

APPROVED MINUTES
ETHICS COMMISSION OF THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT
Courtroom No. 18, 2nd Floor, Wyandotte County Courthouse
710 N. 7th Street, Kansas City, KS 66101

December 12, 2019

Regular Meeting:

Roll Call:

X Member John J. Bukaty, Jr.

X Member Linda Brown

X Member Dachia Busch

X Member Patty Orth

X Member Emily Cisneros

X Ruth Benien, Administrator

X (Present) E (Excused)

U (Unexcused)

Call to Order:

Chairperson Bukaty called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Commissioners Brown, Busch, Orth and Cisneros were in attendance. Administrator Benien was present.

Public Comment: No members of the public were present. One member of the public appeared but was in the wrong location.

Old Business:

a). Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes of the November 14, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved with one correction. Commissioner Orth moved for approval with a second by Commissioner Cisneros. The Motion passed unanimously.

b). Monthly Administrator's Report:

Administrator Benien provided the monthly report for the time period from November 1, 2019 through November 30, 2019 which outlined the training provided in that month and the nature of the ethics opinions rendered and complaints received.

Continuing Ethics training presentations by video have and are being provided by the Human Resources department for the police and fire department and are also used for a section of the sheriff's department and water treatment plant due to the shifts in each department.

UG Basic Ethics training was held on September 25, 2019 at Human Resources and Continuing Ethics training scheduled for November 6, 2019 at the Health Department from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. was cancelled and attendees rescheduled to attend the Continuing Ethics training scheduled for December 4, 2019 at the Human Resources training center from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The Basic Ethics training scheduled for the Fire Department on October 24, 2019 was cancelled. A Basic Ethics training is scheduled for December 17, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers. A UG Basic Fire Academy Ethics training is scheduled for December 5, 2019 at Human Resources.

A request from the UG Legal Department was received to provide UG Ethics training for the Advisory Council on Aging. The same has been coordinated and issues with respect to the provision of the training and materials addressed. It will be held January 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at Eisenhower Community Center.

Four new email complaints were received. One new text message complaint was received. No complaints are pending awaiting additional information, referral or review. Six complaints were closed, five based on no additional contact or insufficient information or lack of jurisdiction, one with advice of no further complaint. No new advisory opinions were requested. Six advisory opinion requests were pending as of November 30, 2019. One new advisory opinion request was received prior to the December meeting.

No new Requests for Information were received.

New Business:

Report was made that the UG Ethics Website has been updated to include the posting for the new UG Ethics Commissioners.

All Ethics Commissioners were again asked to continually review and make notes for additional changes or improvement to the UG Ethics Web Site for the next meeting.

Pursuant to the request for permission to obtaining ID badges for access to the courthouse, Legislative Auditor Wiss obtained approval and made arrangements for the

same to be issued upon taking of photographs. Administrator Benien and Commissioners Brown, Orth and Cisneros all received theirs for the October meeting. Administrator Benien followed up on arrangements for the remaining two commissioners to receive theirs and the procedure to follow. Commissioner Bukaty obtained his prior to the November meeting and Commissioner Busch will be advised on how to obtain hers. The changes being made to security in terms of the entrances to be used at the Courthouse and City Hall were discussed.

Ethics Administrator Benien will try at each meeting to cover a limited provision of the UG Ethics Code to better help the UG Ethics Commissioners understand its provisions or answer questions they may have. The topic this month dealt with discussion of the security issues and the new UG commission and routing of opinions to the Office of the Ethics Administrator.

Executive Session:

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment by Commissioner Busch

Seconded by Commissioner Orth

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Next Meeting is January 9, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Ruth M. Benien
Ruth M. Benien
UG Ethics Administrator