The meeting of the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee was held on Monday, June 22, 2015, at 5:55 p.m., in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Municipal Office Building. The following members were present: Commissioner Markley, Chairman; Commissioners Bynum, Johnson, Kane and Philbrook. The following officials were also in attendance: Gordon Criswell, Assistant County Administrator; Joe Connor, Assistant County Administrator; Jody Boeding, Chief Legal Counsel; Ken Moore, Deputy Chief Counsel; and Misty Brown, Senior Attorney.

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

Chairman Markley said we have no minutes to approve this month. We do have a blue sheet item for tonight’s agenda. It is a new item and will be added as agenda Item #4.

Committee Agenda:

Item No. 1 – 150140…ORDINANCE: PROHIBIT ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE USAGE

Synopsis: An ordinance amending the UG’s smoke free environment ordinance to ensure electronic cigarette usage remains prohibited in specific areas, submitted by Misty Brown, Legal. Additional changes were made to ensure compliance with state law. On May 18, 2015, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Markley, voted unanimously to present an ordinance at the next standing committee meeting.

Chairman Markley said at our last meeting, we had a presentation on this issue and we instructed staff to come back with an ordinance. Since we had the presentation last meeting, I advised the KU doctors I did not think they needed to come to represent. It looks like we have a representative here if you guys do have any questions. Misty Brown is here to present as well.
Misty Brown, Senior Attorney, said, as Commissioner Markley said, last month we enjoyed a presentation by KU, and Robin Liston with KU is here as well. Today, you have the actual ordinance changes in front of you that I’m proposing. They are basically a new definition for electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes and a new definition for tobacco products. Then I’ve went and tweaked the definition of smoking and specialty tobacco stores to incorporate electronic cigarettes in there. Additional edits were then made to make sure our ordinances were more in compliance with state law, and then there was a section pertaining to the smoking license that I repealed just so that it appeared better online and read better. I am happy to go into it in more detail if the Commission would like or answer any questions.

Action: Commissioner Johnson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Philbrook, to approve. Roll call was taken and there were five “Ayes,” Philbrook, Kane, Johnson, Bynum, Markley.

Item No. 2 – 150160…PRESENTATION: LOCAL AREA WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP

Synopsis: Presentation outlining the relationship, activities and governances of the Local Area Workforce Partnership, presented by UG staff and Workforce Partnership, submitted by Marlon Goff, Economic Development.

Commissioner Markley said Marlon Goff and Greg Kindle are here to speak on this item. I suspect Commissioner Philbrook will also add some comment. Commissioner Philbrook said I have heard a whole lot here. It’s not just workforce partnership, it’s actually workforce partnership along with our workforce development folks that Greg Kindle has been steering for a while.

Marlon Goff, Economic Development, said so this agenda item tonight essentially represents an opportunity for us, the various stakeholder groups around the table, to report out and have a discussion about some of the workforce development initiatives and activities we’ve been carrying out probably for the better part of the last 12 or 18 months, I think, where we’ll talk about. So that end, we’ll just go down the table and you guys can introduce yourselves for the
record. Trent Howerton, Workforce Partnership; Scott Anglemyer, Executive Director of Workforce Partnership; and Greg Kindle, President of the Wyandotte Economic Development Council; introduced themselves.

Mr. Goff said first we’ll have a quick presentation by Workforce Partnership. Depending on your age or how long you’ve been a member of this community, you’ve probably heard their office referred to as the old Unemployment Office, Job Services Center and more recently, Workforce Partnership. Previously, and for several years, they were located there just on that northeast corner of State Avenue and North 6th St. but here recently, they’ve relocated to a new facility just on 6th & Minnesota. With that, I’m going to turn this presentation over to Workforce Partnership and they’ll walk us through the first half of our presentation.
Scott Anglemyer, Executive Director of Workforce Partnership, said I’m going to try to be brief so if it seems like I’m racing through this presentation, we do have an opportunity for questions afterwards and I encourage questions and dialogue. This is sometimes very dense material and it’s easy to get bogged down as certain people in the room know that I can do, so I’m going to try to avoid that.

Let me start out with—this is the outline of the presentation. Again, it’s dense material. There are lots of acronyms that we have and intend to use those acronyms rather than the words so we’ll start out with some terms and defining some terms which I think will help set the tone for the presentation and fill in some information on what we’re talking about. Then we’ll talk about the organizational chart and why that’s important and why that matters to the Unified Government and the Commission, some descriptions of our services and opportunity for questions and answers.
Workforce Partnership is actually a brand name or a label more than anything else. It’s the term that we use to define the board that we have as well as the system, the Workforce Development System, that the board is building throughout the area that we serve. We serve Johnson, Leavenworth and Wyandotte Counties. There’s no legal entity called workforce partnership. Actually, the organization that Trent and I work for has the wonderful bureaucratic sounding name of Local Workforce Investment Area III, Incorporated, which is part of the reason that we’ve decided to develop Workforce Partnership which sounds, at least, slightly less bureaucratic.

We talk a lot about WIA, that’s the Workforce Investment Act. That’s the act that has governed our activities since 1998.

I’m going to skip to the bottom. That is now being replaced by WIO, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Congress passed that last year and the President signed it in a rare example bipartisanship and actually both chambers working together as well is overhauling some of the requirements that we face. That formally goes into effect July 1. We are really in the last week or just about the last week of the Workforce Investment Act.

We sometimes refer to ourselves as LWIA III or Local Workforce Investment Area III. That’s the region that we serve: Johnson, Leavenworth and Wyandotte Counties. Again, our
legal name is in that. That’s a region designated by the state and we’ll talk about that in a little bit. Sometimes we abbreviate that to Area III and again, that’s those three counties: Johnson, Leavenworth and Wyandotte Counties.

I’m not going to go in great detail over this, but I want to give you an example of the complex relationships that we’re talking about here. Again, our activities are governed by federal law. US Department of Labor administers that and then there’s a state oversight role. The Governor has designated the Department of Commerce as the agency that administers workforce programs in the state and specifically our programs. The state designates the regions. Again, they’ve designated five regions in the state. We are Region III. Each region is supposed to have a Chief Elected Officials Board. Commissioner Philbrook sits on that now. We did have Commissioner Maddox on that and we haven’t replaced his seat yet. We’re working on some of that now. We also have representatives from Leavenworth and Johnson County as well. Those individuals appoint our governing board actually. So we have a Chief Elected Officials Board. We also have a governing board of Workforce Partnership that consists of right now 31 members. The new law is going to allow us to get that down to a little more manageable number. The working
number we have is 23 members now and we’re working on that appointment process right now. They govern the day-to-day activities or govern the system as well.

There are various rolls that we call a one-stop operator role. That’s an entity that actually operates the centers. One of the weird things about the law is the board cannot operate it. It needs to select somebody else. We’ve selected an entity called KAISER Group, Incorporated, but we do have an administrative entity that administers the relationships with the state and things like that. That’s what the organization that Trent and I work for essentially do. Within that system, we have a number of required partners. Those are along the bottom of the screen there. Those are our mainly federally funded employment and training programs which includes adult basic education. It would include what’s called Wagner-Peyser which is really what we think of when we think of the old job services offices. Those are still state employees so we have state employees working in our workforce centers under the Workforce Partnership name. Vocational Rehabilitation is also a required partner.

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**Wyandotte Workforce Center and Services**

- Wyandotte Workforce Center – 626 Minnesota
- Satellite location at KCKCC - Tech Ed Center
- Operate Adult, Dislocated Worker & Youth programs
- Served over 33,000 job seekers in WY last year
- Input over 1,100 job orders in WY last year
- Entered Employment: 79%
- Retention: 87%
- Average Wage: $12.98/hr

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We wanted to give you a brief description of our services. Again, there are a lot of things that we can do so this is a really high level and fast descriptions of the things that we do. As Marlon mentioned, we moved last December to a location at 626 Minnesota right across from the library that we call our Wyandotte Workforce Center. That is a comprehensive center where everything

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is available. We also have a working relationship with Kansas City, Kansas Community College in the Technical Education Center so we have staff located there. That’s been a relationship that’s worked out very well. It’s something that initially started out under a grant that they received. That grant is expiring now and we think the relationship has worked so well we’re going to continue that. It’s a great relationship with the school and once Johnson County Community College found out about that, they got very jealous and wanted us to do the same thing. We’re working on that relationship now in Johnson County.

In that center, we operate three different funding streams within the Workforce Investment Act or soon to be within WIOA: adult services, dislocated worker services, and youth services. They each have their own specific rules and requirements that we have to deal with.

In Wyandotte County last year, both in that center and electronically through KansasWorks.com, we’ve served over 33,000 job seekers in this county last year. We have job seeker services. We also have employer services. In fact, we talk a lot about having a dual customer approach in that we have to serve both well. One of the ways that we serve employers, and we’ll talk about this on an upcoming slide, is through posting job orders. Employers can go out and post their own job order.

This 1,100 number that we have on the next bullet point is the number that we did some staff assistance work on. I don’t think we have an exact count of the number of Wyandotte County job orders we posted last year but it’s more than that 1,100.

We have some federally required performance measures that we’re responsible for. We have the entered employment rate which basically means once we exit or stop working with somebody, they have to enter employment within the first quarter after exit. 79% of the people that we exited were employed in that first quarter after exit.

Of that amount then, we calculate a retention rate and that’s based upon the third quarter after exit. 87% of those were still employed, not necessarily with the same employer, but usually with the same employer in the third quarter after exit.

We are also responsible for average wages of placement. The idea behind this program is not just to get somebody a job but get somebody a quality job. Our average wage of placement is almost $13.00 an hour which given our base customer, which is somebody who generally is fairly low-skilled being able to place them at $13.00 an hour gets them on a path so they can then

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have a good career path. Increasingly, that’s what we’re really focused on is not just that initial placement but getting them on a career pathway so they have that initial placement, but they’re also set up that they can continue to progress throughout their career. Those are all right now—I believe all three of these are exceeding the goals that we have that are imposed upon us by the federal government, by the state government. We’re actually performing better than the expectations that are upon us.

![Workforce Services – Job Seekers](image)

Just a really quick description of our services and, again, this is very high level because there are so many different things that we can do. These are some of the major things that we do. Certainly we work with a lot of these 33,000. We’re doing really just placement work where we’re helping with resumes, we’re helping with interviews, we’re helping them identify job opportunities that maybe they haven’t seen, doing some things to help them with their job search. Job search assistance is a big part of what we do. Sometimes that will involve things like resumes. We have some software that we use. We have some one-on-one assistance that we use. An individual can come in—increasingly, the job search process has to be online. So many employers are going to online systems. In all three of our workforce centers, we have what we call a career center which is a bank of computers and an individual can come in and do that. We hope at least in terms of job search, helps close that digital divide a little bit.

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Going along with that is the fact that those individuals sometimes don’t have the skills to use computers. There are still a lot of people out there that have never really touched a computer or are afraid of computers. One of the significant services we do is helping people with those basic computer skills both in terms of this is a computer, here’s how you turn it on, here’s what you do, as well as some training on typically something like the Microsoft Office Suite of services which helps them in the job search process but also is increasingly the requirement for more and more jobs that are out there.

We do some one-on-one case management which would involve helping develop some goals for individuals and helping them develop a plan to achieve those goals. For individuals that qualify and there’s an additional level of qualification based primarily on income or employment status, we can do training scholarships for individuals where we will pay for them to get training at a community college or a technical school or a proprietary school. We actually have a process of approving those programs. Those programs have to meet actual labor market needs in the area. That’s a significant use of our resources and also a really important step for individuals that are very low skilled getting them on that pathway into not just that initial job but that lifelong career.

Increasingly, some of our resources are going toward on-the-job-training. We find that combining that with that classroom training is really what seems to work out well to prepare people for the world of work. Classroom training is wonderful and we will continue to do that, but we’ve also found that employers are increasingly telling us people need those soft skills and one of the ways we found to develop those soft skills is to get them in the world of work. I give the analogy if I have two teenagers and I can tell the teenagers over and over you need to do this, you need to do that. They have to learn that for themselves. Being able to provide support to employers for that on-the-job-training allows them to assume the risk of somebody who doesn’t have those soft skills and to develop those soft skills while they are working, so increasingly we are doing that.

This last idea of supportive services is the idea that if we send an individual to training, they sometimes need child care, they need transportation assistance, they need things like that. We can provide those things too because often those things are barriers to them actually getting the job training or the skills training that they need so our resources often go toward supportive services.

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I’ve mentioned before that we have what we call a dual customer approach and we consider both job seekers and employers co-equal customers. It sounds like a tright saying but I believe it’s true. If we don’t serve one well, we can’t serve the other well.

I’ll go very briefly over the business services that we provide. We help a lot with job posting, which we’ve talked about before as part of the candidate recruitment process. We can do recruitment events for employers. We invite employers into our workforce centers to actually do many job fairs within our centers. Those are some of the basic services that we do. Higher level things that we might do are helping them screen, especially small employers that really don’t have that ability to screen, don’t know what to look for in a resume or just don’t have the time to do that. Our staff do a lot of that. We do a number of assessments. They can be customized assessments for the employer. They can be some off-the-shelf readily approved things that have passed EEOC approval as assessments for particular positions. That’s something increasingly we do.

On-the-job training we view as an employer service just as much as we do a job seeker service. Increasingly, we’re going to have the ability under the new Act to do more customized training where we can work specifically with an employer. Rather than saying you have to go to

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this class that’s already been developed at a school or something like that, we can do something that is very customized for them and pay to train several people at once rather than the kind of one-on-one training that typically we’ve done.

I’ve mentioned before that we provide space for employers to come in and we have employers that regularly take advantage of that.

This last one is something that seems pretty simple but it’s increasingly important, labor market information. Helping employers understand that if they’re looking for somebody with a bachelor’s degree, they can’t pay $10 an hour. This particular occupation, if they really want the quality candidate they want, here’s the amount that they have to pay, here’s what the availability is, here’s where you might have to do some recruiting, things like that.

Other Workforce Services

- Rapid response for layoffs and closings
- Mobile unit used for outreach services and events
- Youth services targeted to out-of-school youth
- Specialized Veterans services
- Services for trade affected workers
- Rapid assistance for UI claimants

Other services that we do, in cooperation with the state, when an employer has a mass layoff event, the state notifies us, we send individuals out to do rapid response. The idea really is once those people receive a layoff notice, we want to get them immediately on the path of the transition to reemployment. Employers generally are very willing to allow us to come into their workspace when they have issued those layoff notices and work with the individuals even before that layoff actually takes effect. That’s a pretty significant service we do. It was obviously very big during the recession, it tails off a little bit now.

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We provide a lot of services through a mobile unit. We have a 38 ft. mobile unit with 13 computer workstations where we can do on-site training; we can do onsite recruiting events. I know we’ve used that significantly at the Legends with multiple employers. It can be sectioned off so we can actually do three different interviews with three different employers all at the same time in that mobile unit.

We talked a little bit about youth services before. We’re really focused on serving out of school youth. Youth is defined in the new Act as age 16 – 24. What we’re really focusing on are people who are basic skills deficient but have left school. Whether they’ve dropped out or there are still instances where we have some basic skills deficient individuals who have high school diplomas. We really work on getting that credential and getting some initial training and bringing those basic skills up.

We have state employees who provide veteran services that are a part of our system and work in our system. We have, I believe, five of those across our system, two of whom work in Wyandotte County now. There’s a separate program called Trade Adjustment Assistance. If an individual loses their job due to foreign competition, there’s actually a higher amount of training that we can provide somebody to do that. That’s also a state administered program and again, it works through our system.

We also do some very specialized assistance for people who are unemployment insurance claimant, that’s what UI stands for. That’s another one of those acronyms that we use that we sometimes don’t stop to explain. Our services are available to anybody who’s a job seeker whether they’re on unemployment or not. If you are on unemployment assistance, we actually have some tailored programs that we’re able to do for that to help speed up the process of transition to reemployment hopefully saving the government money by minimizing the time that somebody is drawing unemployment insurance.

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I could do an hour long presentation on this. I’m going to do this in 30 seconds. Commissioner Philbrook has worked with our board on a transformation plan that we’re very excited about. We’ve recognized both some of the federal changes that were coming as well as changes in the labor market and realized we needed to do things significantly differently from how we’ve done in the past. We’ve developed a six point transformation plan. Among those are decentralizing, getting our staff out in the community, getting away from the idea they have to come to us and making sure we are going to where the job seekers and the employers are.

We’re exploring some new and novel partnerships that we’ve never done before trying to go beyond the minimum required and identifying partners who can really assist in what we do that perhaps we’ve never been mandated to deal with before. We know that there are a lot of organizations that do a lot of employment related services. We want to—we’re working and I think we’ve got a pretty good handle on who those are and what they do. Rather than trying to be the only entity that’s doing employment services out there, we want to focus on those things that we specialize, that we can do uniquely well. We’re probably going to be doing less of that resume writing and things like that. There are a lot of organizations that do that and do that just as well as we do, but we want to do that in partnership with those other organizations so that our
resources can go toward the training and the development types of services that not a lot of other organizations have the resources to do.

We reorganized the staffing within our workforce center so that they are focused on major employment sectors and everybody who works with either an employer or a job seeker is going to be an expert on one of the major employment sectors in the metro area, which we think is something that is pretty novel but we think it’s really going to increase our ability both to serve those job seekers and those employers well.

I mentioned before we’re making more of a shift to work-base learning, on-the-job training, internships, apprenticeships, things like that.

This last idea of employer development is the idea that we want to increasingly work with employers and challenge some employers to become better employers. We don’t want to just place people in jobs just because they’re jobs. We want to place them in good jobs and just as we do development work with job seekers, we realize we have to do some development work with employers and working on some partnerships that we think—this is something I’m really excited about but is also something that’s going to take us awhile to really get developed but we want to be somebody that works to develop both sides so that we have better employers and better job seekers in the area. That’s probably longer than I should have talked but a lot shorter than I could have talked so I would be happy to answer any questions anybody has.

**Commissioner Bynum** said I just have a couple of questions. The services are available to anyone who is a job seeker so no restrictions on income or other things that would qualify a person to come see you. **Mr. Anglemyer** said the most basic of our services are available to anyone. The only restrictions we have for those services are if you are basically male and over 17, you have to be registered with selective service; you have to have work authorization in the United States. If somebody in Montana wanted to come into one of our workforce centers, we don’t have a residency requirement for those things. Now some of the higher level services that typically involve more one-on-one are more staff intensive or more resource intensive, there are eligibility requirements that would be based upon employment status or based upon income or something like that. What we would call our core services are available to almost anyone in the community.

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Commissioner Bynum said so the website you referenced, kansasworks.com, would you recommend that we go poke around there and see what all there is. Mr. Anglemyer said I think so. The state operates that site. It’s got information about us and our peers. It’s a job board. It also has some of that labor market information that’s out there. There’s a lot there.

Commissioner Bynum said I know in your supportive services piece: child care, transportation, I think those are barriers for a lot of people. Is there a working partnership with ATA and if so, can you tell us about what that looks like. Mr. Anglemyer said we provide bus passes so we work with ATA. We purchase them and then provide them to the individuals.

Commissioner Johnson said thank you for that presentation. I’m curious about the level of work that you all do with ex-offenders that are coming back into society. Also, recently we approved the ban the box legislation here at the Unified Government. Is there any of that type of language that is going on as you are talking to employers and others, if you could address that. Mr. Anglemyer said I’ll answer that on two levels. The first level is to me that’s a good example of employer development of making employers better employers. We see a lot of employers out there that will not consider ex-offenders at all but have no legal standing to be able to do that. There are some that do have legal standings. Financial institutions, the FDIC requires that there are certain offenses that you cannot work in a financial institution. There are other requirements in health care and things like that. There are some employers out there that we need to challenge and are challenging on some of that.

What we also do is really approach this as an individual with a criminal background, especially if they are currently under supervision, actually come with a tremendous amount of support through a parole officer, probation officer, as well as our staff that a typical job seeker isn’t going to have. If you’re an employer that has a problem with attendance or something like that, we found, and I think there is good data to back that up, that individuals with criminal backgrounds, especially those that are currently under supervision, actually have better attendance and often better soft skills and are more highly motivated than a lot of other individuals.

We really try to package ex-offenders as well as others, what I would call alternative labor pool, where there might be people with limited English proficiency, people with
disabilities, whatever. We tend to package the advantages there and say that typically those things are seen as risks but they’re not really risks, they’re benefits. We have services and activities to help mitigate some of those risks and we’ve got some great employers out there that understand that. We need to have more of those. **Commissioner Johnson** said I agree.

**Chairman Markley** said I was just going to ask the flip side on one of Commissioner Bynum’s questions. What about employers, what qualifications do they have to meet to work with you? If there is an employer who’s having trouble recruiting, not sure they’re getting the right quality of people, do they have to meet some kind of threshold to be able to work with you? **Mr. Anglemyer** said none whatsoever. There are some employers that are mandated to work us, mandated to at least post jobs. If you’re a federal contractor, you’re required to post your jobs through us but we’ll work with just about any employer. One of the things that we will do; however, is based upon the quality of job, the quality of employer, we’ve tiered our services somewhat. An employer that’s not paying very well, is providing only seasonal jobs, we’re going to do some things for them but not nearly as much as an employer that is paying really well, has permanent jobs, provides great benefits, has a career path and things like that.

**Chairman Markley** said thank you guys very much. We’ve been anticipating hearing from you. We know that Commissioner Philbrook has been working with you for some time. I think that really just getting the word out and hopefully seeing this presentation will help do that for some people. I just think there are a lot of people that don’t know you exist and probably would benefit from your services.
Greg Kindle, President, Wyandotte Economic Development Council, said it’s the first time I’ve ever addressed this particular standing committee, a lot of familiar faces nevertheless. Chairman Markley said he’s frequent at other committees. Mr. Kindle said I’m going to start with just indicating that our mission has traditionally been about growing the economy here in the county. We’re agnostic about where projects land. We do a lot of strategic look in terms of finding additional land for the future and landing projects being so that first call for projects looking to come into the community and putting an incentive package together working with the UG team, whomever we have to to get the deal done. Even though we have this very nice mission statement, I usually say, do what you got to do to get the project if it’s a good fit for the community.

We have four key focus areas: attraction, which gains most of the headlines. That’s the sexy part of what we do. The retention side which is frankly, to me, the most important part of our business is retaining and growing what we have and the least expensive way to do it. Probably the area of our business, if you will, that we know the most about now because we’ve actually put money into it. As you all know, you increased your investment in the EDC about a year and a half ago after piloting a retention person and now we have Jay Matlock, who came from Community College, who has a background in workforce that was by design, great bedside

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manner. We now have interviewed more than 150 companies. Our largest companies have a great deal of information now about their workforce needs and what’s going on.

Then we have marketing which we do, I think, fairly well based on the budget we have and then workforce development. I will tell you before I get into my presentation that until two years ago, I’ve been here three and one-half years, I would say that up until about two years ago when we started down this path I think we paid primarily lip service to this idea for workforce development. That was somebody else’s problem.

Our goal was to create the jobs and create an environment in which jobs could be created. That has changed because the paradigm has shifted in which we can’t just assume that it’s the community college’s job to do. We can’t just assume the Workforce Partnership is the silver bullet for all things workforce development related. It’s not just the school districts’ job to do, to train the kids to be ready to go. That’s how we generally had approached it.

About two years ago, maybe a little bit more, we started really engaging the Workforce Partnership to say we want you to be part of a lot of these entry initial conversations. We were finding the trend being that these large companies would ask us: do you have the product? do you have the site? Our client wants to be here. Can you put the incentive deal together? Very quickly it became about workforce. Do you have the people in which we’re looking for and can you prove it?

We started going to Scott Anglemyers' group and saying we need to know how many people in Wyandotte, how many people in the region are looking for these kinds of jobs. What’s the wagering just for that? Are we in anyway at all capable of winning this project based on the workforce piece of it and started engaging them early on. We thought at that time that we were real rocket scientists because most of our colleagues and peers didn’t let anybody else in the room when we would talk to site consultants. We thought, gosh, we’ve really broken the mold here and we quickly learned that frankly, that wasn’t the case either.

I’m here today to kind of give you what we’ve done over the last 18 to 24 months, sort of the shift in my thinking, the shift in our collective thinking, and what we think we can do locally and what we’ve already done, frankly, locally that we want to share with you a little bit.

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I’ll start with the fact that this is not a purely Wyandotte County issue. This is a graft I stole from a Deloit study from 2015 essentially showing that in the next 10 years, this problem is going to get worse. It’s going to get significantly worse particularly as we see more retirements that in manufacturing alone—I picked manufacturing because we have over 11% of our workforce is tied to manufacturing jobs. They’re the best jobs that we have. They pay very well. Frankly, it’s really at the core of what we do. After government and education and healthcare comes manufacturing and just pure manufacturing jobs. This gives you an indication that this is a national issue. It’s the communities that figure this out or figure out a sustainable way to address this that will ultimately win in the economic development game. That’s what I’m going to walk through now.
In about mid-2013, we were approached by the Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center, MAMTC. They’re an investor of the WYEDC. They’ve been around for many years. They’ve received some federal funds to help do—it used to be really focused on lean manufacturing, kind of changed and evolved in just really trying to figure out how to make companies better in kind of a wide scope.

They approached us in mid-2013 and said we have six grants, about $50,000 each. We’d like for Wyandotte County to be a part of that. We’d like to know what your thoughts are on how we would do some sort of targeted strategy activation project. Other communities at that time were doing things on growing their patents, figuring out how to do logistics better. A very tiny slivers of challenges that were able to be accomplished in a very short amount of time.

We put two or three things together but essentially came back to them and said if we could do one thing in Wyandotte County it would be to approach workforce development. Help us figure out why it is at that time we were on track to have almost a billion dollar year. We were growing significant number of jobs throughout the community. We have tons of research showing how well we were doing in all areas of economic development and yet our unemployment rate had not come down. That was, at that time, the thought process was if there were political chips that we could cash in and say look, we’re going to take a step back and talk about workforce. If we step back a little bit and approach this issue, now is the time to do it.

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because we had a phenomenal year and we felt like if we could begin addressing it while we were riding high that by the time we came back down, hopefully we would have fixed this problem. We just didn’t realize how challenging that discussion would be.

So by October of that year, we had met with the Mayor and with the County Administrator and his team including Marlon, Commissioner Philbrook, and Commissioner Kane were involved at that time as well. A core group of folks and said are we willing to stack hands on approaching this knowing that it’s a tough job and a tough project and it may take us longer than we had hoped. Also, keeping in mind that at that time the focus that we were pushing forward was reducing the unemployment rate. Jason Banks and I at the time were like let’s really go after this unemployment piece.

A core task force was developed by the end of that year and we began meeting fairly regularly almost all of 2014. We would meet on Friday afternoons at the community college from about 1:00 until 5:00 or a little after. Long afternoons where we would beat our heads against the wall sometimes trying to figure out what is it that we’re studying, what is it that we’re trying to fix. Ultimately we determined that it wasn’t unemployment that we were trying to fix; that was an alcom. What we were trying to fix is the continuum of the human supply chain here in

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Wyandotte County. What’s the core problem both at the elementary level all the way back to fourth grade when they start developing ideas about what they want to be all the way through community college, or a four-year college, technical skills, skill trades, but also the unemployed and the underemployed. How do we collective change culture in a community that has basically not seen significant change in household income for some time? So all of these things began to kind of tie together and became much bigger that just unemployment, which I also meant that we met a lot more.

As a team of MAMTC, early on ran out of money so they started doing the facilitation of these meetings really just as a result of just wanting to see how this would turn out and being a good community partner and investor of EDC. At the end of that, Scott and these guys were all a part of that. There are a lot of people that get kudos for spending a lot of hours in these meetings. I’m the one making the presentation, but there are a lot of folks in this room and outside of this room that spent a lot of hours putting their thoughts together. Folks from Hollywood Casino participated. These guys. Folks from the Mayor’s Office. Folks from all over the community that we asked to participate.

We came up with these six core areas. These were issues, topics that we needed to flush out further and so that took us a long time to come to these six areas: Should we be a work-ready community and what does that mean? Are there school district programs that are out there or are there gaps in some of the programs that are coming through the school district? What are we doing around marketing and communications to get the information about the jobs out there to the students, to the underemployed, unemployed. This issue of soft skills, what are they and how do we fix that problem? Looking at employer best practices, some of what Scott was talking about, how do we get employers to do the right thing and to begin looking at hiring and how do we get them to look at Wyandotte Countains first and making these sort of connections between folks? Then connecting diverse populations.

This idea that we have a phenomenal immigrant population that in the countries they come from are skilled tradesman yet when they come here, they don’t have a GED, they don’t have much of anything and we give them menial labor, menial jobs, many which is cash based and so they never get beyond pure poverty in this country and how do we connect them to these good jobs where we know we have skilled needs, could we not get them moved up in the process.

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To date—and I won’t spend tons of time, but I think it’s important to celebrate some of the successes we’ve already had because of what this group came together and did. We expanded that committee. Originally, we started off with a core group. We essentially said—we took the Chambers bioscience community and renamed it to workforce and then debranded it all together and said, do we care whose committee this really is at this point. What we want is everyone to come to the table if you’re interested in workforce and you have a passion for it then come to this meeting or send us an ambassador to other groups so that we can get as much information as possible.

We generally raised the awareness of a collaborative discussion. These meetings now have 15 to 25 people every month attending. They went from a 3:30 to 5:00 meeting to say we really want to meet from 3:00 to 5:00, at their request, to expand the time—Commissioner Philbrook said and it ended up 5:30 at the last meeting. Mr. Kindle said it ended up being a two and a half hour meeting and we still struggled to get through our agenda because there’s so much discussion about what could we do around work force.

We’ve had a significant amount of information submitted to this committee, if you will, topics that we would otherwise had never come across. We’ve had talks about whether we should become an ACT work-ready community. Ultimately, deciding that at the cost and the

**Local Actions To Date**

- Expanded committee outreach to include multiple partners
- Generally raised awareness of a collaborative workforce discussion
- Engaged numerous topics related to workforce
- Connected Diploma+ to WYEDC retention calls
- Engaged businesses and developed the Made in the Dotte video
- Developed HR Roundtables
- Enhanced participation in Manufacturing Day
- Engaged USD 500 regarding pathways to skilled trades
- Analyzed WorkKeys and skills assessment with both partners and businesses
fact that we’re not on an island into ourselves, most of our businesses didn’t even know what that meant. It made no sense for us to go down that path.

We have talked about diploma plus and the fact that most of our businesses didn’t know what that meant. We’ve included it now in our EDC retention calls to make sure that our businesses understand what the school district is doing. Those companies are now being prepared for—being invited to career ready and career jump starting pieces at the school districts so they can get more engaged. We know that once the business and the school district have a relationship, they are less likely to ever leave our community because now they have a relationship.

We have put together a short video called Made in the DOT that begins to put some pride and showing the pride that we have and the very cool things that we make in this community and begin rolling that out into the school districts and to anyone else who wants to look at it because it is very interesting. There’s a lot more to do around that but we were able to couple together about $20,000 to put that video and all the related pieces together initially to make that happen.

We have developed a number of HR roundtables so that we can get those human resources folks around tables on a regular basis and find out what’s going on, what their issues are. We’ve got the schools, the community college, Workforce Partnership, community college all around the table basically trying to make sure that we’re addressing their needs. Again, the relationship is probably the decision maker down the line about whether they stay here and grow or they go somewhere else. We’ve even enhanced our participation around manufacturing day with the community college. We’ve talked to the school districts about pathways. We’ve got great stem pathways but not every student is going to go into healthcare. Not every student is going to go into IT. Not every student is going to go to a four-year college. We’re beginning to have this conversation with the school districts about how do you become a skilled-trade person in our school districts and maybe go into a more skilled environment and that’s something that I think we’ll see more of by the end of the year.

We talked about workkeys and then this idea of pending college credits for preventative maintenance. Logistics is a wonderful industry. We have a number of warehouse jobs but as you know, we go after things that bolt down because they’re less capable of moving and they have a higher wage. The parts that do pay incredibly well are things that fix the trucks, they keep those trailers on the road that retread the tires. We have a lot of those companies here in

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This is the Workforce landscape according to an economic developer guy. It may not be that of Scott Anglemyer who works in it day in and day out. For me, this is a very simplistic way of saying it’s a complicated landscape as Scott said. For us, we see all the federal, state policymakers, all of these pieces going on up above and that’s the world that Scott has to live in and follow that to make sure they’re following the grants and doing all the things they’re doing. Then we’ve got funders and policymakers like the Board of Regents who have become much more involved in workforce. You’ve got UG like you all that have gotten involved in workforce. You’ve got the Workforce Partnership themselves. You’ve got MARC who studies this on a regional wide basis and foundations alone. You’ve got training providers like the

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community college, Donnelly College. You’ve got for-profits that are doing training. You’ve
got non-profits groups. I’ll show you the list of non-profit folks here in a second and the union is
involved in this. They have their own set of challenges.

On the placement and recruiting side, you’ve got for-profit. We thought when we did our
retention calls, out of 150 companies, we thought certainly there would be a couple of placement
agencies that rose to the top as the trend. It turns out there were more than 30 some different
placement agencies placing people in Wyandotte County among our top 150 companies. There
were very few trends. We’ve got non-profit folks working in this and all the other folks you see
there and then K-16.

In the middle of this is the business saying we, have all these jobs available and they’re
supposed to navigate this and try to figure out who it is they’re supposed to call today to either
help them figure out how to pay for the training, find the employees and do their job to. This is
where we begin to see where some of the gaps are and the results of our work. Workforce
Partnership does a wonderful job. They’re a panacea. There are all these other organizations out
here doing work force.

We’re not necessarily all talking together, as I had mentioned to Commissioner Philbrook
in the past. In years past, you all would have called us together and said by golly, there’s a
problem out here. I want to know why Wyandotte County is not getting these good jobs. I want
you all to do a presentation. We’d all get together. We’d put together this wonderful
presentation and tell you that everything is great and the reality is that we are all doing a good
job in our individual silos. The challenge has been connecting those silos together and that’s
what this work force committee, in my mind, has drawn to light. There are a lot of silos out
there. The question is, how do we get those silos connected and talking to each other.
I mentioned all of the non-profit and the groups that are working and the employment consortium, the non-profit side largely. This may or may not be the full list, but this is what Kimberly, and Kimberly has done a phenomenal job. She works for you all in the Sheriff’s Office. They do this group on a monthly basis. For a very small fee, you can participate in it. Many of those folks also sit around the Workforce Committee but not all, but all of them are doing individual things and doing job fairs and training. The question is how do we make sure that our companies understand what these folks are doing and how they interact along with the Workforce Partnership and the business needs that we see.
I mentioned paying web service on the WYEDC side. I don’t mean that to be hateful to our own organization. I’m just saying sometimes it’s okay to be self-critical of what you do and you don’t do. If you look at the graft, we have recently just past the 100,000 job threshold. We now have more than 100,000 jobs in Wyandotte County for the first time in history. That’s a pretty phenomenal thing. We recovered from the recession in terms of job creation very, very rapidly; in fact, we barely missed ever really going down all that much. If you look at the unemployment rate, it has come down very rapidly even though we’re still, I think, today at about at 6.1%. Our lowest in the last ten years is 5.9%. We’re on the cusp of meeting some great metrics in terms of going down. We have the third highest wages in the state of over $45,000 and that’s up from $43,000 just about 18 months ago. You look at all of those pieces and you think gosh, Wyandotte County job creation is at 4% versus the metro or the country at

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2%. You read the articles in the Star and they talk about how bad the KC region is lagging in job creation. That’s not true in Wyandotte County. We’re double the national average. You probably see that in my reports on a regular basis about how we are double. The national and regional statistics on job creation. The problem is while all these things are great, we all know that our household income is at $39,000 and that’s up from $38,000. We’re half that of Johnson County and yet we’re creating wonderful jobs with over 1,200 jobs, and I’ll show you in a second, over 1,200 jobs open today among our top largest companies paying an average of $43,000 a job. That’s a problem. I’m not going to give you the silver bullet tonight but I’m suggesting if we were just looking at our normal metrics, the EDC would be telling you, we’re good. We’re doing everything we need to be doing. If we’re going to go beyond that and change culture and change community we’re going to have to do something slightly different.

From our retention data, I mentioned to you that 60% of our companies are hiring. $42,000 average salary. 1,200 open positions. That’s up from 1,100 just 6 months ago. Our companies tell us they don’t expect this problem to go away. Even if they fill a job, they expect that another one will come open and so they don’t anticipate this being a problem. If you remember the very first slide about 3.5M jobs being open nationally and growing. This is how it looks locally. At this rate, if you look at the average age of many of our employee basis, they’re in their 60s.

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we’re not figuring out how to fix this soon, we’re going to have even a larger problem which means I can’t place new companies in this communicating unless I can find the jobs. Here are some of the top positions. Most of these we can fill at the Technical Education Center.

The question becomes from us, is there a role for the EDC. I can’t answer that yet because our board has not decided this. We’re going to have a conversation in July about this. What I would tell you after we spent all this time talking is that we do see across a wide spectrum, across the tracks or retention, across the spectrum, across our business community. We see kind of broadly across that area. We are in a unique role in that because we interact with the businesses on a regular basis, they’re fearful sometimes of having 40 different agencies calling on them. We, ourselves, have sometimes difficulty reminding them we’re not the government, that we are a non-profit organization, but we do see how we can connect those.

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Similar to how we do incentives, we believe that there may be a new way for us to connect people resources with these companies in a similar way using the non-profit organizations and Workforce Partnership in the community college with someone potentially on board who specifically is to pull those things together here in Wyandotte between the companies we just called on and the resources that are available through essentially, not dissimilar to how we respond on projects that you see names, Project Key or others and say look, we’ve got the need for ten welders for Project Key. Who has them? How many are at the community college? How many are in the Workforce Partnership database? How many of them are coming through Bishop Sullivan or Bethel Neighborhood Group or whichever agency? We need to know this by the end of the week so that we can respond on this project.

We think that begins to give us a competitive advantage because it would be unique across this country for a company to come into a community, sit in a conference room with Workforce Partnership, and us and the state and you all and be able to say, well look, we know exactly where we’re going to find these 100 people. Here are the agencies that can provide them. This is the success rate we have with them and here’s how this is all going to work. We know the incentives through the Workforce Partnership and how we’ll pay for that or through the state. That would be a unique approach.

Then lastly, is the piece about outcomes. As you know, we have a lot of metrics that we measure. I don’t know that we have an answer for all the metrics. The low hanging fruit is that we have 1,200 jobs available today. Is there a metric that says we want to lower that metric, that number down? We want x number of these jobs to hopefully be pitched to Wyandotte coundants. Are there private partnerships that we believe exist as well that could begin to work more diligently about getting Wyandotte Coundants intake assessed and then placed back into companies in addition to what Workforce Partnership does? That’s kind of the question mark I think we have. There’s also the question how do we pay for that.

We’ve piloted this before through retention. I think that’s a logical way to go forward is to pilot this project and see if that’s something we can do well. If it doesn’t work, then we don’t continue it. If it does work, then we make it more of an official program of the EDC.

We did pitch this out to the Workforce Committee last week. Commissioner Philbrook was there and some others and asked them if anybody else wanted to take this role, if anybody else had a better idea. It’s time to move forward versus just working as a number of volunteers.

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around the table to say let’s maybe more institutionalize this and figure out if there’s a way to make this move forward.

Commissioner Bynum asked so that’s all you’ve got. Mr. Kindle said I have a lot of data. Commissioner Bynum said that’s amazing on all of your parts and fascinating. I’m so grateful to have the presentation. It’s really made the wheels turn in my brain which is a good thing. I’d be really interested in—I believe, and I can be corrected if I’m wrong, that the Unified Government has a partnership with you to basically do a lot of eco devo. I love the direction you’re going. This is clearly a major component of economic development.

What more can we do to assist would be my question in a broad brushstroke sort of way? All of you but primarily, the Wyandotte EDC work with the partners at the table. Mr. Kindle said what I will tell you is that number one, I appreciate the role that you all have already taken. Commissioner Philbrook is to be commended number one for attending almost every single meeting. That alone gives us at least a good connection back to you all and what role we are doing as opposed to not knowing what’s happening. We’ve had great UG staff participation with Marlon and the Mayor’s Office as well. When you’ve got everybody’s focus and energy, that makes it a whole lot easier.

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We came at this, all of us, from we’re not pointing the finger anymore. This isn’t about making anybody look good; make anybody look bad. This is about the fact that good things are happening in Wyandotte County, great things are happening but not everybody is enjoying it. We have got to figure out different ways to engage the folks who are coming into this community. I believe that I think in Commissioner McKiernan’s district, he’s noted that 42% of his population doesn’t have a GED. I can’t help those folks. I can’t get them into that $43,000 job until they have a GED but I believe that there are many of our social service agencies who do a great job of that. If I could begin to connect those social service agencies and to getting the GED and maybe we connect them to Workforce Partnership on how to pay for that and then work with some of the companies that we have to say if we can get them trained, would you commit to hiring them. I believe the answer is yes. I believe they will.

We have a trucking company today that is turning down over 400 loads a day because they don’t have enough drivers. That’s a huge amount, that’s 200 drivers that they need right now. Those folks pay anywhere from $40,000 to $70,000 a year. I just need people but I don’t know everybody at the very bottom of the pool I don’t think they know that these jobs even exist. We’ve got to engage those social service agencies better to do what they do well. I don’t want to do any training. I don’t want to recreate the wheel. I don’t want to. I don’t want to get in the way of Workforce Partnership, but I do believe that we have some great programs. We’re just not connecting as well as we could.

I think there are some foundations out there who are willing to help pay for a position. You all might be. Frankly, I don’t want to come back to the till all the time and ask for the same folks to pay for everything. I’m trying to figure out if there is a for-profit model here where the businesses might help pay for part of this position if we can help them do it. That may be the long-term strategy versus the short-term. I’d love to see the community college maybe even Workforce Partnership be able to assist us with this because I think there are some things we can do others can’t. Right now it’s all on the drawing board. We really appreciate it.

Commissioner Philbrook said I have a vision. We’ve been working on this for so long. I’m so excited that they’re here today. It’s not about me. This is about our community and there’s no way that I can tell everybody that has been part of this that put all this energy into this how important it’s been. I’m tired of seeing our community talked down about. I’m tired of people

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saying that we’re lazy and that we don’t work and that we don’t work hard. I know that Commissioner Kane is tired of hearing stuff like that too.

Because we have a lot of—it is, it’s a social issue and what we have to do is dig down clear into the weeds and we have to work in those weeds and bring our children up and help our community understand that it’s all about them and that we want them to have excellent jobs. We want them to be making money so their children don’t have to worry about whether they’re having food or if they get to go to school or if they get to have a bike or any of that sort of stuff. I want people to talk about our community like we’re a rising star. We have no excuses now because we are rising in an economic way that is just phenomenal in the United States with our development.

I would ask that we hitch on to that star and actually help our community create a work force on a long-term basis as well as a short-term basis. What I see happening is we have to have someone, however we decide to pay for it or hire them, to be a point person to start putting this together. If you want to call them a strategist. If you want to call them a person who works on a project coordinator, whatever you want to call them, call them anything you want to, just call them and let them do something. I don’t see us as the Commission paying for the full load. What I see us doing is helping it out in the beginning and being a small partner when we get it established and moving and I think within full force within the next five years. That’s what I see.

**Commissioner Johnson** said I just want to know the presentations that have been provided or can they be emailed. They both were excellent. **Mr. Goff** said, Commissioner, we’ll make sure you get a copy and distribute those.

**Action:** No action taken. Information only.

**Item No. 3 – 150158…REPORT: STATE OF MUNICIPAL COURT**

**Synopsis:** The State of Municipal Court Report prepared by Chief Judge Ryan, submitted by Gordon Criswell, Assistant County Administrator. For information only.
Gordon Criswell, Assistant County Administrator, said Chief Judge Moe Ryan is coming with I believe, his annual report about the state of Municipal Court. Chief Judge Ryan has had some challenges, has some opportunities that have come up and as he so amply does every year, he comes and gives the governing body the state of the court and that would be his presentation tonight.

Moe Ryan, Chief Municipal Court Judge, said a couple of you I have not had the opportunity to meet yet. I hope to do so in the future. My name is Maurice Ryan. Everybody calls me Moe. I’ve been on the bench since 1999 and the Administrative Judge since about 2007. The city ordinance mandates that each year I give a state of the court. Usually it’s just a two or three page here are the numbers type of deal. The city of Ferguson happened this year as did the city of Baltimore and the Department of Justice Report and it caused us to take a look at everything that we do in Municipal Court. I’ll go over some of the numbers and some of the issues. If any of you have any questions, please feel free to let me know. Also Judge Brajkovic is here so that if she would like to answer any questions that are within her expertise, especially as it deals with codes, please feel free.

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These are our basic court statistics. The number of traffic tickets remain relatively consistent between 26,000 and 30,000 each year. We have between 700 and 966 DUls per year. About 13,000 to 15,000, and one year we had 18,000, misdemeanors per year. DD means domestic violence and codes are obviously code enforcement.

The revenue, we get about $4.4M a year. In 2010, down to $3.65M a year. That was in the depths of the depression.

Codes, it’s about $32,000 to $35,000 per year. The $75,000 figure is an aberration. We went to a new court management software and so that inflated the number. It’s still around $32,000, $35,000 we think.
We wanted to get an idea. We started seeing a notice in the decrease in the number of tickets issued by the Police Department this year. We compared the first four months of 2014 to 2015.

You can see the number of Animal Control tickets is down about 30%, Parking down about 10%, Code Enforcement is up 57%, Misdemeanor is down 20%, Domestic Violence down 5% and the biggie, Traffic is down about 39%. I wanted to bring that to your attention because I know that the Commission depends somewhat on the revenue from Municipal Court. I want the Commission to know that they should expect a decrease from what we provided in the past based upon the number of tickets going down.
Again, revenue comparisons have been anywhere from $2.2M to $2.7M. Right now we’re at $2.5M. There is a lag. We’re collecting on tickets that were issued in 2014 some in 2013. Although our revenues are doing pretty well, we expect them to go down in the near future.
One of the big issues that we had in this legislative session is that the legislature proposed House Bill 2138. To give you an idea of what usually happens in our court is that if a person misses their court date, they can post a $100 cash bond. All of their warrants are set aside whether they have one ticket or a dozen tickets. They get a new court date and that court date usually falls two to three weeks later. We don’t use commercial bail bondsmen in our court and have not had them since about 2009. The reason is pretty simple. Bail bondsmen, number one, they take money but they don’t give any back. Number two, they’re a pain to deal with because when their clients fail to appear, we have to notify them and have a separate docket for them to notify them their clients did not show then we have to give them an opportunity to try and produce their clients; and then only after giving them an opportunity to produce their clients, we order the bonds forfeited and then they fight us in court and then we have to go to court to sue them to get the bond money. We’ve not allowed commercial bondsmen in our court for a couple of years.

As you can down at the bottom the bond forfeitures in 2010, we forfeited $750,000 and last year about $515,000. That’s money that goes to the UG and to victims and it goes a large part to our fines. The bondsmen see that and they think they’re entitled to a cut of that. They want the legislature to enact a law that would require us to set the same amount for bonds for both cash

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and surety. Typically, the cash bond has been 10% of the surety amount but the way this particular bill was written, it would require the same amount for both. So in other words, we couldn’t set a $1,000 surety and $100 cash. It had to be $100 cash or $100 cash so that virtually everybody would go to a bondsman because they charge a percentage of the bond and it would really line their pockets and decrease ours. We, and the League, being the municipality, fought this. The legislature is very pro-business as you can image. They say it’s going to be an item in the interim study and again, we’re going to fight it. However, we were asked to come up with a recommendation if we would allow commercial bondsmen and if allowed, we would ask that a RFP be issued, a commercial bondsman would be limited to writing bonds on defendants who have unresolved charges only. Once a defendant owes us money which we define as a writ, we would demand a cash bond so that it could be used to pay fines. This doesn’t require any action on your part right now. I just wanted to let you know about it.

The Department of Justice study on Ferguson identified multiple civil rights violations by the police and the courts in Ferguson, Missouri. The police targeted blacks in excess of their demographic representation. The city encouraged the issuance of tickets as a revenue source. The court failed to take into consideration a defendant’s ability to pay in sentencing decisions.

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The penalties for missing court were too harsh and the city’s bond practices were too harsh and inconsistent.

The Department of Justice for the city of Ferguson made 13 recommendations for the Police Department and another 13 for the Municipal Court. These include:

- Focus Stop, Search, Ticketing and Arrest practices on community protection
- Increase tracking, review, and analysis of police stops.
- Increase diversity in recruiting, hiring and promotion of policemen

The Department of Justice for the city of Ferguson made 13 recommendations for the Police Department and another 13 for Municipal Court. These include for the police that they should focus their stops, search, and ticketing and arrest practices on community protection, not on revenue enhancement. They should increase tracking, review and analysis of police stops and increase diversity in recruiting, hiring and promotion of policemen. I will say that I think that a part of the reduced number of tickets that are being issued by our Police Department are because our Police Department has taken this advice to heart by the Department of Justice and they are focusing their efforts more on community protection than just issuing tickets.
The court recommendations were to: make Municipal Court processes more transparent, provide complete and accurate information to a person charged, Review preset fine amounts and implement a system for fine reduction, Develop effective ability to pay assessment system. I want to talk a little bit more about this. The 8th Amendment to the United States Constitution and the 9th Amendment to the Kansas Constitution requires that no excessive fines or bails or punishment shall be imposed. With Ferguson and a lot of ink has been used in the past four or five years about what constitutes excessive fines. One fine may not be excessive but when you pile one on top of each other, you get to a point where these people have no real hope of paying their fines. We have people that have substance and mental issues that owe us $7,000 to $10,000. We’re never going to see that money, never in a million years. If we get $200, $300, $400 out of it, we’ll be lucky. Judge Brajkovic and I have been looking at ability to pay more closely in the past five or six months.

Finally, the modified bond amounts and bond and detention procedures and collaborate with other municipalities in the state of Missouri to implement reform. This is what they asked of Ferguson. Now, where we come in to it is that our records management system is called REGIS. It is a collaborative of the city and county of St. Louis and their court system is the
same for virtually every court in the city and county of St. Louis of which there are 80 plus cities. I’ve been asked to cooperate with the Missouri judges and we have talked about what they’re doing and what we’ve done. REGIS is going to have to come up as part this Department of Justice study, come up with new ideas that we then can incorporate into our court.

Our Police Department does not collect tracking information on traffic tickets based upon race and ethnicity but Kansas state law doesn’t require it. All Kansas state law requires is that the Police Department set up a method for complaints for race issues or what have you.

In previous analysis from 2011 shows some mild disparity between demographics and tickets issued but that is mainly due to deployment of police resources in predominantly black areas. This is based upon calls for service and crime statistics. What we recommend and what we’re hoping to do in our court is to keep better statistical recordkeeping that would allow municipal court to do an independent analysis.

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I will say so far as our practices, I’ve never felt any pressure from the administration or the Commission to use Municipal Court to help fund city government.

Ferguson, 23% of their city budget was municipal court revenues; KCK is 3%. We just don’t look upon our court as a revenue producer.

We did undertake a fine review in 2013. The previous standard fines were established in 2008 so it’s about a five-year period. We reviewed fines assessed by various cities in the Kansas City area and throughout the state. You can see those there. Pursuant to instructions from Administrator Hays, we set most of our fines and court costs at or below the surveyed jurisdictions. He told us to keep in mind our demographics and we did.

We recently surveyed some other cities to review their fines scheduled for DUI and we are at or below what other cities charge. Driving while suspended, we are above what other cities charge at this point.
We recommend an increase in fines for DUI and a decrease in the fines for driving while suspended to be more in line with other cities surveyed. Most cities charge between $50 - $100 more for DUI. Two years ago, the state mandated that $250 from each DUI go to the state for community corrections. That’s $250 less per ticket. On 700 tickets, that’s about $40,000 a year that we’re sending to the state for community corrections. A lot of the cities have bumped their fines to make up for that decrease.

Most cities charge $150 to $250 less for driving while suspended and do not require jail or house arrest for first conviction. In our court, a first time driving while suspended is five days jail or 10 days house arrest. We prefer they do house arrest and a $300 fine. Most cites charge $100 to $200 and they parole the jail time on a first offense. This policy of our fine schedule was put in place a long time ago by a former City Attorney and he had very good reasons for doing so because there are a lot of bad press about people that had driving while suspended go out and get into wrecks and then the press comes by and they say, why are you so soft on driving while suspended. That’s the attorney; made the decision that this was going to be the policy implemented by the Prosecutor’s Office. If the prosecutor is making these offers, we, as a court, decided to go along. We’re recommending reducing the fines and eliminating the jail time or house arrest for a first time. We realize this is going to result in a slight decrease in income

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because we’re charging less but I’ll be honest with you, when you only collect about 35% to 40% of these tickets in the first place because people that have driving on suspended tickets are bad drivers. They don’t have a lot of money. If we eliminate them having to pay for house arrest, we’ll make up some of that cost and maybe get increase of percentage of fines paid. We are going to make that recommendation to the city Legal Department that they adopt that as a new policy and we would like to do so as well.

We have established a system of review of fines and late fees to ensure that we are cognizant of the ability to pay and have been more generous with community service requests. Defendants that are on disability payments or have shown an inability to pay, are having their fines reduced or waived consistent with the Eighth Amendment. This will not result in a significant decrease in revenue because these people were not paying us in the first place.
We have online docketing now. When we went to our new software system, we had a gap of about ten months where we could not have online docketing. Anybody can access that through the wycokck.org website. As of June 1st we have online payments. We had 11 people do that today. We’re getting 10 to 11 people a day that access online payments. At this time we don’t allow partial payments; it’s full payment only. However, Kansas City, Missouri, and most of the St. Louis courts are going to go to partial pay. Fairway is another city in Kansas that has the same system. We’re going to monitor how they do with their partial pay because they have the same vendor. After we check it out, we’ll probably go to partial pay on online payments as well.

We have allowed partial payments for years. The policy is that if all the charges are resolved and the defendant is not on probation, they can pay $50 and get a four-week continuance without a court appearance. Most of the cities in St. Louis charged a minimum of $100. We’ve been at $50 for a long time. We’ve recently added an option of a $20 to $49 payment to get a two week continuance. Again, making it easier for people to make payments. I will tell you that when we adopted this back in 2007, we increased our revenues by $500,000 a year without an increase in the number of tickets and greatly reduced the number of people that are crowded into the courtroom. We think this is a win/win.

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We’ve changed some of our docket practices. We used to have domestic violence on Tuesday afternoon and Judge Brajkovic had all traffic and misdemeanor. What we found out that it was overcrowding her docket and it was overcrowding our probation officers because they were having to report both to my domestic violence docket and to her traffic docket to deal with shoplifters and driving while suspended. I moved my domestic violence docket to Wednesday so that while I’m doing domestic violence, Judge Brajkovic is doing codes. She doesn’t need a probation officer for code violations, but I do for my domestic docket and now she and I split the Tuesday afternoon docket and it goes much faster.

We’ve done a ton of work on jail management. When the new Sheriff came in, and I can’t say enough about Sheriff Ash and Jeff Fewell and the others, we restarted the Jail Population Committee. 80% of the people booked into the Wyandotte County jail have city charges. They also have other charges. About 10,000 prisoners a year are city charges. We see on video arraignment, 100 to 125 prisoners per week. We’ve standardized it so that when a defendant is wanted on both city and county charges, we all put them on Tuesdays. When we see them on Tuesday, we say well, have you had your preliminary hearing yet? I don’t know.
When’s your next court date? I don’t know. What’s your bond? I don’t know. They don’t have a lot of information. What we do is on Friday, Judge Brajkovic or I go through the Tuesday and Wednesday callback dockets and we then ask the county when are these people set next. We get the information back and then if we don’t need to see them because they’re not set for a county docket for a month or two down the line, we just continue the cases. It reduces the number of people that are from farmout that come back. It reduces the number of times they have to be seen by us, and they’re always really happy to see us at 8:00 in the morning in the first place when they know they’re going to be sitting in jail for seven or eight months.

By the way, in the jail, presumptive probationers that are in jail sit there for an average of seven months. Presumptive imprisonment is nine months. I can’t do anything to get those people out that are presumptive probation. That’s up to the county judges and what have you. One of the things we’re hoping that by reducing the house arrest for our driving while suspended, it will free up those resources to get more people out of jail that are subject to presumptive probation on county charges. That’s just our hope.

Bond forfeitures. For many defendants when they forfeit a bond, it does not apply to their fines, if any, without specific authorization from a judge. However, we are very free with our
authorizations. If a person has a $500 bond, we apply it to fines. Like I said we currently forfeit about $500,000 a year. What we’re going to recommend is a policy that if a bond is forfeited, the proceeds would first go to pay restitution, if any. If the person has been a victim of a crime, you want to get them paid first. Second, would be to pay off any fines. Third, if the charges had not been resolved, the bond would go into the General Fund and not applied to any future fines.

We have a lot of defendants who post bond as a means of avoiding court. They know they’re going to get hammered on a driving on suspended or what have you. They’re just buying time hoping they’ll get a job and have more money when the piper comes calling. They expect to forfeit a lot of these bonds and they do.

We do need to improve our docketing information when a person posts a bond. They can post it in the jail or post it at our Clerk’s Office. The defendant receives a sheet of paper giving them the next court date. They lose them 90% of the time. Then they come to court and if the jail hasn’t updated it they don’t see their name on the sheet, they don’t bother checking with the clerk, they don’t bother coming into court, they just go home and then their bond gets forfeited. We’re hoping to get the jail to improve that a little bit and our staff to improve that a little bit as well.

Here are some of the state compliance issues that we have. Kansas Adult Disposition Reports. Whenever a person is convicted on a misdemeanor, we’re required to file a disposition report.

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We receive 200 of these each week from the jail. We put them in a file folder, in a file cabinet, in alphabetical order. When those charges are resolved, we have to find that form, pull it out, enter the disposition and send it up to Topeka. We get a lot of people. It could be two or three years from their original arrest until their disposition. It’s a pain to relocate those forms. Also, if they get a failure to appear ticket and are booked into the jail, we have to find the original booking sheet, the original number and then put that number on it.

We’ve contracted with our vendor to build an interface with the KBI to submit these reports electronically. However, until we’re able to build an interface with Bluhorse, which is the jail RMS, we are faced with receiving paper from the jail and subsequently submitting the form electronically. We’ve asked our vendor to put them both on the fast track, but we don’t have the money to do both interfaces. We have money this year for KBI, next year for Bluhorse. We expend about 66 work hours a week completing Kansas Adult Disposition Reports. If seamless, it would save us 20 hours a week or more.

KSA 21-250 requires that the court shall ensure all A & B misdemeanors be fingerprinted, palm printed and sent to the KBI before final disposition. We don’t do this. We don’t have the money for the machines. We’ve asked for them in past budgets. They’ve been cut out of the budget. We don’t have the manpower. We’re understaffed in the Clerk’s Office. The security guards
say they don’t want to do fingerprinting because they don’t have the manpower either and we
don’t have a location where we can fingerprint 100 people a day without overcrowding the
hallways.

We’d like to get an opinion from the Legal Department about which defendant—now I
will say this, we’re not completely ignoring our duty because 70% to 80% of the people that are
convicted on misdemeanors are booked into the jail. They are fingerprinted anyway. All DUIs,
all domestic violence, those resisting arrest, all fleeing and eluding, all driving on suspended,
they get fingerprinted. It’s the trespassing, no proof of insurance that requires fingerprinting.
It’s a whole bunch of miggling ones that we can’t do. We’re asking in our budget to get the
equipment and the materials. This may require some effort by the 9th Floor to tell the security
guards, you’re going to do the fingerprinting. I don’t have the authority to order them to do
anything. I just ask them to do it and they balked.

Also, on the 2nd Floor we have an agency that’s using one of our offices on the 2nd Floor
that we don’t use anymore. They’re just used across the street and why they have an officer on
our 2nd Floor, I don’t know, but we could hopefully use that office to process these fingerprints.
We have three planned interfaces: the KBI for Kansas Adult Disposition, Bluhorse and also Mauwi, which is the Neighborhood Resources/Code Enforcement. I’ve outlined the KBI interface.

We need an interface with Bluhorse for two reasons. Number one, the KBI interface. Number two, when we see a prisoner and we continue a prisoner, our staff has to enter the continuance into Bluhorse. After I’m done seeing prisoners, they go back to their office and they enter the same continuance into our system so we’re double entering a lot of the information. Once we get a full interface with Bluehorse, that will be seemless. We put it in once, it automatically populates the other.

Mauwi, the same issue as Bluhorse. We get stuff from Code Enforcement we then have to enter all of the cases from Code Enforcement into our system. When those cases are disposed of, we have to advise the Codes what the disposition is.
We’re recommending in our budget, and we’ve put it in the Capital Maintenance Budget, interfaces and develop everything asap. Combine interfaces could save us 60 – 80 hours per week, man-hours per week.

Finally, when we went with IMDS, which is our records management, our intention was to go paper on demand so that we wouldn’t have paper in court unless it’s needed. However, to do so, it requires all of our older tickets to be scanned so that their images would be available on the computer. Because of staffing issues, we’ve been unable to scan many of these tickets. We’ve got 100,000 to 120,000 tickets that are in warrant right now. Most of those need to be scanned. We get 38,000 to 40,000 tickets a year. Those will all have to be scanned. We have requested budget authorization to add 2-3 temporary employees to scan old tickets. Any temporary employees would have to pass background checks too work with criminal justice information. This is similar to what the PD has done in the past.

Commissioner Philbrook said that amount of hours per week, we’re talking like around $1,000 to $1,500 a week that we’re spending doing that. Is that what you’re saying? Judge Ryan said yes. Commissioner Philbrook said okay. I’m just rough guess on what we’re talking about here. Judge Ryan said our employees generally make about $23,000—a year plus benefits—Commissioner Philbrook said I really underguessed that one. Judge Ryan said plus benefits

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when you include your 25% to 30% for benefits, so $30,000 to $35,000 a year, so $70,000 a year. Commissioner Philbrook said okay. Thank you for that explanation.

Commissioner Kane said wow, I didn’t know they were paid that little. Judge Ryan said yes, $14 to $15 an hour. Commissioner Kane said you’ve got somebody that’s going to retire in your office. Judge Ryan said Peggy Campbell retired. She’s the Court Administrator. Current city practice is that in order to allow for the 1% bonus, that we can’t fill her position until her compensated absences run out. That will be about December. If I can replace her—and we have another clerk that notified us Friday that she’s leaving. We’re going to be understaffed by two for a while. If I do get permission to replace Ms. Campbell, and she was there for 35 years, institutional knowledge out of the wazoo, if we replace in-house, then her position remains open for a while unless the Administrator approves an emergency. The Clerk that’s leaving, she’s going to Code Enforcement. They pay more. You’re not getting yelled at everyday by people that have to pay money so she wants to get away from that. I can replace her relatively quickly. It’s only a two-month gap with her.

Commissioner Kane said I love it when somebody’s stuck around for 35 years like I did at GM. When I left, I was replaced with what you would consider a whipper snapper, somebody that has a whole boatload of computer knowledge and can spread things around and help the other folks that weren’t quite as good with computers and stuff like that which is kind of what some of your issue is with this lady here—35 years, she could do it blindfolded basically.

Gordon, we need to take a look at this to see if we have somebody already working for us either in that department or a different department that has some sort of computer expertise that they can share. I also don’t think that he should have to wait that long considering he’s already 100,000 tickets behind and with two people missing, the hole is going to get bigger. I think we need to look at filling the head position with a computer, I don’t want to call them a geek, but a computer geek. The other person that’s going, I think we need to get him help as soon as possible instead of waiting for this timeline which is the first time I ever heard it worded like that. If I were you, I’d be upset because you didn’t lose one, you lost two and now you can’t even fill that one. I think it’s something that staff needs to look at and take this opportunity to get someone that could be gifted at that type of stuff.

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Commissioner Johnson said, Judge, under this recommendation for the Code Enforcement, you’re talking about proceeding with an additional administrative hearing for low-level code enforcement cases. I think I like the concept. I’m just wondering is there going to be an added cost to adding the administrative hearing piece to that? Judge Ryan said as I understand the proposal, it was to be in-house, inside the Neighborhood Resource. It wouldn’t be in the court system. I can’t answer that for you.

Gordon Criswell, Assistant County Administrator, said we submitted, Commissioner, staffing numbers to actually implement this program. This was something that the standing committee asked Codes to do. There’s budget language that’s coming forth for the proposed 2016 Budget that would allow us to have staffing capability to actually implement the administrative fine hearing process. Commissioner Johnson said so it will be reflected in our budget that we’re getting ready to get involved with. Mr. Criswell said yes, sir.

Commissioner Johnson said also, I think you alluded to the fact that you are looking to improve the system to delineate between the Hispanic and non-Hispanic whites. Do you foresee that being a problem? Judge Ryan said let me tell you how the process works. When a traffic ticket is issued, there are two types of traffic tickets. We have a regular paper ticket and an electronic ticket. The paper tickets have to be entered by police data entry people. They type in white, black, Hispanic, whatever the differentiation is.

Right now we don’t require them and the police usually don’t differentiate between Hispanic and non-Hispanic whites. It would take us—and I can’t do this—it would take me asking the Police Chief would you please have your people from the policeman to the data entry people put this information. Chief Ziegler and I have a good relationship. We talk fairly often. When I showed him the numbers on the reduced number of tickets, he understood. I talked about getting better statistics. He said okay, show me who is going to pay for it and how the statistic is going to be used, which are legitimate concerns by him. It’s not something that I can ask. It’s up to the PD to do, to implement.
Commissioner Johnson said so you’re saying there’s an additional cost there would certainly be additional costs to do it. Judge Ryan said I don’t know that it would be additional costs because a lot of times the officers do sometimes differentiate between Hispanic and non-Hispanic whites, but they don’t do it consistently. It would take additional training for the Police Department and it would take another step or two by their data entry people.

Commissioner Johnson said my motivation for that is just in light of the fact that this is included in the section with regards to Ferguson. Just from the perspective that we’d be as proactive as possible in terms of disseminating information and trying to figure out where we stack up relative to the region and the country. I think that might be something particularly in light of how diverse of a community we are and the increasing Latino community might be something at some point might be very beneficial to us. Judge Ryan said I can tell you that, I’m pretty sure you know the demographics, I think it’s 25.6% black, 26.8% Hispanic and the rest are non-Hispanic whites and then we have, we actually have a fairly large Micronesian Laotian. We’ve got a lot of Southeast Asian people that come in.

Commissioner Johnson said you have 60% tickets were issued to whites. I think that a good portion of that is—Judge Ryan said includes Hispanic and non-Hispanic whites. Commissioner Johnson said that’s the kind of point that I’m getting to. If we could break down that 60% to know what portion was Anglo versus Latino I think that would be beneficial. At some point, I don’t know how it could be done. I’m just saying that in light of the tensions that we have going on in our country and in light of our great diversity that we have in our city and our county, that might be something that would lend some insight. Judge Ryan said I agree.

Commissioner Johnson said my last question is just curious, the fact that we’ve got just a little more than 3% of our city revenue generated by the court. What is the average in the metro? Do you know? I know we’ve compared it but I didn’t see a percentage anywhere. Judge Ryan said I have no idea. I can tell you that Missouri passed a law that requires that no more than 20% for any city can be generated by court revenues. I can give you statistics on what happens in St. Louis but Kansas City, Missouri, and other cities are not really forthcoming about that information. Commissioner Johnson said fair enough.

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Judge Ryan said I can tell you that efficiency wise, we’re—I know that our staff—10 years ago, the Kansas City Star did a survey of all metropolitan cities in the metropolitan area. They did public safety, public works, and the courts. At that time we ranked very highly for efficiency. At that time our cost for processing per ticket was somewhere around $23 to $24 per ticket. It’s now $32 to $33 per ticket. Conversely, Overland Park, they’re $50 to $60 per ticket. Kansas City, Missouri, much more than $30 a ticket. The amount of money that we spend processing tickets and the number of cases that our judges hear is just, it’s hard to believe. I’ll give you another example.

Wichita has—we had 38,000 tickets last year. Wichita had 58,000 tickets. They’ve got six judges, we’ve got two. Overland Park has a similar number of tickets but 30% to 40% of their tickets are paid for before anyone steps into the court. They see people on the average of one and one-half times. We see them an average of five times. The number of tickets are relatively the same, but the amount of people that we see is much greater. They see 30 prisoners a week; we see 100 to 125 a week. The demographics are just significantly different.

Commissioner Johnson said right. I can have a longer conversation, but in the interest of time. Judge Ryan said I’ll tell you what, for any Commissioner that wants to talk to me, my door is always open. Just let me know. I’d be happy to come up and talk to you when I’m done with my docket each day. Judge Brajkovic and I roll in about 7:20 to 7:30 and we start seeing prisoners at 7:30 and we finish our day at 4:30 or whatever.

Action: No action taken. Information only.

Item No. 4 – 150165...REAPPOINTMENT: REACH FOUNDATION’S COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

Synopsis: Communication requesting the reappointment of Addie Hawkins to the REACH Foundation’s CAC for a two-year term commencing June 1, 2015, submitted by Joe Connor, Assistant County Administrator.
Chairman Markley said some of you—Kane probably only really actually may remember, we appoint to the REACH Foundation Community Advisory Committee. This standing committee recommends that appointment. It says Joe Connor is going to present but he’s not here. I don’t know if Gordon or Melissa have any background information or if I should just wing it. Mr. Criswell said you should just wing it. Chairman Markley said the request is for us to reappoint the current appointee.

Action: Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve. Roll call was taken and there were five “Ayes,” Philbrook, Kane, Johnson, Bynum, Markley.

Public Agenda:
Item No. 1 – 150163…APPEARANCE: MURREL BLAND

Synopsis: Appearance of Murrel Bland, Executive Director, Business West, Inc., to recommend amendments to the ordinance relating to the distance between liquor stores and other facilities.

Murrel Bland, 8311 Garfield Ave., Kansas City, Kansas, said I am appearing here as Executive Director of Business West. On February 18, the Board of Directors of Business West passed a resolution concerning retail liquor stores. Business West has studied Section 27-593(b)(18) of the ordinances of Kansas City, Kansas. The ordinance states liquor stores with a minimum separation distance of 1,300 ft. between any new liquor store location and any existing or proposed liquor store and any existing or proposed liquor store location, church, school, public park. These distances are to be measured from the nearest property line of each location. The unintended consequence of this ordinance is that it simply removes most all vital locations for liquor stores in the name of equality. Simply stated, this is restraint of trade. Therefore, be it resolved, the Board of Directors respectfully ask that the ordinance be changed so it is consistent with Kansas state law and that the distance be changed from 1,300 ft. to 200 ft.

Furthermore, Business West respectfully asks that the distance be measured from door-to-door rather than property lines. I would defer the rest of my time to Mike Rhodes who is a Business West member and who is seeking this change.

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Mike Rhodes, 13400 Donahoo Rd., Kansas City, Kansas, said I am a member of Business West as Murrel said. I appreciate the opportunity to speak here tonight.

I just want to kind of elaborate on this distance and how it impacts a particular business in our community. This first slide here shows the 78th & State intersection. The outline in yellow is the Wyandotte Plaza Shopping Center. The 1,300 ft. radius circle, which is a 2,600 ft. diameter, is just short of half a mile. If you notice, it clips that track of ground where the Wyandotte Plaza is by 80 ft. or so. That whole shopping center is not excluded. You’re not excluding a liquor store, you’re excluding tracts of ground with this ordinance. This excludes 16.5 acres that a liquor store cannot be put. If there’s a liquor store there, it’s okay; but if a guy doesn’t sell his business and just shuts it down, to reestablish a liquor store there under this ordinance cannot happen.
75<sup>th</sup> to 84<sup>nd</sup> along State Ave

This shows State Avenue from 75<sup>th</sup> St. to 84<sup>th</sup> St. which there is no way you can even put a liquor store on that corridor.

State Ave & Parallel Parkway
College Parkway to I-435

This slide shows Parallel Parkway from College Parkway out to I-435 and State Avenue out to I-435. You’ve got a couple of areas where you have a little gap right in there on State, that’s the

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Speer’s property. That was just purchased by the UG. There’s 130 acres there but it’s overlapped by those circles. If they’re planning on some retail along the front and if it’s just one single tract, you can’t put a liquor store there. This not only hurts liquor store owners or potential liquor store owners, this hurts developers because a developer when they build a strip center, they know that one of the highest and best use in a strip center is a liquor store. They say, oh, we’ve got 1,500 to 2,000 sq. ft. here; we know we can lease out to a liquor store. Well in this case they can’t. It not only hurts the future owners of liquor stores, but it hurts the developers as well.

**Chairman Markley** said we’re past time. I gave you a little extra time since I think we had two speakers.

**Commissioner Bynum** said to make sure I understand the diagram, all your circles are that distance—**Mr. Rhodes** said correct—**Commissioner Bynum** said per ordinance from—**Mr. Rhodes** said correct and they’re all on a liquor store, church or school. **Commissioner Bynum** asked did you happen to look at Leavenworth Road by chance. I’m just curious. **Mr. Rhodes** said no but it would end up the same. **Commissioner Bynum** said so for example, at 78th & Leavenworth Rd., existing liquor store now closed. This current ordinance would prohibit that building from being reopened as a liquor store again. That owner died. **Mr. Rhodes** said if there’s a school, park, church or another liquor store within 1,300 ft. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay. **Mr. Rhodes** said that’s correct.

**Chairman Markley** said thank you for your presentation.

**Action:** No action taken.

(Commissioner Philbrook left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.)
Item No. 2 – 150164…APPEARANCE: HARLAN BROWNLEE

Synopsis: Appearance of Harlan Brownlee, President/CEO, Arts KC, requesting adoption of the OneArtsKC Regional Cultural Plan.

Harlan Brownlee, President/CEO of ARTSKC, the Regional Arts Council, 119 W. 116th, Kansas City, MO, said I wanted to ask if you have copies of the OneArtsKC Executive Summary, if that was distributed to you. Fantastic. I’m also joined tonight with my colleague Alan Gray, who is our past board chair at ARTSKC as well as the chair for the steering committee for the OneArtsKC Regional Plan and is also a colleague of yours, as he is the Mayor Pro-Tem in Lee’s Summit.

I want to begin by just briefly explaining that the reason why we embarked on creating the OneArtsKC Regional Plan was that were asked by a number of people in the community, business leaders as well as governmental leaders who are recognizing the significant investment and the change in the arts community that was happening across the region. As a result, we began to look at how much actual investment had occurred. When we started looking at that number, we found out that in the last 15 years $1.57B in expenditures in terms of infrastructure across the five country region. Many people were asking us well, what do you do to make the most of that investment. What are the ways that you maximize that investment that you’re making? As we looked around the country for best practices, we saw that many communities were beginning this process of cultural planning. They were very deliberate about their work and very deliberate about that planning process.

What you see before you really, is in many ways, an unprecedented collaboration. It’s a collaboration among the five counties of Wyandotte, Johnson, Platte, Jackson and Clay County. By the way, Mayor Holland has been very supportive of our efforts here. It recognizes that there are vital and sometimes undiscovered or overlooked cultural amenities in many neighborhoods across the region. We are particularly interested in seeing some of the priorities that have come out of this. I think it’s particularly relevant to your work force development that you’re looking at.

One of the things that we saw from business community is people were asking, how do you develop the soft skills that many business people want. When we look at the arts, we talk about what we call the four c’s of the 21st Century learning skills sets. The skills of

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collaboration, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration. We recognize that those skills in many ways are really developed by arts education types of activities. One of the things that we’re looking at in this plan is how we will hopefully strengthen arts education across the region as well as strengthen arts integration. I want to defer a bit more of my time now to Mr. Gray who will also speak with you.

Alan Gray, past board member of ARTSKC, said cultural planning is in a central park of communities as they’re evolving and developing. You’ll see across the nation that cultural—that communities are starting to look at arts and culture as a significant part of their equation for economic development for creating places for place making, for addressing social issues.

Here in Wyandotte County, there’s an organization called the Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey that has an Ailey camp that we’ve had here for several years. It’s a way of taking children, at risk youth, and giving them the tools for success. I founded the Friends of Alvin Ailey. That’s why I threw that shameless plug in there.

I want to tell you that speaking from the standpoint of an elected official, back in 2007, Lee’s Summit, we started our first cultural plan. We took and transformed our community from community where arts and culture was kind of sat on the side to where arts and culture is top of mine. In a short period of time, we were able to take arts and culture and develop our symphony, develop different place making such as expanding an amphitheater, creating a historic museum in downtown Lee’s Summit, and now we’re completing the third component of that of having an outdoor performance base in downtown Lee’s Summit.

I only bring that to your attention to say that arts and culture are a key part of community development, of developing cities and municipalities and neighborhoods. I think it’s very important for us as we look at how do we have a competitive advantage as a region. In this case, as a county, to look at arts and culture as part of the solution, part of the equation. I think that with this cultural plan, we’re beginning to see the impact. We’re beginning to see ideas come forward from citizens, from taxpayers and from community leaders. They’re saying to us that the arts and culture is important. Arts and culture is a key component of our success.

I just returned from Chicago at the conference for Americans for the Arts where we saw city after city, county after county, that are engaged in cultural planning.

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Action: Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bynum, to forward to full Commission. Roll call was taken and there were four “Ayes,” Kane, Johnson, Bynum, Markley.

Adjourn

Chairman Markley adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

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