PROPOSED MEETING MINUTES
ETHICS COMMISSION OF THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT
Courtroom No. 18, 2nd Floor, Wyandotte County Courthouse
710 N. 7th Street, Kansas City, KS 66101
February 6, 2014, 4:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting:

Roll Call:

X Chair Ms. Tami Schademann
X Member Ms. Dana Rank Bye
X Member Ms. Pat Brune
E Member Mr. George Kemper
X Member Anthony Villegas
X Ruth Benien, Administrator

X (Present) E (Excused)
U (Unexcused)

Call to Order:

Chairperson Schademann called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. Commissioners Rank-Bye, Brune and Villegas were present. Commissioner Kemper was absent but excused. Administrator Benien was present.

Public Comment: No members of the public appeared.

Old Business:

a). Approval of Minutes:

Approved Minutes of the December 5, 2013 meeting were reviewed and corrections made and noted. Proposed Minutes of the January 9, 2013 meeting were reviewed and corrections made and noted. A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Brune and seconded by Commissioner Rank-Bye. The motion passed unanimously.
b). Monthly Administrator’s Report:

Administrator Benien provided the January, 2014 monthly report which outlined the training provided in January, 2014 and the nature of the ethics opinions rendered and complaints received.

Ethics training for the fourth quarter was as follows: Basic Education, November 5, 2013 at NRC at 1:00 p.m. was rescheduled and included in the November 21, 2013 training at the Health Department at 2:00 p.m.; and Continuing Education, Dec. 3, 2013 at Human Resources at 2:30 p.m. was rescheduled for the Health Department. Training for the three new UG Ethics Commissioners scheduled for after the UG Ethics Commission meeting on December 5, 2013 was rescheduled until after the January 9, 2014 UG Ethics Commission meeting and was held. Continuing Ethics training for the three UG Commissioners needing to complete such training will be scheduled. The training sessions for the first and second quarters are being scheduled with Angela Harshberger who has replaced Gail Bragg. The Basic Ethics training for the new UG Ethics Commissioners was held January 9, 2014. Continuing Ethics training for the UG Commissioners is being scheduled.

In January, 2013 two complaints were received. Sixteen complaints are pending awaiting investigation, under investigation or determination. Two complaints were closed. Two for lack of jurisdiction as being operational. Three new email requests for advisory opinion were received. Two requests for advisory opinion were closed with a verbal opinion or email opinion having been provided and no written opinion requested. Nine advisory opinion requests are pending. One request for ethics presentation or training for a handicapped employee is pending.

The Administrator’s report was accepted as amended or corrected for January, 2013.

New Business:

Discussion was had with respect to proposed ethics amendments and a general consensus that an attempt should be made to review the UG Ethics Code in its entirety and make requests for changes and amendments globally. The discussion will be continued at upcoming meetings with the thought of work sessions being scheduled.

No vote was taken but it was agreed to unanimously support a Second Letter of Censure if the ongoing investigation proved to show misuse of title as reported by the Ethics Administrator.

Discussion was had and a new date for the March meeting accepted of March 13, 2014.

Executive Session:

No Executive Session was held.
Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Rank-Bye.

Seconded by Commissioner Villigas.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Next Meeting is March 13, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Ruth M. Benien_____

Ruth M. Benien
UG Ethics Administrator