

STATE OF KANSAS            )  
WYANDOTTE COUNTY        )) SS  
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS )

**REGULAR SESSION**  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016**

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in regular session Thursday, November 17, 2016, with ten members present: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Walker, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Murguia, Commissioner Third District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Walters, Commissioner Seventh District; Philbrook, Commissioner Eighth District; and Holland, Mayor/CEO presiding. Markley, Commissioner Sixth District, was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Doug Bach, County Administrator; Ken Moore, Chief Counsel; Carol Godsil, Deputy UG Clerk; Joe Connor, Gordon Criswell, and Melissa Mundt, Assistant County Administrators; Emerick Cross, Commission Liaison; Alan Howze, Chief Knowledge Officer; Alan Haga, Assistant Attorney; Maureen Mahoney, Asst. to Mayor/Chief of Staff; and Captain Michael Howell, Sergeant-at-Arms.

**MAYOR HOLLAND** called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:** Kane, Walters, Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Murguia Johnson, Holland.

**INVOCATION** was given by Reverend Michael May, St. Luke’s Lutheran Church (Ret.).

**Mayor Holland** asked if there were any revisions to the agenda. There were none.

**MAYOR’S AGENDA**

**ITEM NO. 1 – 16876...PRESENTATION: MOST ENTERPRENEURIAL CITY IN AMERICA (MECA) CHALLENGE**

**Synopsis:** Presentation on the Most Entrepreneurial City in America (MECA) challenge, by Adam Arredondo, Co-Founder/Director of Entrepreneurship.



**Doug Bach, County Administrator,** said in coordination with the global entrepreneurship week, local students and sponsors participated in a recent, half-day learning team event which was conducted by members of our local KCK Startup Village.

**Adam Arrondondo, KC Startup Village and Co-Founder of CEED,** introduced Ian and Harley, seniors at Schlagle. They participated in the event. It was at the end of September. It took us a little bit to get organized and get here with you.

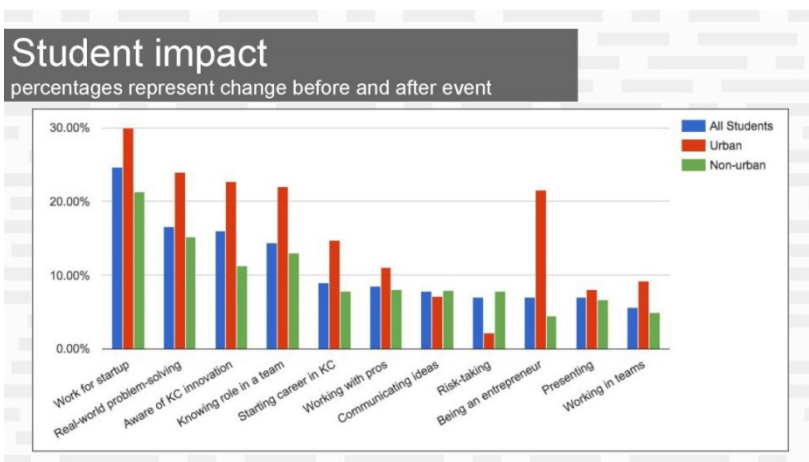
Just a little bit about what I do and the event they participated in. We're seeing a lot of excitement from students. Some of you may recognize me. I'm one of the leaders of the Kansas City Startup Village, which he mentioned. We're just really passionate about building a community where innovation and entrepreneurship can thrive. I've had the opportunity to do a lot of that from the Startup Village where I work with space in Kansas City, KS.

I now lead an organization called CEED. It is the Center of Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Development. There are four full-time people and we just do things to help create a better environment for innovation, entrepreneurship in Kansas City as a whole in KCK as we work with students in your city.

One of the programs we run is called MECA Challenge. MECA stands for Most Entrepreneurial Community in America. It's kind of based on our belief that students and educators are at the core are a critical piece of becoming a more entrepreneurial city. Greater Kansas City Chamber said we want to be America's most entrepreneurial city, but what does that mean. We have to get people to buy into that and think that so we created this event to help get

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students plugged in. What it is, it's a one-day innovation competition. You'll hear a little bit, just kind of what they thought about it. They come in and they'll say they didn't even know what they were coming there for. They come in and we give them a challenge. Sometimes it's a challenge that a local startup is facing. Sometimes it's a community challenge. We're actually finding that the community challenges are really exciting for them to get into.

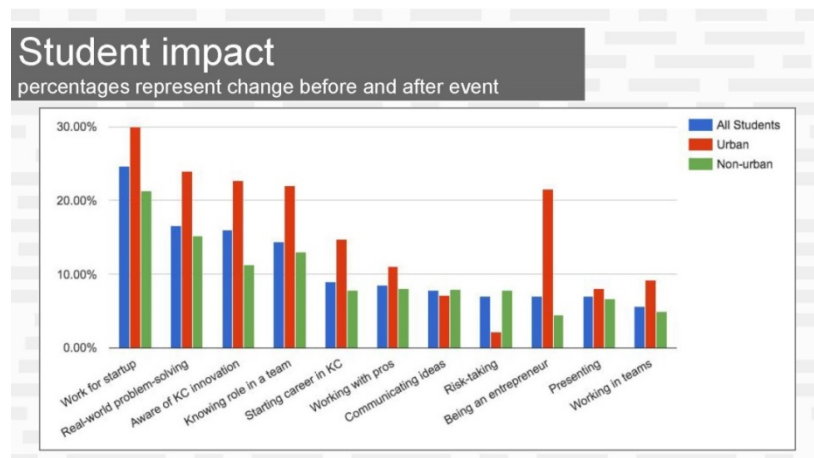


Before I talk about the specific challenge we gave them, I'm going to show you just some of the impact we've seen from this event. Just to finish off what it is, at the beginning of the day, it fits into a school day, they hear the challenge. We then bring in a bunch of entrepreneurs from the community to mentor teams of six and then they have three hours to come up with a solution and then they have to present it back to everyone that's there, all their peers to some judges and the entrepreneurs. We now have done this—this year we did it 16 times across the entire metro and reached about 930 students.



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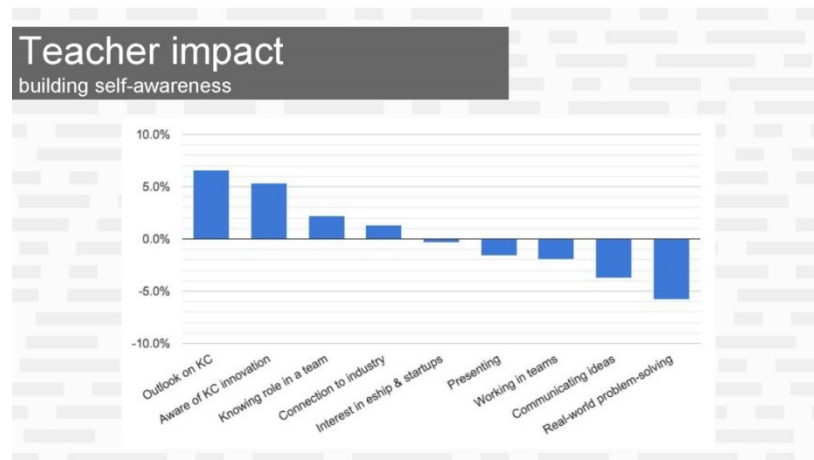
We actually reached a bunch of teachers as well. Roughly half of the participants had never done anything like it before, and the vast majority had never done it outside of school. It's kind of get them out, change up the environment and get them thinking quickly. Some of the key stats there that are really kind of exciting is in seven hours, I think yours might have been six hours, we do a pre and post survey. Those are the percent changes related to a particular topic. So, in six hours they showed 25% more interest in working for a startup or working in that environment. They showed a 17% increase in confidence in their ability to solve real-world problems. Really, what we're getting to the core of is trying to get at these soft skills that are required to be successful in entrepreneurial city, in an entrepreneurial community.



One of the other things you'll see in the next slide is there's a much greater impact on urban students. One of the things we found is it's generally harder for us to reach them. When we're working with suburban administrators in schools, they're not worried about transportation, safety and other things that urban administrators are worried about. When we say we want to teach them more entrepreneurial mindset, they're kind of like okay, that's cool but we kind of have bigger fish to fry.

We've actually been able to work with PREP-KC who has made it, kind of been the middle man, to help us reach the urban students. What we've seen, just based on this, the blue is all students, the red are urban, and the green are suburban. You'll see across the board almost every single measurement, the urban students are registering a bigger change, a more positive change in whatever area that is. So, whether that's working for a startup—we talked about some

of the bigger ones but you can see there, knowing their role in a team. Right? I mean you see a huge one and then which one stands out. How interested are you in being an entrepreneur, the one on the right. Where suburban students showed like a 4% increase in their interest, the urban students showed over a 20% increase in being an entrepreneur in a six-hour period. I think getting them hands-on, doing real-world things is really important.



The other thing I said is we've done this with a bunch of teachers. Check this out. There's a lot more awareness of what's happening in KC, but if you look at their confidence in solving real-world problems, it goes down fairly significantly. They thought they could do it, and then by the end of the event, they realized it's really hard. It emphasizes the importance of integrating industry into the classroom. What we leave when we work with teachers is we say stop thinking of yourself purely as a lecturer and think of yourself as an experienced facilitator. You need to be bringing these experiences to the students because that's what is required of them to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. That's kind of the work we do.

I'm going to pass it off to these guys just to talk a little bit about what they thought of the event. The last thing. The challenge we gave them—so again, they didn't know what they were doing when they came in. I reached out to Allen and I said, hey, does KCK have any challenges that they would love student input on. He came back with about 20 so we sifted through them all and tried to think of something that they could really kind of wrap their heads around quickly and kind of give some useful feedback on or get some ideas around in three hours. What we ended up settling on was youth programming. We gave them a budget of 5% of the money that

the new revenue being generated by the STAR bonds so a \$600,000 a year budget to come up with youth programming for students in Wyandotte County. That was their challenge and I'll let them talk for a second to kind of say what the event was like and what they ended up coming up with.

**Ian Pack, Senior, Schlagle High School**, said when I got there, I didn't know a thing. That day I was told what we were doing. I was kind of told we were going on a field trip to UMKC and it had to do with engineering. I've been in engineering since 8<sup>th</sup> grade and it's just kind of taken an interest for me. This program is kind of interesting to me because it gives us a chance to solve a community problem that otherwise would be solved by somebody older, somebody who maybe has some experience with youth but isn't a youth themselves. I kind of thought this was a great opportunity for youth in KC to get interested in the community and find a way to improve the community.

**Harley King Honeywell, Senior, Schlagle High School**, said I had the same experience. I did not know what we were doing either. I was told we were going to UMKC. I was like I've been there before. This should be fun again and so we decided to go there. It was really an interesting experience. I was not expecting for us to get the type of notoriety that we did that day where we got a real-world scenario, a real-world budget, a real-world everything to where our decisions would actually change something in the future of other children's lives; not children, but young adults. I was really happy to see that our decisions are actually benefiting and changing others' lives instead of a normal gathering, think tink and nothing happening. I was really happy to see that and I was really involved, and all the other classmates of ours were really involved too.

**Mr. Pack** said my group came up with an idea that involved urban farming. That's not something you hear a lot anymore. When you think of an urban setting, you think kids are on their computers and cell phones all day. My group, along with a gentleman who has his own company, an entrepreneur, called The Handy Camel here in KC, came up with the idea of what we call the Urban Farmers of KC; which is a group that would, in theory, have a set amount of acreage so like half an acre plot in an urban neighborhood that we would pull from the Land

Bank. It would be set up to where kids could earn money and learn about farming and sustainability and things like that.

**Mr. Honeywell** said my idea was totally different. To give some explanation to this, we both worked on a small farming operation. That was his inspiration for that and he knows it obviously can be done because we do it. It's not that hard of work and it would benefit a lot more people. My group decided to re-innovate something that has already been done but just improve on it. We did a community center, kind of like the YMCA but for an age group of K-12 basically saying you have to show ID and your parents bring you and sign you up, it's free for you. To bring back revenue on it, you can have older generations come in as well to help tutor or whatever and they would have to pay money. That would give you back revenue. You could have all sports facilities, but you'd also have tutor groups and quiet spaces. For some of the kids that go to really loud urban schools and don't have the—or when they get home they have problems or whatever, they can go there as a quiet space and get help and achieve higher grades, test scores and ACTs or whatever. That was basically our idea was just to help on the educational standpoints.

**Mr. Arrondondo** said we can open it up for a question but it was kind of cool—so we had nine teams and there were really two themes. There were several teams that did something around kind of sustainability. One was collecting trash and like making bricks out of it and making affordable housing from this trash. They saw it done in other communities somewhere and before that, there were a couple of farming ones. Actually, the most common feedback was actually like a youth community center of some kind. Almost all of them focused on skills training, tutoring and some career readiness programs; every single one of them had that.

Anyways, if you guys have any questions—it was just really cool to see. This was one of the first times we did a community challenge. We had always done a business challenge, but it was really cool to see the students. They're using the same creativity and problem-solving, but to see them kind of get passionate about doing something that benefits the community and we've now decided that we're going to continue that as we continue to do more of these events. I'd like to open it up if you have any quick questions or just thoughts. We absolutely plan to continue to work with all of KC and KCK as much as we can. The goal is to reach all students.

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**Commissioner McKiernan** said just a couple of real quick questions. It's really cool you get handed a whole bunch of money; here go spend this. What was the biggest challenge that you found in terms of thinking about how to not only spend that money, but be sustainable and keep it going? Then kind of part two is, will, I'll save part two until you answer that one.

**Mr. Honeywell** said the biggest part; obviously, to get on the budgeting was back revenue. How do you not use the \$600,000, which was the budget; and after two years or so of using that money whether the building is insulated and keeping it running for two years it goes away? That's why I was talking—his would bring food to the community plus you would also have back revenue on people buying product like produce and stuff. Mine was the older generations that would come and tutor and everybody that is a faculty in the situation would pay money to be a part of the organization itself. You'd have sponsors like for different organizations. For robotics and stuff, you have Garmin so you could have sponsors with any organization to give you money for back revenue.

**Mr. Pack** said and like he said, on ours, a lot was based on—the most difficult part for us was how do you get youth involved really. That was to make a monetary incentive for us. We went through a couple of ideas, whether to make that monetary incentive via scholarships which is what we eventually came down to. That was the best way to spend a lot of that extra money. Our budget originally encased the first year would be about \$200,000 - \$300,000 and then after that, the rest of that money would be spent towards scholarships and the scholarships would have been split off in different ways, depending on how many hours you worked in the year and stuff like that.

**Mr. Honeywell** said the way we decided on what we wanted to do or the types of revenue or the scholarships is we all had poster boards or online documents and we just looked at our own teammates. That's why the MECA challenge brought together different schools. You didn't know everybody but you knew a good majority so you'd asked everybody what would they like to do. That was a part of getting youth involved. If you had more of a majority that decided that they liked an idea, then you went with that idea because then it's just a percentage increase from there.



**Commissioner McKiernan** said part two is nobody is going to come and hand you \$600,000 tomorrow. How would you say that this experience has influenced the way you approach the challenges that you are going to face now?

**Mr. Pack** said for me it made the point in my mind that I could change the community. Even if it's just me, one person starts a revolution so that kind of movement helped me realize that.

**Mr. Honeywell** said I basically learned what money was on a larger scale. I decided hey, this is not a game. We should try to be smart about this. We tried and came up with really good solutions. Like he said, when we all finished...because there was a scale of like 1:11 because there were groups. No one came in last place. These were all good ideas. The judges didn't dislike any of the ideas whether some of them were underrepresented by people speaking or shyness so be it, different people. All ideas were great because you had so many different people from different walks of life commentating on the same thing. You had a good outcome no matter what.

**Commissioner Bynum** said thank you so much for coming and bringing a little bit of your experience. What I'm thinking about is you're both high seniors. Correct? Prior to the experience, what were you thinking about for after high school? Was it college, etc? Did the day change that or adjust it in anyway in terms of what you're hoping to do after high school?

**Mr. Honeywell** said for me it didn't change one thing. Once I hit freshman year, I've walked four miles a day for free schooling in the summer just to do engineering academy because I was really interested and it was something to do. Right now, as a senior project, working on something on a larger scale, we're working on—I'm sure you all have heard of Tesla Industries. We're doing the same thing to farm equipment and tractors because we work on a farm. We're electrifying gas automobiles and we're going green. Our plan is not only college, but we plan to come out of college by the end with a business and everything. Not just to better the community, but for clean energy and just renewable energy, little things like that. **Commissioner Bynum** said I just wanted to let the other young man...**Mr. Pack** said same answer for me.

**Commissioner Murguia** asked so where are you going to college. **Mr. Pack** said K-State. **Commissioner Murguia** said K-State. Very good choice for engineering and hopefully you're going to stay right here in Kansas when you graduate from K-State. Right? **Mr. Pack** said that's the plan at least. **Commissioner Murguia** said and in Wyandotte County hopefully. **Mr. Pack** said hopefully. **Commissioner Murguia** said we'd love to have you.

**Mr. Arrondondo** said I was just going to follow-up real quick on your question. We actually had several other students that were planning on being here. Actually, one just wasn't feeling good and two had to go to work that were very different, one younger and also a different demographic. These two obviously have a plan. Many of the urban students we work with aren't nearly as focused on where they're going as these are.

One of the things you also mentioned is in that one day, our hope is to, really the goal of this one-day event is to model what education should look like. What we're hoping is take what you saw in a day and what if that was a semester, right, where you give them a challenge at the beginning, we bring in industry people to mentor them along the way and at the end you do a semester of work presentation. That's the hope. We're using this kind of as the foot hole to start showing educators. It's awesome that some students get these really cool experiences, but our goal is really to reach the educators and show them like this is what education needs to look like at least some of the time.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Mayor Holland** asked if anyone in attendance tonight or anyone on the Commission or staff would like to remove an item. Any item not removed will be voted on with a single vote. No one removed an item.

**Action:** **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda.** Roll call was taken and there were nine "Ayes," Kane, Walters, Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Murguia Johnson.

**ITEM NO. 1 – 16873...ORDINANCE: RELATING TO MEMBERSHIP OF CERTAIN ADVISORY AND APPEAL BOARDS**

**Synopsis:** An ordinance relating to the removal of members from advisory boards, the combining of two previously established advisory boards, and the establishment of an ad hoc board of code appeals regarding demolition orders, rental licensing, and building codes, submitted by Ryan Haga, Assistant Counsel.

**Action:** **ORDINANCE NO. O-65-16**, “An ordinance relating to membership of certain advisory and appeal boards, amending Sections 2-389, 2-421, 2-426, 8-25, 8-432, 8-456, 18-21, 18-22, 18-23, 18-24, 18-25, 18-27, 18-191, 18-192, 18-193, 19-248 and 25-1 and repealing said original sections.” **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the ordinance.** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Kane, Walters, Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Murguia Johnson.

**ITEM NO. 2 - MINUTES**

**Synopsis:** Minutes from regular sessions of September 29 and October 13, 2016.

**Action:** **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve. Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,”** Kane, Walters, Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Murguia Johnson.

**ITEM NO. 3 - WEEKLY BUSINESS MATERIAL**

**Synopsis:** Weekly business material dated November 3 and 10, 2016.

**Action:** **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to receive and file. Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,”** Kane, Walters, Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Murguia Johnson.

**PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA**

No items of business

**STANDING COMMITTEES' AGENDA**

No items of business

**ADMINISTRATOR'S AGENDA**

No items of business

**COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA**

No items of business

**LAND BANK BOARD OF TRUSTEES' AGENDA**

No items of business

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No items of business

**MAYOR HOLLAND ADJOURNED  
THE MEETING AT 7:28 P.M.  
November 17, 2016**

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Carol Godsil  
Deputy UG Clerk

tpl/cg

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