



2022

MAYOR'S ANNUAL UPDATE



DECEMBER 1, 2022

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2022 MAYOR'S ANNUAL UPDATE



MAYOR/CEO TYRONE A. GARNER

DECEMBER 1, 2022

Dear Unified Government Board of Commissioners,

2022 has been a year of transition and change which can be both uncomfortable and exciting. We are beginning to see the emergence of a “new normal” after more than two years of a global pandemic amidst economic uncertainty and social division and unrest across the country. As the first black Mayor/CEO of our Unified Government, I am humbled by the opportunity to serve our community at a time when we can truly reimagine our future as we rebuild and set course for the next 25 years.

At my inauguration, I promised to bring a new approach to how we address some of the greatest challenges facing our community while embracing the incredible talent and hometown pride that has always made Wyandotte County a special place. I committed to working with you and our community to find sustainable solutions to alleviate the cost of living in our county through lower taxes, more efficient government services, and economic development that benefits all neighborhoods, particularly those east of I-635. With once-in-a-generation federal funding to rebuild and restore our community, there are incredible opportunities ahead but we must take a transparent, data-driven approach that ensures the benefits of these investments are prioritized based on greatest need.

This year has been a year of learning and assessment as we instated an interim County Administrator, the first time we hired from outside the organization, to lead this transition as we initiate a search for a permanent administrator. We have looked closely at various functions of the Unified Government while asking our community to participate more in helping us identify and address the issues that are essential to creating

a high quality of life that all Dotties deserve. We have learned a lot together this year and I am optimistic about our future.

EMBRACING OUR TRUTH

It was 25 years ago when residents voted to unify the City of Kansas City, KS and County of Wyandotte into one organization. Over the years, we have seen significant changes in many parts of our county which have made our community a destination for sporting events, shopping, tacos, and other attractions. We have seen a transformation through the development of Village West and look forward to exciting new projects such as the Rock Island Bridge and the KC levees and trails. However, this growth has not been equitable across the county and there is a need to proactively and intentionally address creating better access to jobs, housing, and opportunity in every neighborhood.

Since 1997, the world as we knew it has changed. Google was registered as a domain for the first time 25 years ago, for example, and rapid technological innovation has shaped so much of our public discourse, access to services, and global markets. These changes have created new opportunities but also unintended consequences and inequity. With this in mind, we know that the Unified Government must also evolve as our community priorities and needs have changed since unification.

During the pandemic, the Unified Government shifted to new ways of working to provide continuity of services with great dedication to our community. Last spring, we experienced our first ever ransomware attack which highlighted the challenges facing any

2022 UNIFIED GOVERNMENT COMMISSION



TYRONE A. GARNER
Mayor/CEO



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District 1 At-Large



TOM BURROUGHS
District 2 At-Large



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District 1



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District 2



CHRISTIAN RAMIREZ
District 3



HAROLD L. JOHNSON
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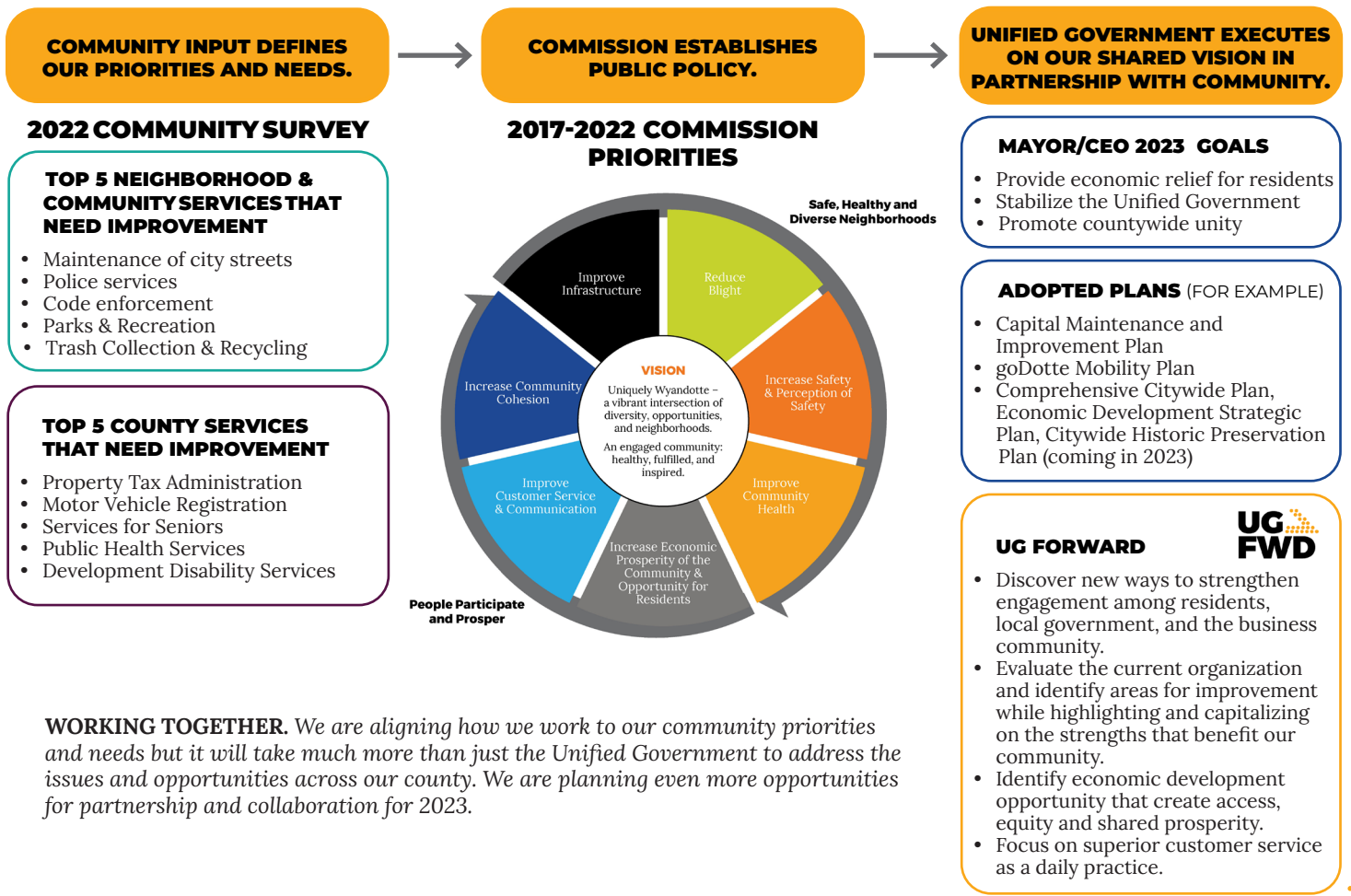
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District 6



CHUCK STITES
District 7



ANDREW DAVIS
District 8



modern organization in protecting its data and systems. However, we have proven to be resilient, recovering quickly from the cybersecurity attack and installing processes and tools to minimize risk in the future. Learning from this experience is important to our evolution as an organization but we must hold ourselves accountable and share progress on our continuous improvement with the community.

In 2022, Wyandotte County is not alone in its recovery from what researchers have called the “triple pandemic” — the health, economic, and social justice impacts of COVID-19 have been felt across our community. The pandemic has highlighted the racial and economic disparities we knew existed with often catastrophic consequences for our residents. Our public health response was data-driven and focused on equity, working hard to bring the resources and services needed to all corners of our county. As your Unified Government, we must continue focus on not only addressing the historic impacts of systemic racism and inequity but look forward to how we ensure we are creating more opportunity through equitable growth for future generations.

As one of the most diverse counties in the country,

we have seen the disproportionate impact that the pandemic, economic uncertainty, and political divisions have on our community these past few years. In Spring 2022, our residents provided input on priorities across the county through our biannual community survey, administered via mail, phone and online by the ETC Institute (wycokck.org) with samples pulled from every neighborhood and Commission district across the county. This data was key to helping guide our 2023 budget process and allocation of federal recovery funds but further highlights where we must take a much closer look at how we provide basic services such as infrastructure, public safety, community services and amenities. Our goDotte mobility strategy (godotte.com) adopted in August 2022 highlighted the disconnect between where people live, access to transportation and opportunity so we know that there is much more to be done to ensure our recovery is equitable and sustainable.

When I was sworn in your Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government last December, I made a commitment to look closely at how we make decisions as a county. As a diverse community, we must bring a greater focus on creating equitable outcomes for all by creating safe places for community input and engagement. I also

promised we would take a close look at the Unified Government operations and our budget so we can better serve our residents and business owners no matter where you live, work or play in Wyandotte. Together, we have been working hard to deliver on this promise but there is still much more work to be done.

To keep us moving forward together, I have established eight committees and task forces of elected officials, community stakeholders and residents. They are focused on key areas and issues that we must address in order to build a stronger, economically successful Wyandotte County for the future. I have also introduced new ways for the community to share their input through monthly public hearings at our Commission meetings and a monthly Mayor Tyrone Tuesday, inviting our neighbors to bring their recommendations forward.

CULTIVATING OUR FUTURE

Looking ahead to 2023, I am eager to continue working with our Commission, community, and partners to address the following goals:

• PROVIDE TAX RELIEF FOR RESIDENTS

We have heard from our community that we need to do more to address the tax burden and cost of living impacts felt countywide. Property values have continued to rise over the past few years, with a 19% increase just over the last year, and the pandemic exacerbated the availability of housing stock which further inflated demand. While we cannot cut our way out of the financial problems facing the Unified Government, we can continue to do more to identify operational efficiencies, focus on our core services, and engage the

UNIFIED GOVERNMENT | VISION STATEMENT

WE ARE A VIBRANT, RESILIENT COMMUNITY OF COMPASSIONATE AND DIVERSE NEIGHBORS, UNITED FOR AN EQUITABLE, HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS FUTURE THAT IS PROUDLY WYANDOTTE.

Last month, we launched a strategic planning effort with our Commission to identify budget priorities so we can begin to address the much-needed changes to how we operate. Never before have we started this process so early and, while it will not be easy, we must tackle some significant decisions in the coming months. As highlighted throughout our recent budget process, we are not operating in a way that sets up for success in the future. We must address the deficit in our city general fund, look closely at property taxes and the BPU Pilot, and ensure that the benefits of our services and programs reach all neighborhoods, whether you live in the Historic Northeast, Rosedale, Piper, or Bonner Springs. By taking a collaborative approach, we will be able to usher the changes needed for our long-term resiliency and sustainability as a community.

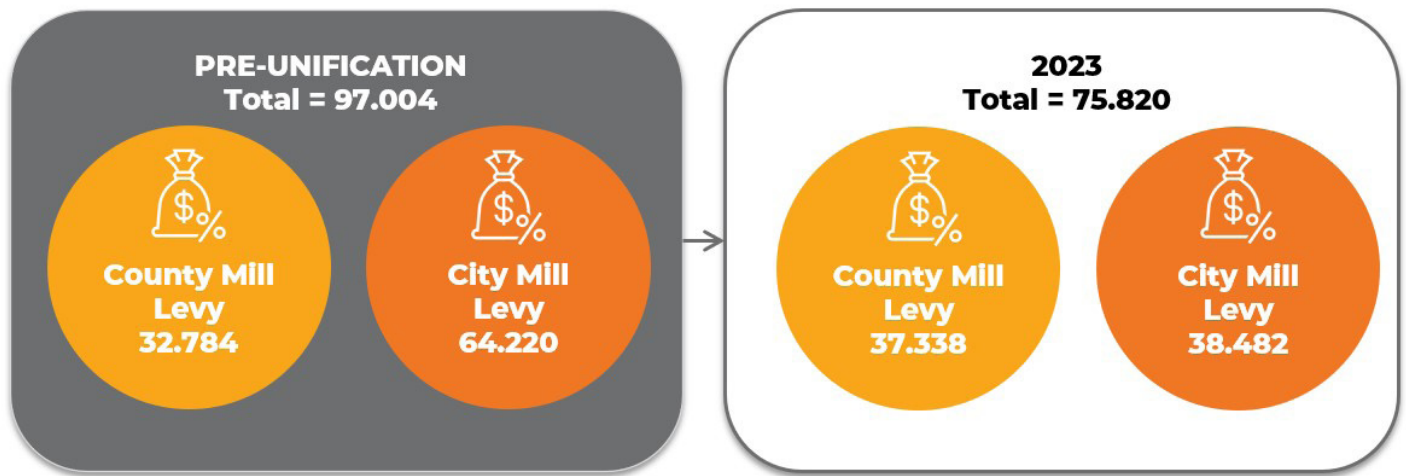
Make no mistake – we have plenty of work to do – and it will take a community-wide effort to address key issues and set us on a path that will make Wyandotte county stronger, more vibrant and more economically successful in the coming 25 years.

other taxing jurisdictions across Wyandotte County to identify ways to reduce the mill levy wherever possible. We can also work to ensure that more people are connected with the existing resources and programs we already have available to us across the county, including direct engagement with seniors on the homestead tax rebate and utility tax rebate programs.

• FACILITATE EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

We must continue to grow our economic base to help us maintain and sustain critical infrastructure and services through equitable opportunities, new business attraction, and local business growth. Furthermore, we must identify new revenue opportunities that do not place the burden on households or individuals that have not benefitted directly from the increased property values.

Systemic change requires systemic planning. We have several important initiatives starting in early 2023 to help us strategize and coordinate our efforts through economic development, land use planning, historic preservation, community health improvement, and



infrastructure projects. Our Public Health Department working closely with community partners, for example, will continue development and implementation of its next five-year Community Health Improvement Plan with four community-identified priority areas: jobs and education; healthcare access; safe and affordable housing; and violence prevention. We must work together to encourage participation in these efforts as this will help us keep the forward momentum we have established this year.

I look forward to working with you, our Commission, on establishing a shared vision for providing economic relief for our residents while creating new opportunity to attract and retain talent for the next generation as we work through our 2024 budget and beyond. Now that we have adopted a new vision statement, we must continue our ongoing strategic planning process as a means to clarify our goals as a community which will help us foster much-needed trust and transparency on our progress.

• **STABILIZE THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT**

On February 7, 2023, following a rigorous national search and review, the community will have the opportunity to meet the finalists for county administrator, a key role in helping guide our organization through this ongoing transformation. In the meantime, the work underway to evaluate and realign our organizational structure to support efficient operations must continue with our support. Over 25 years, our community needs have evolved and so too must our organization. These changes can create uncertainty so it is important for us

to equip our staff with the resources and tools they need to be effective in their work. The Unified Government must adopt a strategic plan to guide its operations, holding itself accountable to key performance indicators and checking progress along the way. This will help us demonstrate the value of the services we provide while also equipping us with the data we need to understand what is not working and needs to be revisited.

We will continue the work to identify ways to leverage new technology and innovative practices into how we work which can further savings and efficiencies within our organization. The recent launch of the enterprise system, Workday, for instance, will transform our management of human capital with better processes for hiring, career pathways, and succession planning. Additionally, by streamlining our accounting, Workday will help us institute the financial controls and best practices as stewards of public funds.

We must also look at how our budget aligns to our community priorities and ensure that we are funding what is most impactful. In the 2023 budget, we began the important work of putting more funding towards our street preservation and parks. However, to achieve the goal of improved street conditions by 2038, we will need to focus more resources on critical maintenance and repair of our infrastructure. Our economic development strategic planning effort will be an opportunity to look countywide at how we can shape a more resilient future for both our county and Unified Government through equitable growth.

Likewise, we must address our debt and other financial

UNIFIED GOVERNMENT | MISSION STATEMENT

TO CREATE, FOSTER, AND MAINTAIN AN OPEN, INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT; PROVIDING FIRST-CLASS CUSTOMER SERVICE AND TECHNOLOGY TO UNIFIED GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.



SEVEN DAYS OF KINDNESS This year we hosted our first-ever Seven Days of Kindness with opportunities to take a few moments to share our appreciation, take time for self-care, volunteer in the community, and share a little more kindness across the Unified Government. **PICTURED:** Mary Pollock (Sheriff's Office), Sheriff Daniel Soptic with Mayor Garner with donated socks, undergarments, and toiletries from Unified Government staff for our juvenile intake program.

obligations so we can maintain our credit rating and be an attractive place for future investment. We need to stop paying for the past and focus on investing in our future. The 2023 budget process highlighted the importance of addressing the structural imbalance in our city general fund and the need to have clearer policies for when our county general fund has a surplus. Recommendations to explore two-year budgeting and other best practices should be considered quickly to help us find better ways to close the gap between our expenses and revenue.

Finally, we recognize that the looming “silver tsunami” of retirements and overall challenges in the labor market have made it difficult to attract and retain the needed talent to keep our operations running smoothly. We cannot forfeit the much-needed investment in our staff and must remain committed to making sure we have the right people in the right positions across all departments. This work will take time and requires the review of our administrative policies, salaries and compensation, as well as overall classification of jobs as compared to other employers. By tackling these various initiatives, I am confident we will have a much stronger, resilient organization for the future.

• **INVEST IN CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

With aging infrastructure, including the closure of two bridges these past two years, we know that it is important for us to restore and rebuild our infrastructure for the next generation. Like many cities across the United States, our once robust infrastructure

is reaching the end of its useful life. The Unified Government Commission worked diligently to develop target Infrastructure Outcomes and Strategies to help us manage and address the growing portfolio of deferred maintenance. Through evaluating our assets, it will be important to continue this momentum as infrastructure will be key to supporting our economic development.

• **PROMOTE COUNTY-WIDE UNITY**

The development and subsequent adoption of the countywide mobility strategy, goDotte, is a great model of coordination across agencies and jurisdictions to achieve a shared vision for our county transportation systems. We must continue to work together to realize the changes we aspire to see in Wyandotte County and we cannot do this in silos.

I will continue to advocate for the inclusion of diverse stakeholders as we make big policy and funding decisions, including our peers at the Cities of Bonner Springs, Edwardsville, and Lake Quivira, as we seek solutions. We must also work with the Kansas City, Kansas Community College, School Districts and Libraries to find ways we can stretch the limited resources we have across Wyandotte County in service to our community.

In 2022, we worked with our community in new ways to address issues such as public health and safety, planning and development, and so much more. I encourage us all to continue to work together, to get out into our community, listen to concerns, and collaborate with each other to develop the innovative ideas we need to make Wyandotte County the most desirable place to live, work and play in the Midwest.

EMPOWERING HOPE

As elected officials, we are in a unique position to shape public policy that is both proactive and addresses the systemic inequity created in our past. I believe we have the much-needed momentum to create the long-lasting change we all seek for the betterment of lives across the county. I encourage us to approach 2023 with a lens of hope and optimism: together, we can make the next 25 years the best in our history.

As the Unified Government, we work with everyone and we must promote an inclusive, diverse workforce that reflects the community we serve while addressing issues of implicit bias and customer service. Throughout my first year as your Mayor and CEO, I have personally witnessed the great talent and commitment of our staff and community partners and believe we can absolutely achieve our shared vision for the future of the Dotte.

Mayor/CEO Tyrone A. Garner
#DotteProud

TASK FORCES

This year we launched task forces to look at some of the most significant issues facing our community.

• ARTS, CULTURE & EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

Chair: Commissioner Angela Markley



In November 2022, it was reported that Kansas City, KS was among the top ten worst cities for art. Lawn Love looked at nearly 200 of the biggest cities in the United States to rank the “Most Artsy Cities in America” based on access to art museums, galleries, performance theaters, and music venues as well as art education, recording studios, and other metrics. The task force is focused on defining the existing arts community and our community assets; developing an arts commemoration to recognize local talents; identifying ways to provide sustained support for the arts long-term.

• BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chair: Commissioner Harold Johnson



The task force goals are: Establish a baseline understanding of areas in need of improvement and identify areas of opportunity; Propose projects, establish timelines for implementation, and identify capital investments and funding; and, Mobilize community residents and seek support for identified goals. We must have a county-wide economic development strategy in order to be successful. The Unified Government is currently reviewing proposals to hire a consultant to help us develop this strategy in early 2023 in coordination with the comprehensive citywide planning effort.

• CHARTER ORDINANCE REVIEW

Chair: Commissioner Tom Burroughs



As we celebrate 25 years, this task force is charged with reviewing the policies as defined in our charter ordinances, the guiding document for all of the Unified Government, to identify opportunities for updates. The goal is to ensure our charter reflects how we do business in today's economy and aligns to the needs of our residents. Once the charter ordinance review process is completed, we will have the opportunity to look more closely at our organizational alignment to ensure we are operating as intended.

• COMMUNITY HEALTH, WELLNESS & RECREATION

*Co-Chair: Commissioner Melissa Bynum
Co-Chair: Commissioner Brian McKiernan*



In addition to assessing community needs regarding health, parks and recreation are also key to health and well-being, we also strive to ensure that all people have access to these spaces, programs and services that remain essential to community vitality and serve as a key factor in advancing health equity, improving individual and community-level health outcomes, and enhancing quality of life. This task force is examining how we can ensure that our youth and our seniors have access to health and recreation services critical to their quality-of-life needs.

• COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR SEARCH TASK FORCE

Co-Chair: Mayor Jeff Harrington (Bonner Springs)

Co-Chair: Bill Johnson (BPU)

Mayor Garner has convened a task force with representatives nominated by each Commissioner to provide their input into the recruitment process for the permanent county administrator - our fourth administrator in the history of the Unified Government. The hiring process, being managed by GovHR USA, has begun with the posting of the position in November 2022.

The task force has issued a survey to help assess the qualities and priorities for the incoming administrator and will convene a public meet-and-greet session of the finalists on February 7, 2023. This is an unprecedented effort to include the perspective of our community, employees, businesses, and Commission in the identification of a public sector administrator who will help us continue to champion the much-needed change outlined herein.



• **COMMUNITY SAFETY & JUSTICE**

Chair: Commissioner Christian Ramirez



Following an in-depth exploration of 21st Century Community Reform Models, this task force will work to reimagine and reconstruct where necessary our public safety system and build collaboration with our community stakeholders to address relevant community needs and/or challenges. Recommendations will be made to align public spending in alignment with established goals and strategies.

• **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & CLEAN ENERGY**

Chair: Emily Wolfe



Our county will continue to be impacted by pollution and climate change. The Unified Government has an obligation to protect its residents, especially the most vulnerable communities, including people living with disabilities, economically disadvantaged households, the elderly, youth, and people of color that pollution and climate change disproportionately affect. This task force will look to assess environmental justice across our county, and through meaningful community engagement, shape policy recommendations for a more sustainable community. The task force will focus on identifying and developing innovative policies and strategies to address green design, renewable energy, sustainable resource management, and more. The goal is to bring forward a proposal for consideration by June 2023.

• **GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY**

Chair: Commissioner Christian Ramirez



The task force on government efficiency is actively evaluating opportunities to streamline and find better ways of doing business across the Unified Government. From lean process improvement to identifying best practices, this task force is looking to help shape a truly 21st century organization that is agile and adept at responding to the needs of our community. With a structural deficit in our city general fund, this task force will inform some of the tough decisions that are needed to ensure fiscal sustainability.

• **UNHOUSED RESIDENTS & NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

Co-Chair: Tom Lally

Co-Chair: Evelyn Hill



The task force charter focuses on unifying existing continuum of care resources, developing policy recommendations that preserve and enhance our housing market, and adequately identifying impacted individuals. The task force collaborated with Unified Government staff and partner organizations to identify a Winter Shelter proposal that has been approved for implementation this winter. The task force will continue to evaluate longer-term solutions for helping the unhoused which will be announced in 2023.

WHAT'S IN THIS DOCUMENT

In the following pages, we have summarized key statistics and information about the current state of our county and government for your reference. We have also included a section on the UG Forward initiative, our internal effort to reimagine the Unified Government for the next 25 years. I encourage you to read and share this document with your neighbors and constituents as we look ahead to 2023.

In the meantime, thank you for the considerable honor and privilege to serve in this capacity as Mayor and CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS.

DOTTE AT-A-GLANCE

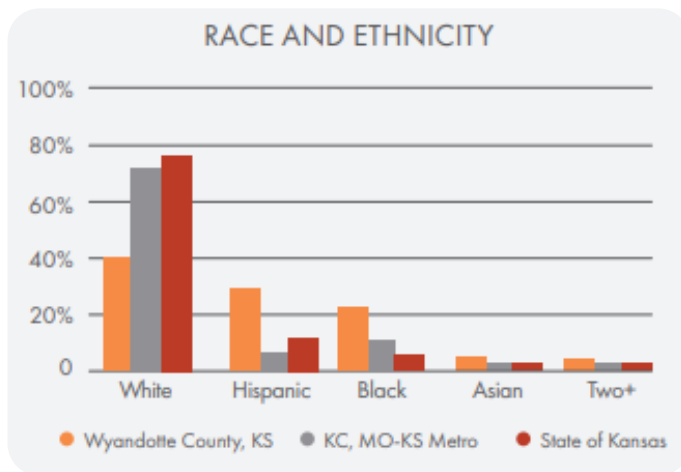
Highlighted here are some key statistics that capture the current state of the county and our government.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Wyandotte County is a diverse place at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers. As compared to the region, Wyandotte County is both more disadvantaged and diverse.

• DIVERSITY

Our county is among the most diverse in the Kansas City metropolitan area and across the state of Kansas.



Source: American Community Survey, 2020 5-year Estimate data profile

• POVERTY RATE & MEDIAN INCOME

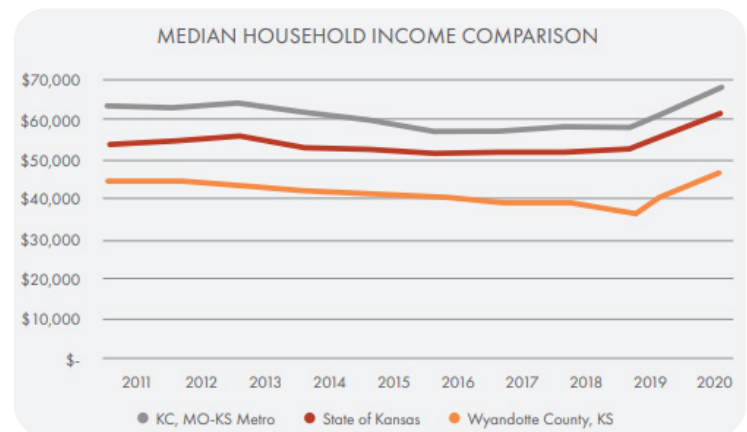
Zip Code	Poverty Rate	Median Income	Population
66012	9.1%	\$75,824	11,210
66101	33.8%	\$30,032	13,220
66102	28.6%	\$35,937	29,282
66103	21.0%	\$43,581	13,934
66104	19.5%	\$42,944	25,401
66105	22.2%	\$27,445	2,924
66106	15.0%	\$50,328	23,367
66109	3.1%	\$80,546	20,480
66111	18.4%	\$56,339	10,155
66112	14.8%	\$52,831	11,458

Source: American Community Survey, 2020 5-year Estimate data profile

• MEDIAN INCOME

Median Income 2020 / 2010	County		US	
	2020	2010	2020	2010
Median Income	48,093	37,293	64,994	50,046
Total Workforce	82,075	77,301		
Unemployment Rate	6.3	13.7	5.4	10.7
Labor Participation Rate	65.9%	65.7%	58.4%	64.4%
Poverty Level of Total Population	16.9%	24.3%	11.4%	15.3%

Source: American Community Survey, 2020 5-year Estimate data profile



• COMMUNITY HEALTH

According to Kansas Health Matters, Wyandotte County ranks 102 among 105 Kansas Counties for health outcomes and last place for health factors impacting our overall health. When compared to the largest city in Johnson County immediately to our south, Overland Park, Kansas, 13.7% of adults versus 7.7% have diabetes and 40.5% of adults versus 30.7% have obesity. The stark difference between these adjacent communities is caused by the lack of health insurance. Where in KCK 26% of adults are going without health insurance, the percentage is 9.9% in Overland Park.

There is also a stark discrepancy between cancer and heart disease rates vs. cancer and heart disease mortality in KCK versus the State, which is indicative of a lack of access to early screening, appropriate diagnosis, consistent care, and therapeutics. Lack of access to foundational social needs (employment, transportation, nutrition, healthy environment) compounds a lack of access to clinical needs and services and results in a continuous cycle of poor health outcomes for those who are marginalized in the community. A 2019 Unified Government Public Health Department analysis found that residents' top barriers to healthcare were cost/

2022 Health Data	County	Kansas
Percent Uninsured	17%	11%
Poor or Fair Health	25%	17%
Premature Death	10,600	7,500
Life Expectancy	74.7	77.8
Low Birthweight	9%	7%
Infant Mortality Rate	7.0	6.2
Patient to Clinician Ratio	1,950:1	1,270:1

• SOCIAL FACTORS

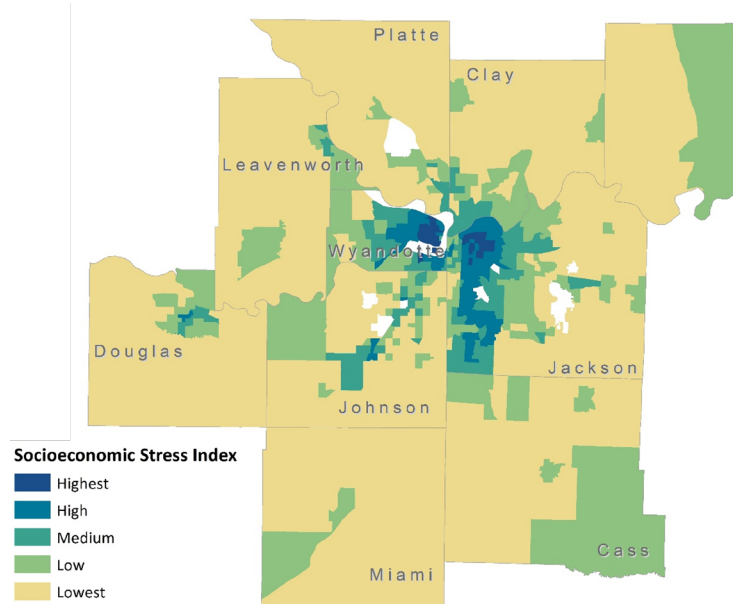
	County	Kansas
High School Graduation Rates	80%	91%
Children in Poverty	25%	13%
Children in Single Parent Households	32%	21%

8 OUT OF 10,000 PERSONS
ARE UNHOUSED IN WYANDOTTE COUNTY
NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS

Across the metropolitan region, we have seen a rise in challenges finding and maintaining affordable housing

In many KCK neighborhoods, where census tracts are majority non-white, the average age at death was 66, and ranged from approximately 58 to 69 years of age.

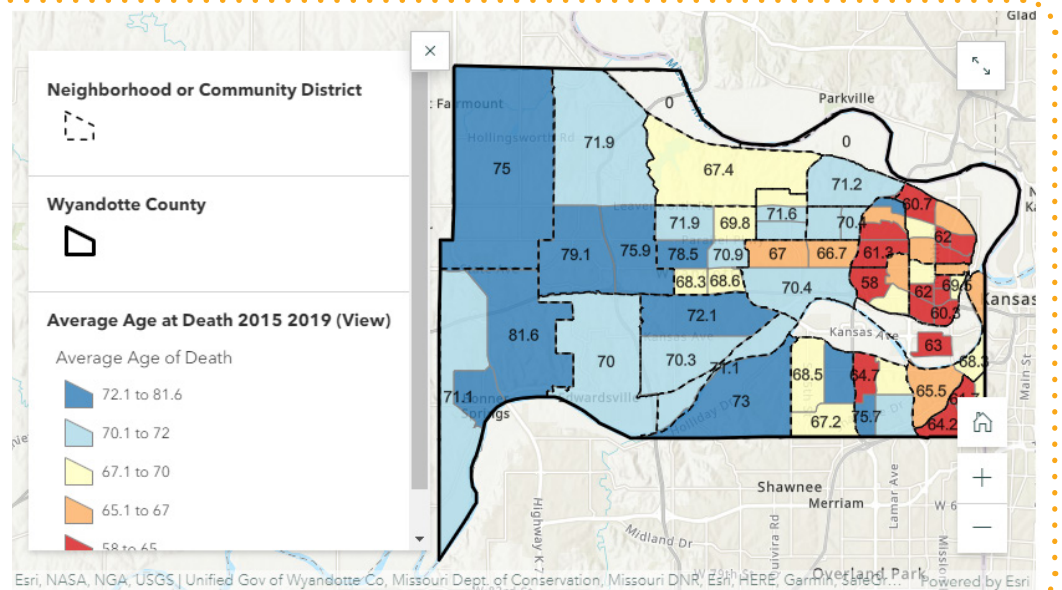
In neighborhoods just a few miles to the west, the average age at death was 72, and ranged from 68 to 81.6 years – a difference of as much as 24 years. This demonstrates the negative impact of poverty on life span.



for all. We know that youth growing up with unhoused mothers are 40% more likely to experience homelessness themselves.

In June 2022, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS (UG) Commission adopted a resolution in support of the KC Regional Climate Action Plan and pursuing its implementation in Wyandotte County. The Climate Action Plan is a voluntary framework to guide the region's response to climate change, setting targets for reducing emissions, improving efficiency, and establishing a more resilient future.

The Unified Government will begin a climate risk and vulnerability assessment as part of the citywide comprehensive plan update. Understanding the impacts



of climate change on our neighborhoods will be incorporated into the planning process to help inform proposed strategies and recommendations.

	County	Kansas
Air Pollution - Particulate Matter	9.8	7.5
Severe Housing Problems	23%	22%

Source: County Health Rankings, Kansas Health Matters

• PARKS & TRAILS

Our parks serve a variety of user needs and are paramount for promoting active lifestyles and improving overall community health. In the last 10 years, the UG Parks and Recreation Department has been challenged by sharp budget cuts and a reduction in staff by half making partnerships vital to the maintenance and investment in park facilities, as well as for programming. Parks and Recreation is responsible for more than 2,500 acres of park land spanning more than 50 parks, 100 additional spaces such as playgrounds and shelters, and more than 60 facilities to include community centers, soccer fields, skate parks, spray parks, and an amphitheatre, as well as service as the abatement team for approximately 4,600 UG-owned vacant parcels.

When compared to other communities in the United States, we have 15.73 acres of parkland for every 10,000 residents, while the median amount for other municipalities is 8.5 acres per 1,000 residents. Median spending per resident, however, is comparable to other communities. The UG spends \$72.61 per resident while others spend \$72.64. Additionally, parks maintenance is performed with a staff of 92 full-time team members, which is less than the median 114 full-time employees at other agencies in the United States.

Park Facilities and Trails in Wyandotte	
All Parks Facilities	91
Neighborhood Parks	32
All Parks	54
Community Centers	6
Banquet Halls	3
Miles of Paved Trails	4.34
WyCo Lake Trail Miles	19

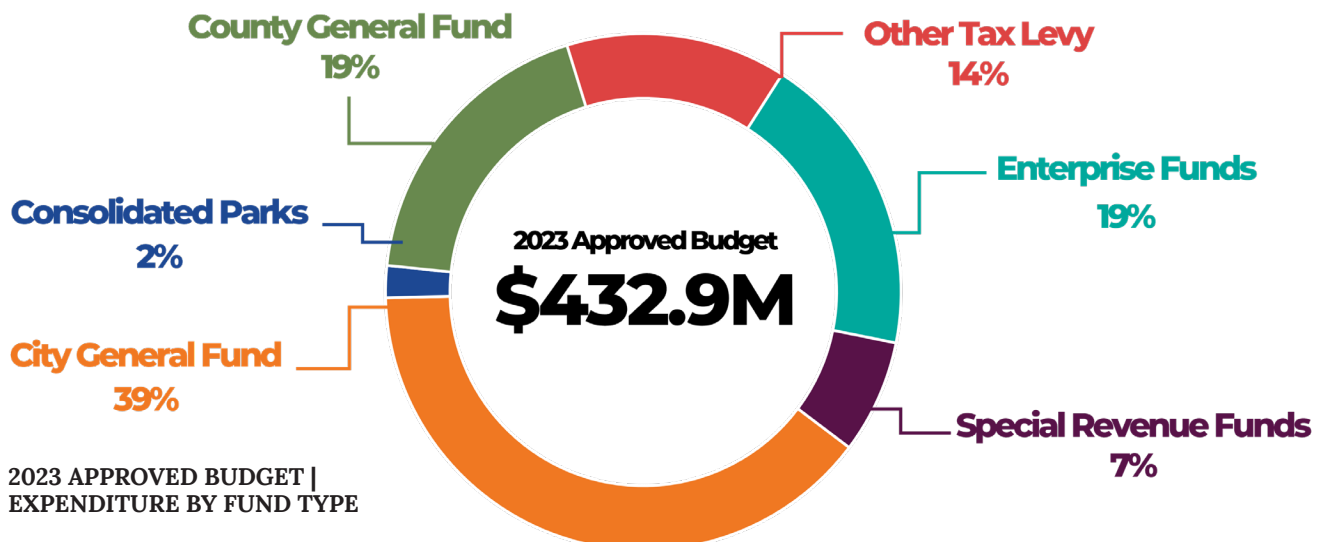
Source: UG Community Comparisons, 2022

ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH

While our 2023 budget is balanced and meets our policy requirements, our financial outlook points to the urgency of addressing our revenue and expenses as an organization.

• FISCAL HEALTH

CITY GENERAL FUND: Our city general fund balance is in compliance in the 2023 adopted budget but, without significant changes in spending and/or revenue, we will have a negative cash balance as soon as 2025. Outside of Public Safety and Public Works, reductions of two-thirds to three quarters of department budgets would be needed to balance the City General Fund by 2027. This would impact the budgets of departments such as Finance, Human Resources, County Administration, Strategic Communications, Transit, Mayor & Commission, Economic Development, Planning, Neighborhood Resource Center, Parks (city only), Technology, etc. Our annual projected growth of 3.2% in city revenues will outpace growth in expenses and infrastructure needs, assuming no change in current vacancies and not fully-funding public safety vacancies.



REDUCTIONS OF TWO-THIRDS TO THREE QUARTERS OF DEPARTMENT BUDGETS WOULD BE NEEDED TO BALANCE THE CITY GENERAL FUND BY 2027.

COUNTY GENERAL FUND: The county general fund is also in compliance with our reserve policies but we will see a negative cash balance by 2025 without changes in our spending. Outside of Public Safety, Judicial Services, and Public Works, reductions of 16% would be needed for all other operating departments (Finance, Human Resources, County Administration, Strategic Communications, Mayor & Commission, Motor Vehicle, Land Bank, Technology, etc.) to balance the County General Fund by 2027. Assuming no change in current vacancy trend and that we do not fully-fund public safety vacancies, our annual projected growth of 3.8% in county revenues is set to outpace the growth in expenses and infrastructure needs.

DEBT: Our total long-term general obligation debt, which includes general obligation bonds, tax increment financed GO bonds and bond anticipation notes is approaching \$443M. Public building commission debt is approximately \$45M. **About 44% of our Mill Levy for Property Taxes on the city-side is directed to debt service;** overall, 25% our city-county Mill Levy

for property taxes goes to debt service. While the Unified Government has adopted policies to reduce our borrowing on certain projects, addressing our debt and obligations will be critical to moving from paying for the past to paying towards our future.

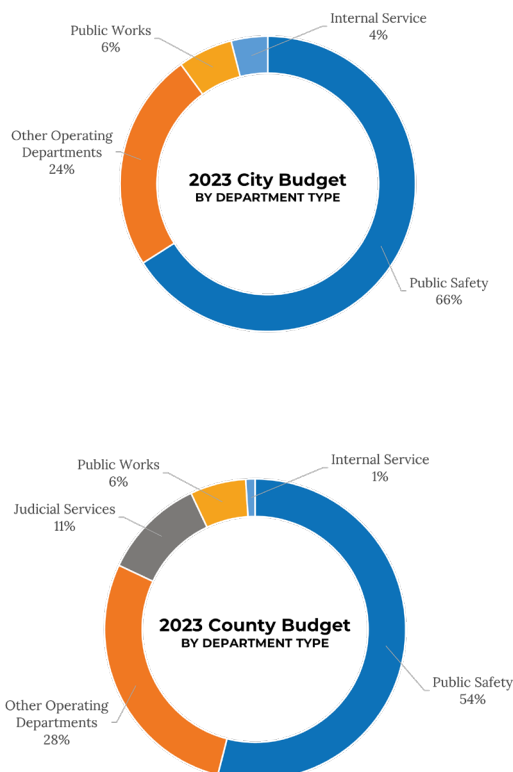
• STAFFING

Due to COVID, hiring at the Unified Government was frozen and furloughed in 2020 into 2021. The combination of hiring slowdowns and the challenges of hiring in a competitive market has resulted in lower staffing levels across the Unified Government. The Police, Fire and Sheriff Departments are down an average of 4.74% (50 positions) while other departments are down 8.46% (50 positions) since 2018.

As compared to other communities across the metro, personnel counts are overall above average, including public safety. Regionally, Kansas City, KS has the highest full-time employees for Law Enforcement and Fire/EMS while all other departments is comparable to other communities.

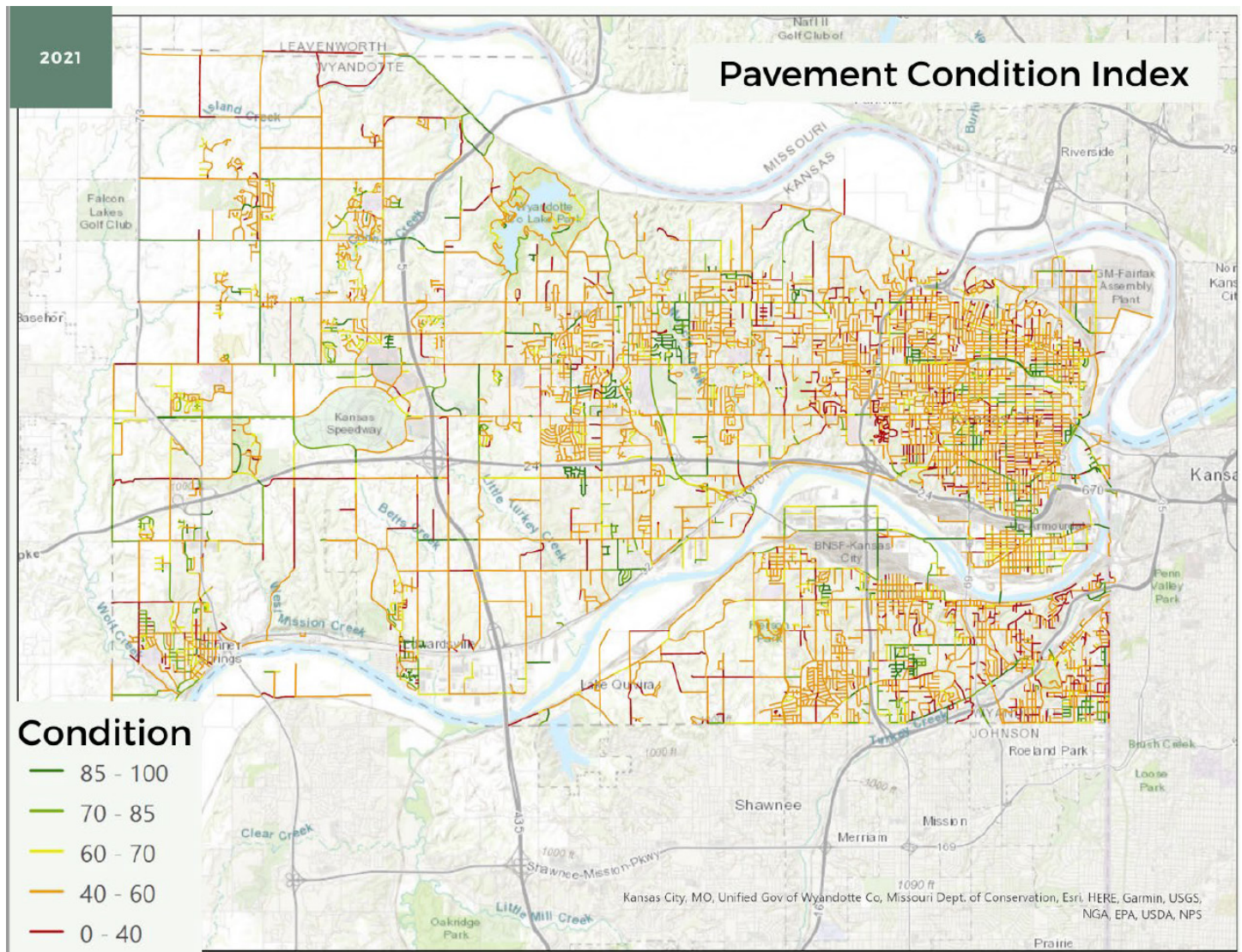
• INFRASTRUCTURE

Public Works is responsible for buildings and facilities, streets, bridges, stormwater, wastewater, and solid waste. Facilities include more than 200 publicly- owned



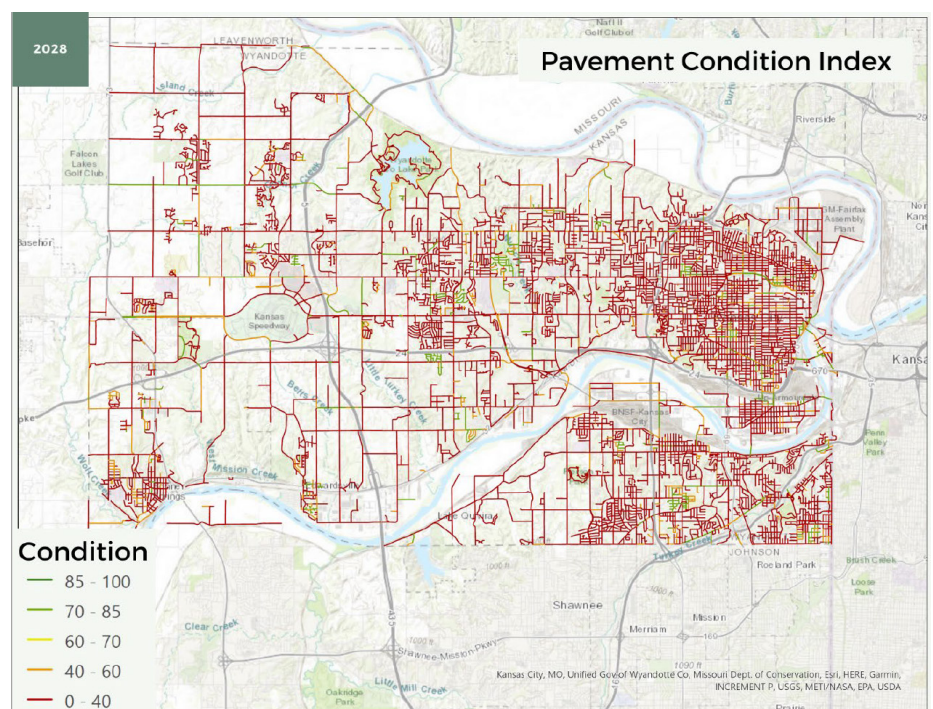
City General Fund	2022 Amended Budget	2023 Approved Budget	2024 Forecast	2025 Forecast	2026 Forecast	2027 Forecast
TOTAL REVENUES	\$160,969,102	\$155,221,370	\$160,633,958	\$165,765,064	\$171,016,489	\$176,351,469
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$174,147,216	\$160,384,948	\$171,266,506	\$180,157,897	\$193,319,478	\$209,525,512
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$(9,678,114)	\$(5,163,578)	\$(10,632,548)	\$(14,392,833)	\$(22,302,989)	\$(33,174,043)
Cash Basis Ending Fund Balance	\$21,301,486	\$16,137,908	\$5,505,360	\$(8,887,473)	\$(31,190,462)	\$(67,364,506)
ACFR Ending Fund Balance	\$36,190,421	\$31,026,843	\$20,394,295	\$6,001,462	\$(16,301,527)	\$(49,475,571)
Reserve % of Expenditures	21.21%	19.35%	11.91%	3.33%	-8.43%	-23.61%
Fund Balance 17% Target	\$29,605,027	\$27,265,441	\$29,115,306	\$30,626,843	\$32,864,311	\$35,619,337

County General Fund	2022 Amended Budget	2023 Approved Budget	2024 Forecast	2025 Forecast	2026 Forecast	2027 Forecast
TOTAL REVENUES	\$76,691,702	\$77,872,782	\$80,835,292	\$84,776,332	\$88,763,131	\$92,936,109
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$78,204,310	\$81,556,050	\$84,654,407	\$87,729,889	\$91,269,471	\$94,822,772
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$(1,512,608)	\$(3,728,268)	\$(3,819,115)	\$(3,053,557)	\$(2,506,340)	\$(1,886,663)
Cash Basis Ending Fund Balance	\$12,399,230	\$8,670,963	\$4,851,848	\$1,798,290	\$(708,049)	\$(2,594,713)
ACFR Ending Fund Balance	\$15,440,254	\$11,711,987	\$7,892,872	\$4,839,314	\$2,332,975	\$446,311
Reserve % of Expenditures	19.74%	14.36%	9.32%	5.51%	2.56%	0.47%
Fund Balance 17% Target	\$13,294,733	\$13,864,528	\$14,391,249	\$14,931,081	\$15,515,810	\$16,119,871



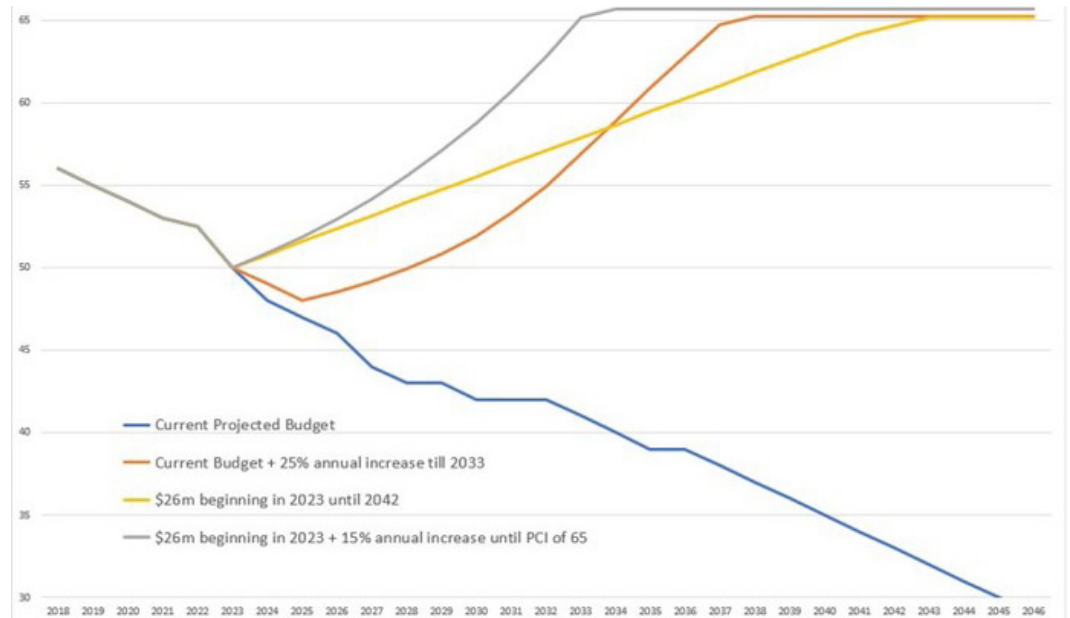
STREET STATUS: PAVEMENT CONDITION INDEX (PCI)

2028 Pavement Condition Index (RIGHT) as compared to the 2021 Pavement Condition Index (ABOVE) illustrates the magnitude of the rapidly deteriorating infrastructure across the community as streets get worse at the current level of funding. The Commission adopted a goal of improving the PCI to 65 by 2038 which will take considerable strategic investments over the coming years.



INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Like many US cities, once robust infrastructure systems are reaching the end of their useful life across multiple assets like streets, bridges, buildings and facilities, recreation, and stormwater. Physical infrastructure is the foundation of modern life, and now that this infrastructure has served generations over the past 50 to 100 years, it must be rebuilt or replaced. The cost of performing this work is as monumental as the challenge itself, but with a disciplined, systematic, and strategic commitment, achieving the outcomes residents, businesses, and visitors desire is possible.



buildings with an average Facility Condition Index (FCI) of 19 and a known backlog of \$90 million in deferred maintenance. KCK has more than 2,400 lane miles of streets with an average pavement condition index (PCI) of 56 and declining.

The Unified Government is also responsible for more than 270 bridges with 212 of them on local streets as stormwater infrastructure, 65 of them as medium with a space of 21-199 feet, and 17 major bridges spanning more than 200 feet. Our stormwater and wastewater programs are funded by a separate enterprise utility function of the City. The stormwater program is responsible for more than 400 miles of stormwater pipe, more than 10,000 stormwater structures, more than 120 miles of open channel drainage, and more than 130 miles of unfunded ditching and swales. In just 8 of our 56 watersheds, we need more than \$158 million in stormwater work to tap the economic development potential of many key areas the community.

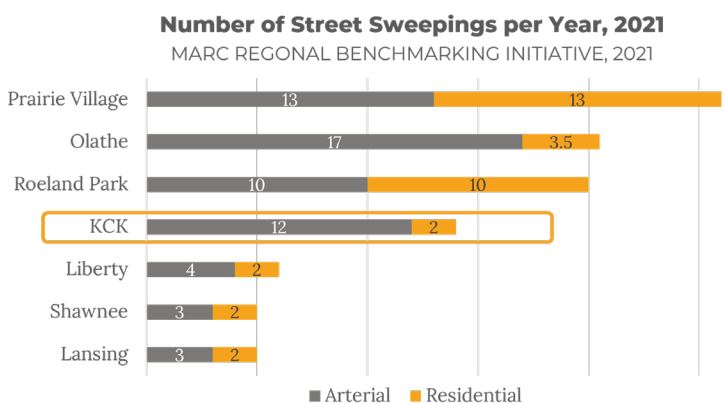
Our wastewater program serves more than 45,000 customers and has needs driven by data and by Consent Decree requirements. The program, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Justice, have developed a 25-year program for sewer investment that will address combined sewer overflows (CSO) at a predicable rate to the customer. CSOs are often located in neighborhoods with vulnerable populations and in areas with aging and deteriorating infrastructure.

The Solid Waste Management Division oversees all solid waste programs, including contracted residential trash and recycling collection; municipal trash and recycling collection; household hazardous waste disposal; recycling & yard waste disposal; e-waste collection; and organizes clean-up events with residents, neighborhoods, and community organizations. The

Solid Waste Management Division is responsible for administering the Wyandotte County Solid Waste Management Plan as required by Kansas State statute. The Wyandotte County Solid Waste Management Plan establishes the guidance and framework for solid waste management across Wyandotte County and KCK. The primary goal is to reduce the waste stream, which is currently woefully behind the State (31%) and Federal (33%) average rates at only 5.8% of total waste diverted.

• CODE ENFORCEMENT

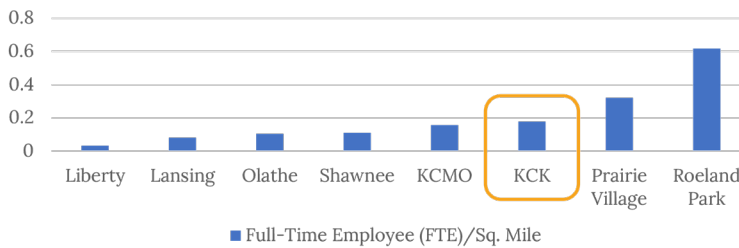
Cleanliness and appearance across our community was a top priority and opportunity for improvement in the 2022 Community Survey. The Unified Government will continue to investigate the source and nature of the issue: e.g. vacant lots, public right-of-way, illegal dumping, code violations, etc. As ETC Institute noted during the presentation of the survey findings, addressing the appearance of our neighborhoods could be the most cost-effective, impactful investment to improve overall community satisfaction.



Source: UG Community Comparisons, 2022

Code Enforcement Inspectors (FTEs) by Land Area

MARC REGIONAL BENCHMARKING INITIATIVE, 2021



Source: UG Community Comparisons, 2022

SOAR (Stabilization, Occupation and Revitalization) is a five-year plan to confront some of the most pervasive challenges in the appearance, communication, and safety of our neighborhoods. It aims to address issues like vacant and abandoned homes, property maintenance, loose dogs, street and sidewalk maintenance, mowing, graffiti abatement, and more through cross-department collaboration and coordination as well as grassroots, community-led efforts. This program, coming up on the completion of the five-year plan, warrants a review to understand how it has worked and how we can continue to support this effort countywide.

ECONOMY

Wyandotte County has the third highest wages in Kansas and is currently ranked 95th (out of 104) counties in median income. However, according to the Mid-America Regional Council, only 29% of workers in Wyandotte County are residents so 71% of all wages earned in the county leave.

• UNEMPLOYMENT

2020 Unemployment Rate by Race	County	US
White	4.60%	4.60%
Black / African American	10.30%	9.20%
Native American / Indigenous	8.40%	9.70%
Asian	4.50%	4.30%
Two or More Races	7.90%	7.80%
Hispanic / Latino	5.50%	6.20%

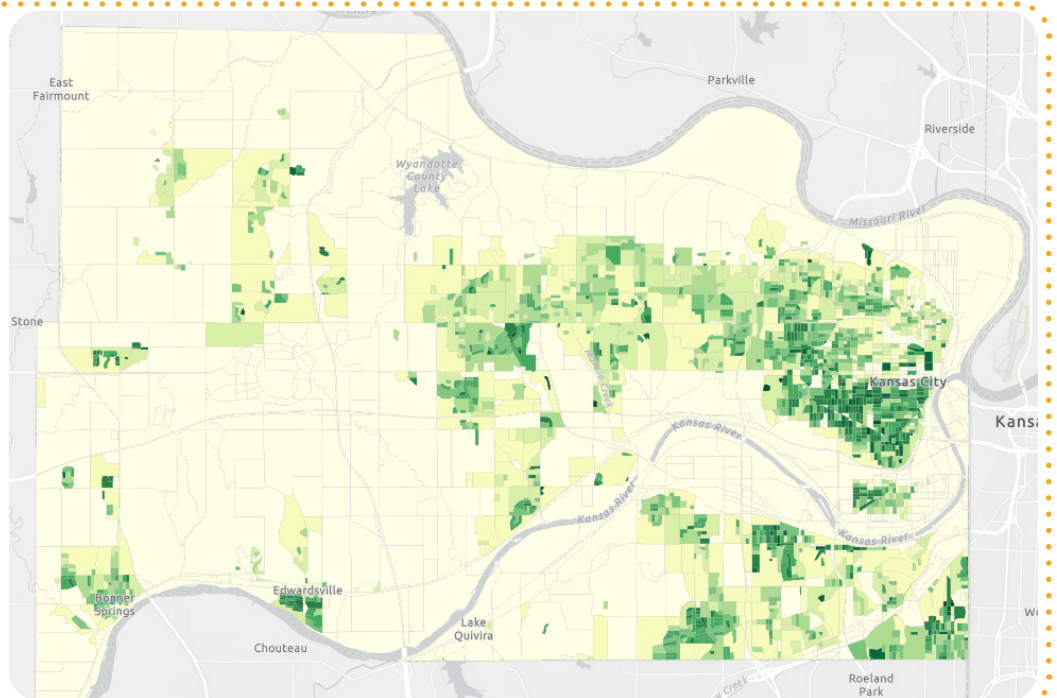
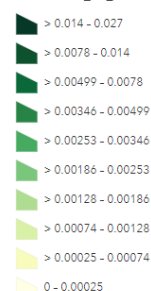
• PRINCIPAL EMPLOYERS, WYANDOTTE COUNTY

Employees in County (Range) / Rank	Employees	Rank
Kansas University Health Systems	8,500+	1
Kansas City, KS School District (USD 500)	4,500-5,000	2
University of Kansas Medical System	3,500-4,000	3
Amazon Fulfillment Center	3,500-4,000	4
Unified Government	1,000-2,499	5
General Motors Corporation	1,000-2,499	6
Associated Wholesale Grocers	1,000-2,499	7
Providence Medical Center	1,000-2,499	8
Nebraska Furniture Mart	1,000-2,499	9
Burlington Northern / Santa Fe Railroad	1,000-2,499	10

POPULATION DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF SERVICES

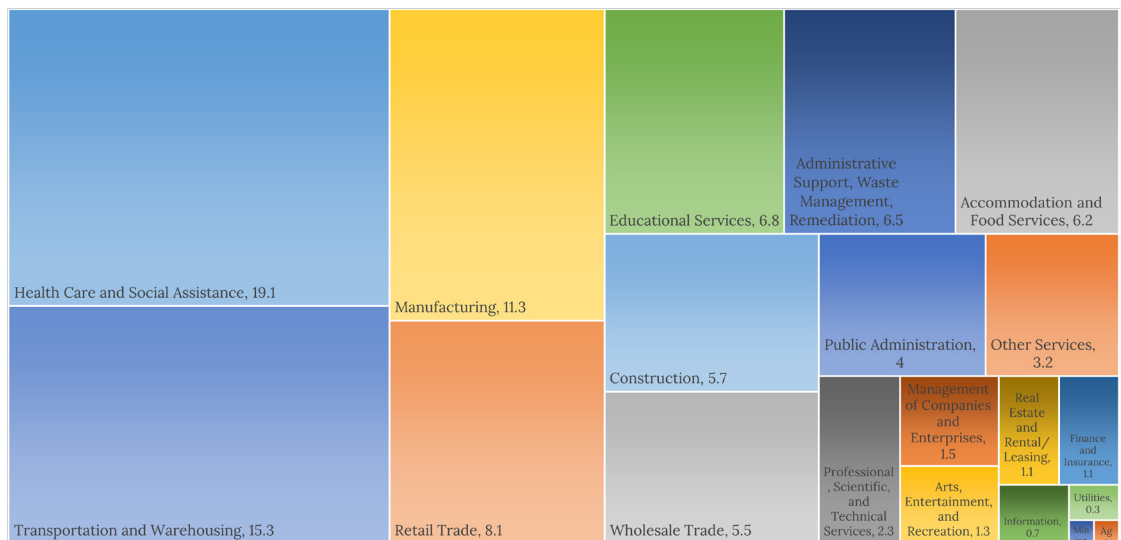
We face challenges in funding services such as sidewalk and street infrastructure, sewer and stormwater infrastructure, public safety response times, and equitable access to community services. With less density, we have fewer taxpayers but considerable area to cover.

Census2020_KS_Blocks_wPopulation



INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT

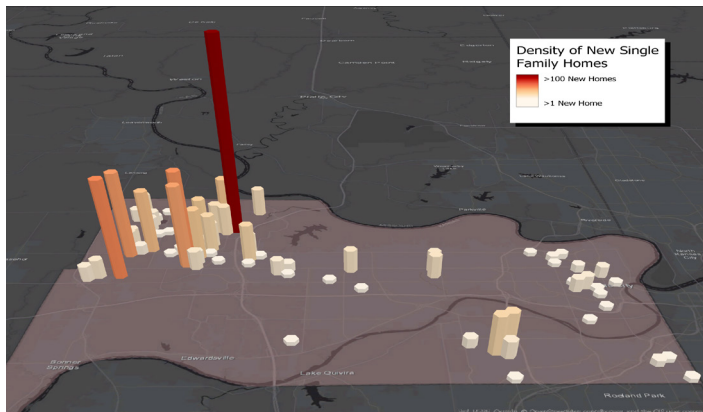
SOURCE: Workforce Partnerships | Wyandotte Economic Development Council



TOURISM

Visitors spent \$383 Million in 2020 in Kansas City, Kansas which is 7% of the total tourism spending in the State of Kansas. Visitor spending supported 4,332 job (6% of jobs in the county) and generated more than \$40 Million in state and local taxes. Leisure/hospitality spending have both increased since 2011 but the pandemic hit us hard. Spending fell by 20% and tourism-supported employment fell by 18.4%.

NEW SINGLE FAMILY HOME BUILDS, DENSITY

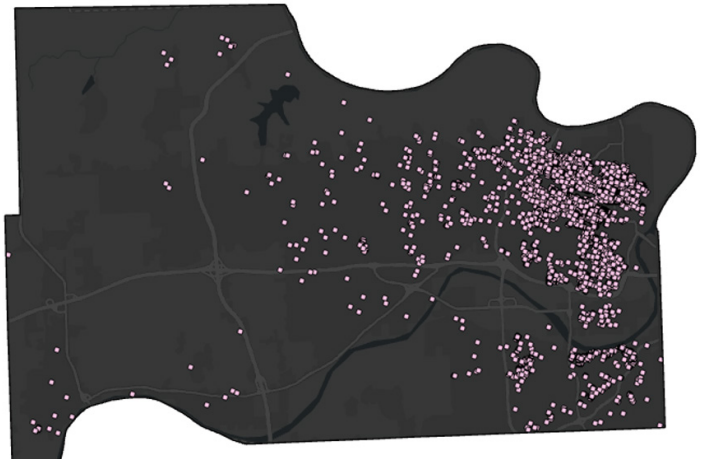


Source: Unified Government, 2022

LAND BANK PROPERTIES

We have transformed our data and inventory management of properties in the land bank, Unified Government-owned properties acquired through donation or tax delinquency. Currently, there is a community engagement process to overhaul our land bank program and restore these vacant properties into vibrant places across our neighborhoods. The map (right) illustrates our inventory of land bank properties.

CURRENT LAND BANK INVENTORY (2022)



Source: UG Land Bank Program, 2022



NEW HOMES CONSTRUCTION

Earlier this year, we celebrated the ribbon cutting on the first new construction home on a land bank parcel in Armourdale. The Unified Government has partnered with private builders and Habitat for Humanity to create more pathways to home ownership as part of the implementation strategy for the Armourdale Strong Area Plan.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Wyandotte County, and KCK specifically, experiences high rates of violence that are disproportionately born by our youth and our Black and Latinx populations. Homicide is the leading cause of death among Wyandotte County residents aged 15 to 44. The root causes of this violence are many, but factors like the built environment, structural racism, and continued disinvestment in our neighborhoods experiencing the bulk of such violence. The number of violent crimes in Wyandotte County is 704 per 100,000 people, making it close to double that of Kansas (365 per 100,000 people).

• HOMICIDES YEAR-TO-DATE (YTD)

KCK YTD Homicide Numbers	
2018	29
2019	28
2020	46
2021	40
2022	31

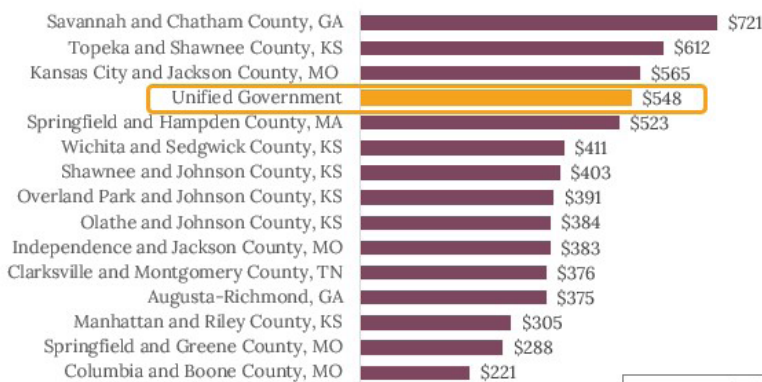
• VICTIMS/SUSPECTS BY RACE & SEX (YTD)

Race/Sex	Victim	%	Suspect	%
Black Male	16	52%	18	72%
Black Female	3	10%	4	16%
White Male	4	13%	2	8%
White Female	1	3%	0	0%
Hispanic Male	7	23%	1	4%
Hispanic Female	0	0%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	0	0%
TOTAL	31		24	

• VICTIMS/SUSPECTS BY AGE (YTD)

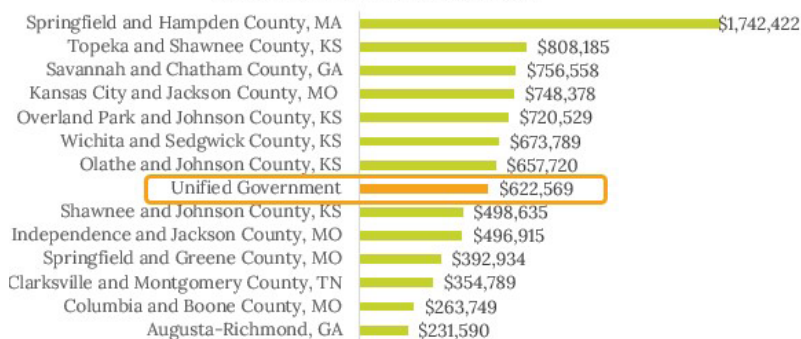
Age	Victim	%	Suspect	%
0-17	4	13%	2	8%
18-24	2	6%	5	21%
25-34	14	45%	9	38%
35-44	7	23%	3	13%
45-Over	4	13%	1	4%
Unknown	0	0%	4	17%
TOTAL	31		24	

POLICE AND SHERIFF FUNDING BY POPULATION COMMUNITY COMPARISONS, 2022



KCK Population ~ 156,600 people
KCK Land Area ~ 134 square miles

POLICE AND SHERIFF FUNDING BY LAND AREA COMMUNITY COMPARISONS, 2022



COMMUNITY COMPARISON: PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING

Unified Government is the higher tier of per capita funding committed to Police and Sheriff services. Our relatively large geography and low population density makes it difficult to fund and provide service.

Animal Services and Community Policing and residential visibility were priorities on the Community Survey.

REIMAGINING YOUR UNIFIED GOVERNMENT FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS

Twenty-five years ago, in April 1997, the people of Kansas City, KS and Wyandotte County, KS voted to unify our local government with the promise of better coordination of operations and more efficient, affordable service delivery for our residents and businesses. To an extent, this goal has been realized—more than 20 mills have been cut from tax bills for Kansas City, KS residents since unification and Wyandotte County continues to have one of the lowest county mill rates in the state.

New technology, global markets, and a pandemic have impacted our community and organization in many ways these past 25 years. This anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on the changing needs and priorities across the country. With new leadership and emphasis on fiscal and organizational accountability, and continuous improvement, UG Forward is our initiative to structurally re-imagine our organization for greater efficiency and better customer service for the next 25 years, working with you to make a better Wyandotte for all.

We have initially focused on the two fundamental building blocks of our organization: our people and

UG FORWARD

finances. We must adapt and equip our workforce with the skills and tools they need while the Unified Government needs a balanced, sustainable budget that addresses our community priorities. Together, Wyandotte County must address its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic while addressing key community priorities: lower taxes, improved streets and parks, accessible services, and more.

Here we highlight some of the work underway to reimagine the Unified Government for the next 25 years, what to expect in 2023, and how we look to partnering with our entire community on this transformation through collaboration. Explore our progress at wycokck.org/UGForward

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH COLLABORATION

Appointed by Mayor/CEO Tyrone A. Garner with the unanimous support of Commission, Interim County Administrator Cheryl Harrison-Lee shares some perspective on UG Forward.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR TOP PRIORITY AS INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR?

2022 has been a year of changes. We have a new mayor, newly elected Commissioners, and we are looking to hire a permanent county administrator. I introduced a framework of DEIF (Discover, Evaluate, Identify, and Focus) early on to help guide a process of looking at our strengths and weaknesses as an organization. Providing an incoming administrator with the assessment and strategic planning work underway will ensure an efficient transition.

FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT IS THE BIGGEST ISSUE FACING THE UG?

As we saw throughout the budget process, we are spending beyond our means and need to structurally rebalance our budget for long-term fiscal health. We must continue to assess how we work to eliminate waste, ensure we have the right people aligned to the job, and tighten our budgets overall. However, we cannot cut our way out of our budget issues. We must grow as a community and so our economic development is

tied very closely with the issues facing Wyandotte County. We are focused on creating more opportunity and housing in our community.



WHAT YOU ARE MOST HOPEFUL ABOUT THE UG AS WE LOOK AHEAD TO THE NEXT 25 YEARS?

I am inspired by the deep passion and commitment to service by staff across the Unified Government and the overall hometown pride of being a "Dotte." The unique neighborhoods and can-do attitude creates so much potential for collaboration to realize our shared vision. With a commitment to equitable growth and access to opportunity, the future is bright for Wyandotte County.

WE'RE HIRING

Check out the job posting for a permanent county administrator at GovHRUSA.com.

MEET-AND-GREET WITH CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

SAVE THE DATE: February 7, 2023



DISCOVER

Discover new ways to strengthen engagement among residents, local government, and the business community.

• ENGAGING YOU IN SHAPING OUR 2023 BUDGET

This year, we implemented new tools and outreach efforts across the Unified Government. Our budget planning included more community outreach than ever before, with in-person community conversations across the county, an online budget simulator, extensive engagement of our elected officials, and education on the what the budget entails through videos and social media content. Our 2022 community survey provided a representative sample across each Commission district of key priorities and issues. The 2023 budget was adopted in September 2022 as a transitional budget with considerable work already underway by the Commission to address the deficit in our city general fund and finding other cost-saving measures.

• PARTNERING WITH YOU ON PUBLIC HEALTH

In March, we closed our mass COVID vaccination site and increased our ongoing outreach to address public health across our county. Our network of community health workers and partners hosting events have helped the Unified Government reach into neighborhoods and connect people with the information and resources needed. The hard work of our Public Health Department has not gone unnoticed either: our 2022 community survey indicated high satisfaction with our COVID-19 response even as ratings dropped nationally. In August, we launched the update of our community health assessment which will shape the five-year Community Health Improvement Plan in 2023.

• EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY WITH BEST PRACTICES

In June, the Board of Commissioners adopted the Regional Climate Action Plan as a framework for



KCKPD HOSTS SPANISH-LANGUAGE CITIZENS ACADEMY

2022 Graduates Tobi Wolf, Z'Ionte Womack, Phillip Schwery, Jovanna Cheatum, Nathaniel Faulkner, Ian Abbott; Tonda Hill; Claire Kebodeaux; Rachel Steffen; Frank Altomare; Thomas Gracia; Jared Altic.

Wyandotte County sustainability and climate justice. The Mayor's Task Force on Environmental Sustainability and Green Energy is exploring what that means to our county. The Unified Government has also engaged a national network of experts to look at our fines and fees to ensure we are not creating unnecessary economic hardship for minor offenses.

• SUPPORTING A CAPABLE, EFFECTIVE WORKFORCE

Attracting talent as we face a "silver tsunami" of retirements and hiring challenges in a competitive marketplace is important to ensuring we are able to achieve our goals as a community. The Unified Government has adopted several policies in 2022, including raising the minimum wage and offering paid parental leave, remote work options, and free parking for all employees. We have introduced new ways for the community to get to know us and explore career opportunities in public safety. The Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office, for instance, has partnered with local high schools to create a pre-graduation experience to introduce career opportunities in the public safety.

WELCOME TO THE DOTTE: UG PARTNERS WITH FUSE TO HOST OUR FIRST-EVER HOUSING EXEC FELLOW

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS is pleased to announce the appointment of DeWayne Bright, Sr. as a FUSE Corps Executive Fellow to support our economic sustainability through affordable housing initiative.

"Addressing housing is critical to our economic success," said Interim County Administrator Cheryl Harrison-Lee. "Mr. Bright will be joining our team as we kick-off our UG Forward economic development strategic plan and comprehensive citywide plan. He will be instrumental in helping us establish a much-needed framework to ensure that our growth is complemented with quality housing stock that is accessible and affordable to our community."

The Unified Government is working to increase affordable housing options to address the rising housing shortage crisis and increase the city's workforce and economic development potential as well as the well-being of its citizens. The FUSE

Executive Fellow Housing Coordinator will help research and design a cohesive housing development strategy that will help increase housing affordability and availability, encourage housing retention in vulnerable neighborhoods, and maximize local economic impacts on building owners, residents, and businesses.





EVALUATE

Evaluate the current organization and identify areas for improvement while highlighting and capitalizing on the strengths that benefit our community.

• ASSESSING OUR PEOPLE + FINANCES

Starting with the building blocks of our organization – our people and finances – the Unified Government initiated an assessment of our operations, including a deeper look at the departments of human resources and finance to identify key issues and opportunities for improvement. Topics ranged from financial accountability to workforce development, communications to trust in the organization. Presented to the Commission in July 2022, the recommendations of these assessments are already being implemented, including the adoption of new administrative policies and organizational alignment.

• PREPARING FOR A PERMANENT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

The Unified Government has launched a community-driven effort to find a permanent county administrator to assume the role in 2023 when Interim County Administrator Cheryl Harrison-Lee's contract ends. Appointed by Commission, the committee will work

closely with a national recruiter to identify and shortlist qualified candidates for this important role. The assessments and other ongoing work to identify opportunities for improvement will provide the incoming administrator with the data and information needed to get started immediately. Mayor Tyrone Garner has prioritized community participation in this process so stay tuned for details about a February 7, 2023 meet-and-greet with the candidates.

• PRIORITIZING INFRASTRUCTURE OUTCOMES

After more than a year of due diligence, evaluation of best practices, and data analysis, the Commission adopted the Infrastructure Outcomes and Strategies document in August 2022 as a framework to guide investment in our infrastructure. As with many communities, our infrastructure is aging and the Commission worked closely with Unified Government departments to define a strategic investment approach that will ensure our capital maintenance and improvement work aligns to desirable community outcomes. In the 2023 budget, the Unified Government approved additional funding for street maintenance with the goal of increasing funding annually to address this top priority.

Turner Fire Station Groundbreaking October 21, 2022

S. 55th / Douglas Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66106

WHAT PROJECTS MATTER?

The community can help us identify infrastructure needs across the county by requesting a project. The Department of Public Works evaluates each submission carefully as part of the annual project prioritization with the Commission. Submit your Capital Maintenance and Improvement Projects (CMIP) by December 31 for scoring and ranking the following year.



2022 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT-A-GLANCE

\$146M

**KCK BUILDING PERMIT
TOTAL VALUE TO DATE**

498

**MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING UNITS
STARTED CONSTRUCTION**

1,800

**NEW INDUSTRIAL/WAREHOUSE
JOBS ANNOUNCED**



IDENTIFY

Identify economic development opportunity that create access, equity and shared prosperity.

• GROWING EQUITABLY

For Wyandotte County to maintain existing services, facilities and infrastructure, we must grow our tax base to ensure our fiscal health in the future. Balancing neighborhood improvements and new residents without displacing our neighbors is a key priority of the Unified Government as we explore strategies for continued economic development and growth in a post-pandemic world. This year, we launched an evaluation of our land bank which oversees more than 4,600 vacant properties owned by the Unified Government either by donation or tax delinquency. Starting in 2023, we will be developing an economic development strategic plan, citywide historic preservation plan, and citywide comprehensive plan to guide future development and land use. These important policies will provide the much-needed framework for attracting new businesses while growing local businesses.

• IMPROVING MOBILITY COUNTYWIDE

Access to opportunity includes having affordable, accessible transportation options. This year, the Unified Government adopted the goDotte Strategic Mobility Plan as its first county-wide transportation element of the upcoming comprehensive plan. Working closely with stakeholders across KCK, Bonner Springs, Edwardsville and Lake Quivira, goDotte integrates the human and infrastructure aspects of transportation from active transportation to shared mobility. As an auto-centric community, goDotte helps chart a path forward that reduces our reliance on single occupancy vehicles while preparing the Unified Government as we pursue federal infrastructure funds to improve connectivity, safety, and accessibility.

• INCREASING PARKS & INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Throughout 2023 budget planning, the community expressed the importance of investing in our streets, bridges, parks and facilities not only for current residents but for future generations. As a result, the Commission increased funding for both street preservation and county parks.

• SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

We have expanded our communications to better advertise opportunities for small and local businesses to do business with the Unified Government, including promoting bid opportunities on new development and hosting a

first-ever vendor and small business fair to help local entrepreneurs connect with regional corporations and public agencies purchasing.

• CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO FEDERAL RECOVERY FUNDS

On March 11, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). ARPA is an ambitious initiative to stimulate the American economy, support residents, and curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Unified Government received \$87.5 million in federal aid over two years with \$55.4 million allocated to the City of Kansas City, KS and \$32.1 million for Wyandotte County. ARPA funds have been allocated to support our ongoing public health efforts, provide support for housing, and fund other critical services as we establish a new normal in a post-COVID world.

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

Funded by ARPA, the Unified Government awarded 50 small businesses financial support as they recovered from the economic impacts of COVID.

\$447,792

Last spring, the Unified Government launched a unique

grant program for nonprofits and Unified Government departments to request ARPA local recovery funds. Receiving more than 170 applications, the Commission has been working to allocate these funds to support affordable housing, childcare, senior and youth services, local businesses and so much more. Check out our website wycokck.org/ARPA for a complete list of projects.

• MAXIMIZING OUR HISTORY

Historic preservation has many proven benefits, including creating more vibrant places for economic activity. This year, the Unified Government has not only hired its first historic preservationist, we have been awarded two grants to look at how we can protect our historic buildings while opening up opportunity for property owners to access tax credits and grants. The Unified Government will be consider submitting an application to the National Parks Service, for example, to designate a historic commercial district in Downtown KCK. Additionally, the Commission adopted the Northeast KCK Heritage Trail plan which connects historic sites throughout the northeast. This work has already reaped benefits for our community with a \$300K grant being awarded to begin implementation of the heritage trail.

NOW OPEN!

FAIRFAX FIRE STATION

The Unified Government Commission voted to reopen the Fairfax Fire Station to provide additional support to the 150-year old industrial district which is home to more than 130 businesses.



FOCUS

Focus on superior customer service as a daily practice.

• PARTNERING FOR PARKWOOD POOL

Recognizing the shortage of qualified lifeguards across the United States, Parks & Recreation partnered with Midwest Pool Management to operate and staff a fantastic 2022 season at Parkwood Pool. Reopened to the public after two years of closure due to COVID, this partnership connected us with a regional network of lifeguards while Wyandotte residents were prioritized for staffing at our only public pool. The Unified Government offers one of the most competitive hourly rates for lifeguards as Commission voted to raise our minimum wage to \$15/hour earlier this year.

• INNOVATING FOR PROFICIENCY AND EFFICIENCY

The Fleet team, a division that manages and maintains trucks and automobiles operated across the Unified Government, developed an internal commercial drivers' license training program to make it more accessible to our team members while significantly reducing costs. Taking the perspective of every department being a customer, the Fleet team has fostered a team culture of collaboration and innovation and has received high marks for their commitment to customer service.

• IMPROVING HOW WE WORK

As of October 4, 2022, the Unified Government has transformed how it manages team member information by launching an enterprise service called Workday. This software, which is being implemented in phases, will improve how we internally manage human capital and our finances. By streamlining information and going paperless, the Unified Government has evaluated and improved many policies and processes to ensure we are working smarter, not harder. Because Workday is cloud-based, this will ensure data is secure and less susceptible

JOE DELANEY LEARN TO SWIM PROGRAM

In February 2022, the UG Parks & Recreation Department partnered with Warner Media., KCKPS, and the YMCA of Greater Kansas City to provide FREE life-saving swim skills to area youth. Initially a pilot with a few schools, the program will expand in 2023, with support from the Kansas City Chiefs and G.E.H.A., to provide training at Parkwood Pool next summer.



to cybersecurity threats. Change ambassadors have led a comprehensive change management and training to adoption of the new technology is a success.

• INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

With a focus on the future, the Unified Government introduced new ways to engage staff in leadership and skill development. Treasury, for example, dedicated Wednesdays to training as we resumed in-person customer service last summer. Public Works continued its quarterly roundtables to foster team collaboration while we graduated our first-ever strategic communications fellowship, an internal leadership program.



UG 25 SUMMIT On October 25, civic leaders shared the story of unification with Unified Government staff.

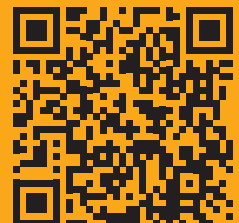
Above: Lieut. Col. Mike Jacobi (retired), Commissioner Melissa Bynum, Rev. C.L. Bachus, Mayor Tyrone Garner, Mayor Carol Marinovich, former County Administrator Dennis Hays, former Clerk Tom Roberts, Interim County Administrator Cheryl Harrison-Lee.


• CREATING OPPORTUNITY

The Unified Government has focused on building our capacity to pursue and manage grants through the designation of a new grants coordinator, adoption of supporting policies and procedures, and engagement of multi-disciplinary teams to pursue such opportunities. With more federal funds available in 2023, this capability will position the Unified Government and our community partners so we are ready to apply and manage these potential funds to the benefit of our community.

CELEBRATING OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Want to catch up on a bit of our history? Check out our YouTube 25th Anniversary Playlist for videos with the civic leaders that led the movement to unify our local government.





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