniels, superintendent emeritus of Kansas City, KS Public Schools. We are partnering with Children's Mercy Hospitals to roll out a county-wide healthy lifestyle campaign called 1-2-3-4-5 Fit-Tastic! A community kick-off for the campaign is planned at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year.
- **Communications Action Team** – after being inactive for almost two years, the CAT is springing back to life under the leadership of Mark Wiebe, Public Affairs Director at Wyandot Inc. We have met twice to assess and plan. This team will boost the capacity of all projects operating under the HCW banner.

## OTHER INITIATIVES

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- **Building a downtown Health Campus.** Under the banner of Healthy Communities Wyandotte, Mayor Mark Holland's office is spearheading the effort to build a downtown Healthy Campus, anchored by a new grocery store and a renovated community center. They have hired local firm GouldEvans to create a master plan of the concept that ties in with existing plans for downtown revitalization.
  - "The Healthy Campus will not only help us meet the basic nutritional and exercise needs of our downtown residents, but they also represent more than \$30 million of economic development in a location that has a strong need for investment and growth. More significantly, these projects provide the basis for a synergistic movement around health." (Mayor Mark Holland, 2014 State of the Gov. Address)

- **Partnering with Schlitterbahn Waterparks to raise awareness and funds for health improvement activities in Wyandotte County.** Schlitterbahn Waterparks, a national amusement park company, is opening the tallest waterslide in the world (Verrückt!) in KCK in May 2014. They have chosen to use the grand opening to partner with HCW to draw attention to our health challenges, build excitement for the response, and raise money for our activities. A metro-wide fundraising challenge will kick off April 7, proceeds benefitting HCW.
- **Animal Control Oversight Committee.** Stray dog packs, especially near downtown KCK, are both a nuisance and a public health and safety concern. We can build all the trails and sidewalks we want, but residents will not use them if they are being harassed by stray/feral dogs. Healthy Communities Wyandotte is partnering with several city departments, the Commission, and with the Human Society of Greater Kansas City to comprehensively improve our handling of the stray dog problem. The response will have three components: improve policies, boost animal control capacity, and educate the public.
- **Partnering with KCK Public Schools to expand afterschool and summer meal programs.** With a food insecurity rate of 20%, putting food in the table is a real problem for a lot of Wyandotte County residents. In response, HCW partnered with KCK Public Schools to win a \$54,000 anti-hunger grant from the National League of Cities. We are halfway through the grant and have expanded afterschool meals to over 500 children, with many more sites on the way.

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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- **Improved the built environment to encourage active living.** Success has built on success, and the UG Public Works department and our Infrastructure Action Team have become closely aligned in the process.
  - The Complete Streets policy was adopted in 2011
  - The *Sidewalk & Trail Master Plan* was adopted in 2012
  - The Unified Government used the *Master Plan* to submit and win 2 transportation grants in 2013. One will build the Kaw Point Connector, a pedestrian bridge improving access to Kaw Point Park. The other will build a multi-purpose trail in an underserved neighborhood.
  - The first bicycle lanes ever built in Wyandotte County were painted on Southwest Blvd in June 2013.
- **Established a \$500,000 UG-Hollywood Casino annual grant fund dedicated to expanding nutrition and physical activity programs in Wyandotte County.** The first round of grant funds was distributed in June 2013 to 13 local organizations who submitted projects to increase physical activity and promote proper nutrition in Wyandotte County. The monies for this fund come from a revenue sharing agreement between the UG and Hollywood Casino. The HCW Steering Committee was

instrumental in organizing and gaining approval for the grant fund by the UG Board of Commissioners. This will provide community-wide implementation funding for years to come.

- **Removed flavored milk from KCKPS schools.** At the suggestion of Healthy Communities Wyandotte, Kansas City, KS Public Schools took the step in 2013 of removing flavored milk from the lunchroom, Monday through Thursday. This step eliminated 380 sugar-based calories from the diets of Wyandotte County kids, and we consider that a huge success.
- **Started a grant to install free water taps for community gardeners who agreed to beautify vacant urban land and reduce storm water runoff.** In April 2014, the H2O to Grow pilot grant fund awarded 7 community gardeners free water taps, at a value of \$87,000. This grant fund redefines the relationship between urban growers and Public Works, and is being copied by similar programs in KCMO and Johnson County. The fund was developed in partnership with the H2O to Grow coalition, a spin-off group of the Nutrition Action Team.
- **Published the *Building a Healthier Future* report in June 2013,** which celebrates our successes and reinforces the call for residents and leaders to get involved in health improvement. This report has been distributed at many coalition meetings and community events, and is used by the Mayor to introduce HCW.