Regular Meeting:

Roll Call:

X  Chair Mr. Gilbert Castro
E  Member Dr. J. Anthony Snorgrass, PhD.
X  Member Mr. John Zawacki
X  Member Ms. Janey Humphries
E  Member Mr. Robert Frey
X  Ruth Benien, Administrator

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

Call to Order:

Chairperson Castro called the meeting to order at 4:22 p.m. Commissioners Zawacki and Humphries were present. Commissioners Snorgrass and Frey were absent but excused. Administrator Benien was present.

Public Comment:  No members of the public appeared.

Old Business:

a). Approval of Minutes:

Proposed Minutes of the April 1, 2010 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Humphries and seconded by Commissioner Zawacki. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 with Chairperson Gilbert voting.
b). Monthly Administrator’s Report:

Administrator Benien provided a written copy of the April, 2010 monthly report to the Commission which outlined the training provided in April, 2010 and the nature of the ethics opinions rendered and complaints received.

No Ethics training sessions were scheduled or held in April, 2010. A Continuing Ethics training seminar is scheduled for June 8, 2010 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Health Department and a Continuing Ethics training seminar is scheduled for June 16, 2010 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Health Department. Two training sessions for UG Commissioners will be scheduled in June, 2010.

One new hotline complaint, one verbal complaint and one e-mail complaint were received. Two complaints were closed after investigation or review with no violation found. Three complaints were closed after review and request for information and no follow-up information provided. Twenty-four complaints are pending awaiting investigation, under investigation or determination. One verbal advisory opinion finding no jurisdiction was provided. Two written e-mail advisory opinions were provided. One request for advisory opinion was closed due to failure to provide information. Twenty requests for an advisory opinion are pending.

No new requests for information were received in April, 2010.

The Administrator’s report was accepted as amended or corrected.

c). Discussion of Status of Proposed Revisions and Amendments to Ethics Code:

Administrator Benien advised that the proposed amendments to Sec. 2-259 and Sec. 2-267 of the UG Ethics Code were being prepared and were to be submitted by the UG Legal Department in time for inclusion on the Agenda for the Standing Committee on Administrative Affairs scheduled for May 17, 2010. Administrator Benien advised she had been requested to attend to present the proposed amendments and explain any changes and would do so.

New Business:

Administrator Benien provided information with respect to discussions with her Office, the Legislative Auditor’s Office, the Office of the Administrator, the Mayor’s Office, UG Legal and former Administrator Frederickson as well as former Ethics Commissioner Slattery with respect to interpretation of the Sec. 2-265, Prestige of Office provision of the UG Ethics Code. After discussion and consideration support was given to Administrator Benien with respect to the interpretation and analysis of that UG Ethics Code provision in light of the “ordinary and customary” exclusion and its application, in particular, to requests for letters of support and established events.

With respect to the United Way and UG involvement with respect to the same, Administrator Benien was asked to determine the nature and extent of supervisor and employee involvement regarding the same and, in particular, whether team competitions, etc. were used.
Administrator Benien distributed Ethics Training Metrics for 2009 and the first quarter for 2010 and Ethics Performance Measure Data for 2009 and first quarter 2010. She was asked to include Commissioner Humphries attendance in 2009 in the Ethics Performance Data and to inquire of Gail Bragg with UG Human Resources as to the reason for the change in compliance percentages from 2009 to 2010.

**Executive Session:**

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Zawacki.

Seconded by Commissioner Humphries.

Motion passed Unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Next Meeting is June 3, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Ruth M. Benien

Ruth M. Benien
Ethics Administrator