STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS **REGULAR SESSION**
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS) **May 11, 2023**

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Regular Session Thursday, May 11, 2023, with nine members present via Zoom and on site: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO, presiding. McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; and Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; were absent. The following officials were also in attendance: David Johnston, County Administrator; Patrick Waters, Interim Chief Counsel; Sharon Reed, Director of Procurement & Contract Compliance; George Sims, Lieutenant Colonel, KCKPD; Brett Deichler, UG Clerk; and Brittnie MacDonald, UG Clerk's Office.

Mayor Garner said before I call the meeting to order, I'll announce that some commissioners, staff, and the public are attending remotely via Zoom, by phone, or on site. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid background noise.

During the meeting, please make sure that you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so the public that is observing knows who is speaking. Please be sure you speak directly into the microphone so the public can hear your comments and accurate recording of those comments can be made. This is critical given the number of remote participants, and is current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General's Office.

Mayor Garner called the meeting to order.

Roll call: Ramirez, Johnson, Markley, Sites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, Garner.
Mr. Deichler said we have an absent memo for Commissioners Kane and McKiernan.

Mayor Garner said tonight's invocation, followed immediately by the Pledge of Allegiance, will be given by Sister Therese Bangert of Our Lady & St. Rose Catholic Church.

Mayor Garner asked, Clerk, are there any revisions to the agenda? **Mr. Deichler** said no revisions tonight.

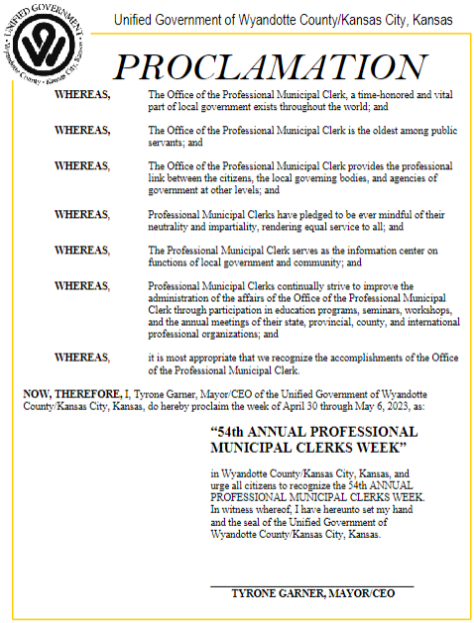
MAYOR'S AGENDA

Mayor Garner said Items 1 – 9 are proclamations. Clerk, if you could note those.

Item No. 1 – 212443…PROCLAMATION: 54TH ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming April 30 – May 6, 2023, as the 54th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week, submitted by Tyrone A. Garner, Mayr/CEO.

Brett Deichler, UG Clerk, read the following proclamation.



Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk, a time-honored and vital part of local government exists throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants; and

WHEREAS, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies, and agencies of government at other levels; and

WHEREAS, Professional Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all; and

WHEREAS, The Professional Municipal Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community; and

WHEREAS, Professional Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops, and the annual meetings of their state, provincial, county, and international professional organizations; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tyrone Garner, Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, do hereby proclaim the week of April 30 through May 6, 2023, as:

"54th ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK"

in Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, and urge all citizens to recognize the 54th ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.

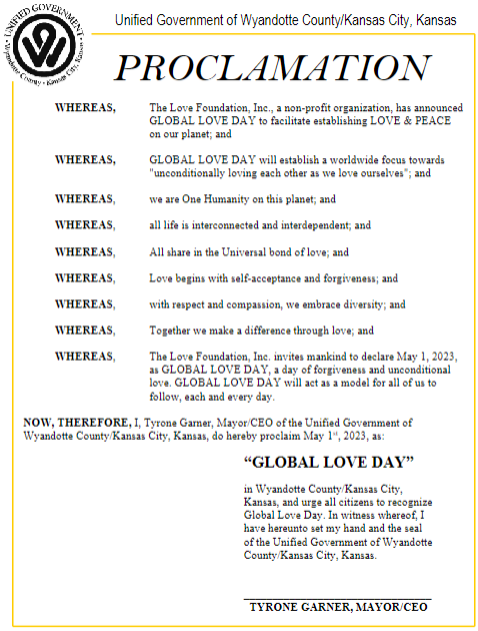
TYRONE GARNER, MAYOR/CEO

Action: Proclamation was read.

Item No. 2 – 212444…PROCLAMATION: GLOBAL LOVE DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming May 1, 2023, as Global Love Day, submitted by Tyrone A. Garner, Mayor/CEO.

Brett Deichler, UG Clerk, read the following proclamation.



Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Love Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization, has announced GLOBAL LOVE DAY to facilitate establishing LOVE & PEACE on our planet; and

WHEREAS, GLOBAL LOVE DAY will establish a worldwide focus towards "unconditionally loving each other as we love ourselves"; and

WHEREAS, we are One Humanity on this planet; and

WHEREAS, all life is interconnected and interdependent; and

WHEREAS, All share in the Universal bond of love; and

WHEREAS, Love begins with self-acceptance and forgiveness; and

WHEREAS, with respect and compassion, we embrace diversity; and

WHEREAS, Together we make a difference through love; and

WHEREAS, The Love Foundation, Inc. invites mankind to declare May 1, 2023, as GLOBAL LOVE DAY, a day of forgiveness and unconditional love. GLOBAL LOVE DAY will act as a model for all of us to follow, each and every day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tyrone Garner, Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, do hereby proclaim May 1st, 2023, as:

"GLOBAL LOVE DAY"

in Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, and urge all citizens to recognize Global Love Day. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.

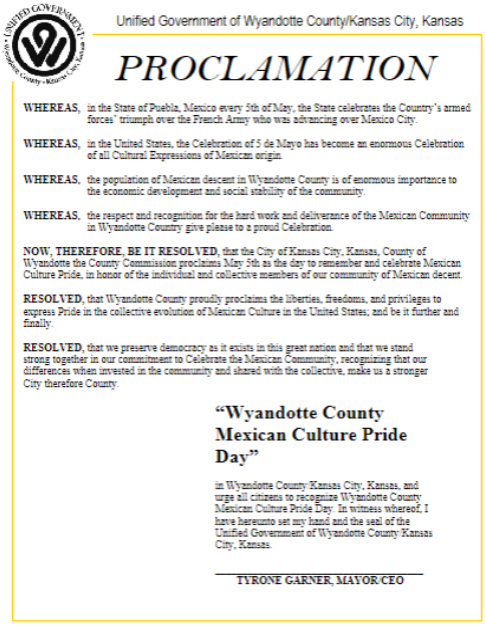
TYRONE GARNER, MAYOR/CEO

Action: Proclamation was read.

Item No. 3 – 212448…PROCLAMATION: WYANDOTTE COUNTY MEXICAN CULTURE PRIDE DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming May 5, 2023, as Wyandotte County Mexican Culture Pride Day, submitted by Tyrone A. Garner, Mayor/CEO.

Brett Deichler, UG Clerk, read the following proclamation.



Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in the State of Puebla, Mexico every 5th of May, the State celebrates the Country's armed forces' triumph over the French Army who was advancing over Mexico City.

WHEREAS, in the United States, the Celebration of 5 de Mayo has become an enormous Celebration of all Cultural Expressions of Mexican origin.

WHEREAS, the population of Mexican descent in Wyandotte County is of enormous importance to the economic development and social stability of the community.

WHEREAS, the respect and recognition for the hard work and deliverance of the Mexican Community in Wyandotte Country give please to a proud Celebration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Kansas City, Kansas, County of Wyandotte the County Commission proclaims May 5th as the day to remember and celebrate Mexican Culture Pride, in honor of the individual and collective members of our community of Mexican decent.

RESOLVED, that Wyandotte County proudly proclaims the liberties, freedoms, and privileges to express Pride in the collective evolution of Mexican Culture in the United States, and be it further and finally.

RESOLVED, that we preserve democracy as it exists in this great nation and that we stand strong together in our commitment to Celebrate the Mexican Community, recognizing that our differences when invested in the community and shared with the collective, make us a stronger City therefore County.

"Wyandotte County Mexican Culture Pride Day"

in Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, and urge all citizens to recognize Wyandotte County Mexican Culture Pride Day. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.

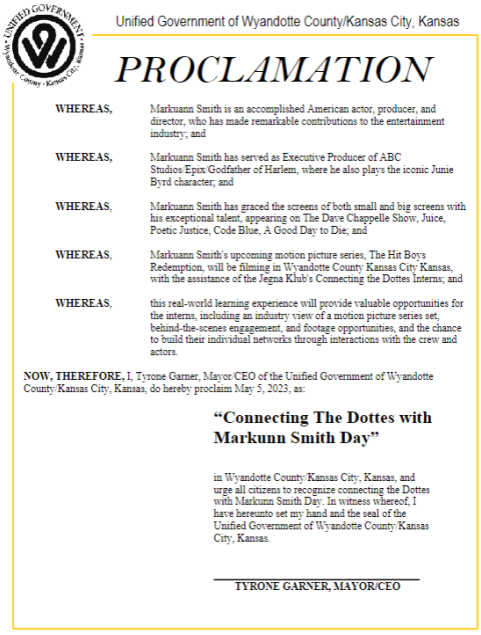
TYRONE GARNER, MAYOR/CEO

Action: **Proclamation was read.**

Item No. 4 – 212445…PROCLAMATION: CONNECTING THE DOTTES WITH MARKUNN SMITH DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming May 5, 2023, as Connecting the Dottes with Markunn Smith Day, submitted by Tyrone A. Garner, Mayor/CEO.

Brett Deichler, UG Clerk, read the following proclamation.



Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Markuann Smith is an accomplished American actor, producer, and director, who has made remarkable contributions to the entertainment industry; and

WHEREAS, Markuann Smith has served as Executive Producer of ABC Studios/Epix/Godfather of Harlem, where he also plays the iconic Junie Byrd character; and

WHEREAS, Markuann Smith has graced the screens of both small and big screens with his exceptional talent, appearing on The Dave Chappelle Show, Juice, Poetic Justice, Code Blue, A Good Day to Die; and

WHEREAS, Markuann Smith's upcoming motion picture series, The Hit Boys Redemption, will be filming in Wyandotte County Kansas City Kansas, with the assistance of the Jegna Klub's Connecting the Dottes Interns; and

WHEREAS, this real-world learning experience will provide valuable opportunities for the interns, including an industry view of a motion picture series set, behind-the-scenes engagement, and footage opportunities, and the chance to build their individual networks through interactions with the crew and actors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tyrone Garner, Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2023, as:

"Connecting The Dottes with Markunn Smith Day"

in Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, and urge all citizens to recognize connecting the Dottes with Markunn Smith Day. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.

_____

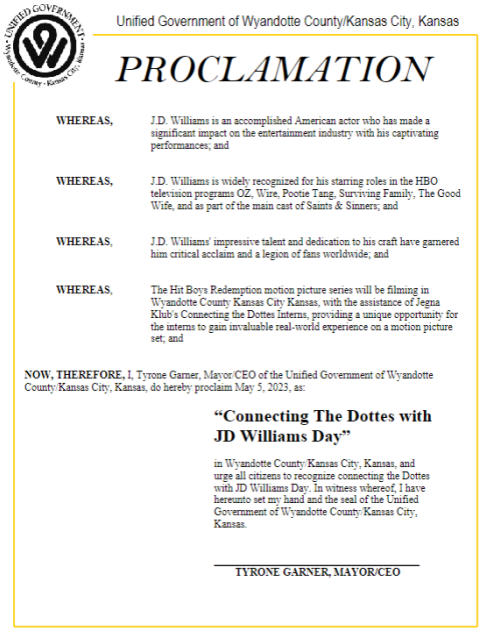
TYRONE GARNER, MAYOR/CEO

Action: **Proclamation was read.**

Item No. 5 – 212447…PROCLAMATION: CONNECTING THE DOTTES WIITH JD WILLIAMS DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming May 5, 2023, as Connecting the Dottes with J.D. Williams Day, submitted by Tyron A Garner, Mayor/CEO.

Brett Deichler, UG Clerk, read the following proclamation.



Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, J.D. Williams is an accomplished American actor who has made a significant impact on the entertainment industry with his captivating performances; and

WHEREAS, J.D. Williams is widely recognized for his starring roles in the HBO television programs OZ, Wire, Pootie Tang, Surviving Family, The Good Wife, and as part of the main cast of Saints & Sinners; and

WHEREAS, J.D. Williams' impressive talent and dedication to his craft have garnered him critical acclaim and a legion of fans worldwide; and

WHEREAS, The Hit Boys Redemption motion picture series will be filming in Wyandotte County Kansas City Kansas, with the assistance of Jegna Klub's Connecting the Dottes Interns, providing a unique opportunity for the interns to gain invaluable real-world experience on a motion picture set; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tyrone Garner, Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2023, as:

"Connecting The Dottes with JD Williams Day"

in Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, and urge all citizens to recognize connecting the Dottes with JD Williams Day. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.

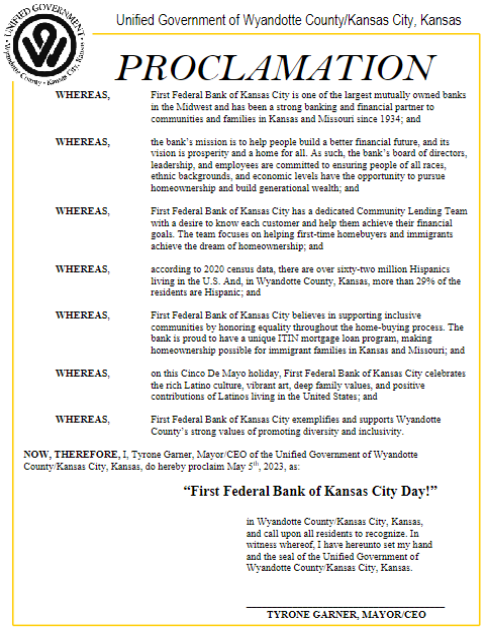
TYRONE GARNER, MAYOR/CEO

Action: Proclamation was read.

Item No. 6 – 212446…PROCLAMATION: FIRST FEDERAL BANK OF KANSAS CITY DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming May 5, 2023, as First Federal Bank of Kansas City Day, submitted by Tyrone A. Garner, Mayor/CEO.

Brett Deichler, UG Clerk, read the following proclamation.



Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, First Federal Bank of Kansas City is one of the largest mutually owned banks in the Midwest and has been a strong banking and financial partner to communities and families in Kansas and Missouri since 1934; and

WHEREAS, the bank's mission is to help people build a better financial future, and its vision is prosperity and a home for all. As such, the bank's board of directors, leadership, and employees are committed to ensuring people of all races, ethnic backgrounds, and economic levels have the opportunity to pursue homeownership and build generational wealth; and

WHEREAS, First Federal Bank of Kansas City has a dedicated Community Lending Team with a desire to know each customer and help them achieve their financial goals. The team focuses on helping first-time homebuyers and immigrants achieve the dream of homeownership; and

WHEREAS, according to 2020 census data, there are over sixty-two million Hispanics living in the U.S. And, in Wyandotte County, Kansas, more than 29% of the residents are Hispanic; and

WHEREAS, First Federal Bank of Kansas City believes in supporting inclusive communities by honoring equality throughout the home-buying process. The bank is proud to have a unique ITIN mortgage loan program, making homeownership possible for immigrant families in Kansas and Missouri; and

WHEREAS, on this Cinco De Mayo holiday, First Federal Bank of Kansas City celebrates the rich Latino culture, vibrant art, deep family values, and positive contributions of Latinos living in the United States; and

WHEREAS, First Federal Bank of Kansas City exemplifies and supports Wyandotte County's strong values of promoting diversity and inclusivity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tyrone Garner, Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, do hereby proclaim May 5th, 2023, as:

"First Federal Bank of Kansas City Day!"

in Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, and call upon all residents to recognize. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.

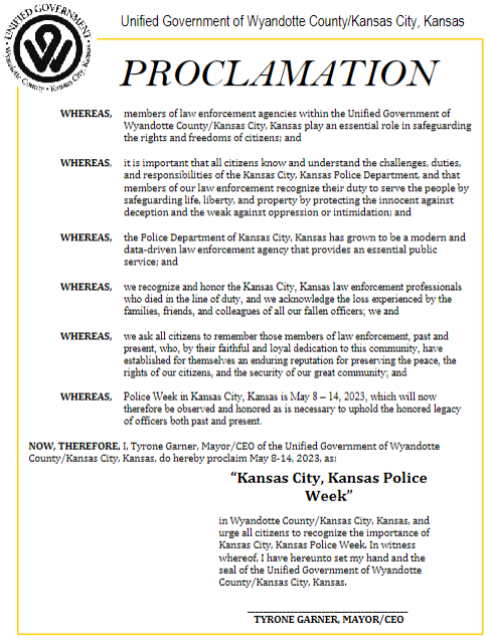
TYRONE GARNER, MAYOR/CEO

Action: **Proclamation was read.**

Item No. 7 – 212449…PROCLAMATION: KANSAS CITY, KANSAS POLICE WEEK

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming May 8 -14, 2023, as Kansas City, Kansas Police Week, submitted by Tyrone A. Garner, Mayor/CEO.

Brett Deichler, UG Clerk, read the following proclamation.



Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, members of law enforcement agencies within the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is important that all citizens know and understand the challenges, duties, and responsibilities of the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department, and that members of our law enforcement recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life, liberty, and property by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression or intimidation; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department of Kansas City, Kansas has grown to be a modern and data-driven law enforcement agency that provides an essential public service; and

WHEREAS, we recognize and honor the Kansas City, Kansas law enforcement professionals who died in the line of duty, and we acknowledge the loss experienced by the families, friends, and colleagues of all our fallen officers; we and

WHEREAS, we ask all citizens to remember those members of law enforcement, past and present, who, by their faithful and loyal dedication to this community, have established for themselves an enduring reputation for preserving the peace, the rights of our citizens, and the security of our great community; and

WHEREAS, Police Week in Kansas City, Kansas is May 8 – 14, 2023, which will now therefore be observed and honored as is necessary to uphold the honored legacy of officers both past and present.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tyrone Garner, Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, do hereby proclaim May 8-14, 2023, as:

"Kansas City, Kansas Police Week"

in Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, and urge all citizens to recognize the importance of Kansas City, Kansas Police Week. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.

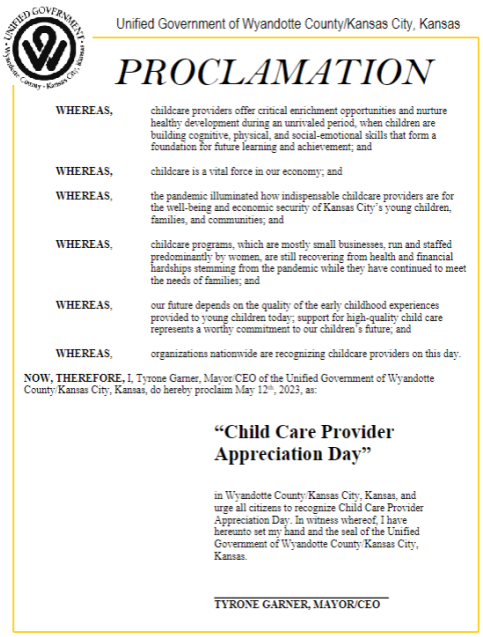
TYRONE GARNER, MAYOR/CEO

Action: **Proclamation was read.**

Item No. 8 – 212452…PROCLAMATION: CHILDCARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming May 12, 2023, as Childcare Provider Appreciation Day, submitted by Tyrone A. Garner, Mayor/CEO.

Brett Deichler, UG Clerk, read the following proclamation.



Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, childcare providers offer critical enrichment opportunities and nurture healthy development during an unrivaled period, when children are building cognitive, physical, and social-emotional skills that form a foundation for future learning and achievement; and

WHEREAS, childcare is a vital force in our economy; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic illuminated how indispensable childcare providers are for the well-being and economic security of Kansas City's young children, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, childcare programs, which are mostly small businesses, run and staffed predominantly by women, are still recovering from health and financial hardships stemming from the pandemic while they have continued to meet the needs of families; and

WHEREAS, our future depends on the quality of the early childhood experiences provided to young children today; support for high-quality child care represents a worthy commitment to our children's future; and

WHEREAS, organizations nationwide are recognizing childcare providers on this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tyrone Garner, Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, do hereby proclaim May 12th, 2023, as:

"Child Care Provider Appreciation Day"

in Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, and urge all citizens to recognize Child Care Provider Appreciation Day. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.

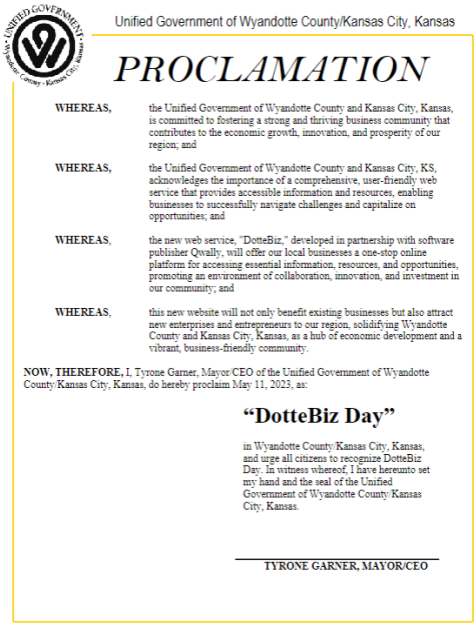
TYRONE GARNER, MAYOR/CEO

Action: Proclamation was read.

Item No. 9 – 212451…PROCLAMATION/PRESENTATION: DOTTEBIZ DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming May 11, 2023, as DotteBiz Day, followed by a presentation by Sharon Reed, Director of Procurement & Contract Compliance, submitted by Tyrone A. Garner, Mayor/CEO.

Brett Deichler, UG Clerk, read the following proclamation.



Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, is committed to fostering a strong and thriving business community that contributes to the economic growth, innovation, and prosperity of our region; and

WHEREAS, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS, acknowledges the importance of a comprehensive, user-friendly web service that provides accessible information and resources, enabling businesses to successfully navigate challenges and capitalize on opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the new web service, "DotteBiz," developed in partnership with software publisher Qwally, will offer our local businesses a one-stop online platform for accessing essential information, resources, and opportunities, promoting an environment of collaboration, innovation, and investment in our community; and

WHEREAS, this new website will not only benefit existing businesses but also attract new enterprises and entrepreneurs to our region, solidifying Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, as a hub of economic development and a vibrant, business-friendly community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tyrone Garner, Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, do hereby proclaim May 11, 2023, as:

"DotteBiz Day"

in Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, and urge all citizens to recognize DotteBiz Day. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.

TYRONE GARNER, MAYOR/CEO

Mayor Garner asked, is there a presentation? **Mr. Deichler** said we do have this video as a presentation. Video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTjQgFO2CzU

Mayor Garner said that really is a culmination of staff hearing both our community, our business community, as well as this Commission on how to better streamline processes here within our Unified Government; move some of the bureaucracy. I know that Commissioner Johnson is working diligently with a task force to look at that. What this does is help move that conversation along.

So, I'm going to ask Sharon Reed if she would come and talk a little bit more about DotteBiz, and answer any questions that the Commission may have.

Sharon Reed, Director of Procurement & Contract Compliance, said initiating this project was a partnership with Kansas City, MO, IT, Qwally. I would really like to thank Qwally because without them, this platform would not be where we are today. I think it's a place to where our small business community will learn, will thrive, and they will appreciate being able to streamline their processes when they're looking for information of where to go, where to get information, and how to build their business strategy.

Commissioner Davis said thank you. Your department is—you all are just taking off and I'm so in support of how you all have—you're really riding this wave of this interest, entrepreneurship within our own community, and you're providing these resources that are so vital. I know we've been in conversations on other particular items and things that we can bring to continue that innovative strategy. But just kudos to you and your department, Qwally, and all those folks, tool boxes. It's just super important to have those partnerships in place, so thank you for your work.

Commissioner Bynum said I had a question and then I found it on the dottebiz.wycokck.org website. The question was going to be if you were helping folks know how to do business with us and there's a link that says work with the UG, so I'm glad you thought of that. I'm assuming that's going to show businesses how to sign up to receive those RFPs and things that we put out through Procurement so that they can take advantage of the economic opportunities that we bring.

Ms. Reed said it addresses both endeavors, internal and external. **Commissioner Bynum** said excellent. Thank you.

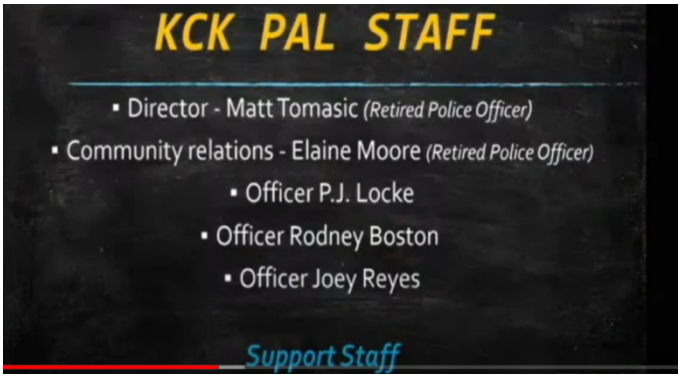
Mayor Garner said I can honestly say that Sharon Reed and her team, along with the Administrator, they're also looking at solidifying the women and minority business enterprise policies here that exist, or really don't exist, here at the UG. So, at some point, will be coming to this Unified Government Commission along with incubators that can support entrepreneurship and small business interests here in the Unified Government as well as, again, continue to work with our community stakeholders on how to streamline the processes to do business here and to remove a lot of the bureaucracy that a lot of our developers, a lot of entrepreneurs, small businesses, especially our minority community, complain about, historically, here at the Unified Government.

As you saw tonight, progress is moving in a direction that is positive and, hopefully, we know that our community will benefit. So, thank you to everybody that's been involved in that process.

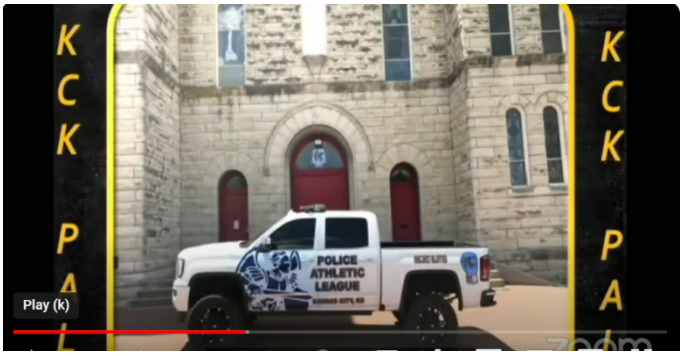
Action: Proclamation was read and presentation made.

Item No. 10 – 212453…PRESENTATION: POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE UPDATE

Synopsis: Presentation regarding activities and programs of the Police Athletic League, submitted by Elaine Moore, Kansas City, Kansas Police Department.



Elaine Moore, Detective (Retired),KCKPD, said I am retired January of this year; 26 years.



Matt Tomasic, Executive Director of PAL, said please, for those of you who don't know, a good way to think about it is we're like a Boys & Girls Club, but we have the advantage of having three full-time police officers and a retired officer there mentoring and making relationships and benefiting, as a community, from all the positive things that grow out of those relationships.

Video link on PALs: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eN9AXGN0SKE&t=1241s

Ms. Moore said we'll talk while we're doing that (referring to playing the video). Deputy Chief is on our Board. We have a Board of Directors also. Since we are a not-for-profit organization, we make sure that we follow all the guidelines. All of our kids that come to the Police Athletic League, everything is free. They pay nothing. They're there Monday – Friday, which is 5:30 – 8:00, but we have so many other events that they're usually there. They can be there on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

There can be 111 kids in there at one time, and it's just us. We never have any issues. The biggest thing is, if you look at the kids, it's the smiles. It's the diversity. We don't just have boys. We don't just have girls. We have Black, White, Asian, Hispanic, Burmese. We have everybody and everybody's welcome. We treat each kid exactly the same.

Mr. Tomasic said we have about currently 15 programs. We'll start a program at the drop of a hat. You want to talk about some of the programs we have?

Ms. Moore said we have way too many programs, but we keep it going because we keep thinking of things. We want to keep the kids engaged. We take them hunting. We call it Hunter Education and Hunter Safety because, again, coming from a police background, how many times did I go to a house and a kid was accidentally shot. We have to teach these kids, and we start them at 8-years-old. It is air rifles.

We do trap shooting. We have archery. We have a wonderful garden. The kids learn how to garden. We go out to War Horses for Veterans, and for people like myself that we don't realize that we do have PTSD. That we do have trauma. Sometimes we need to do that.

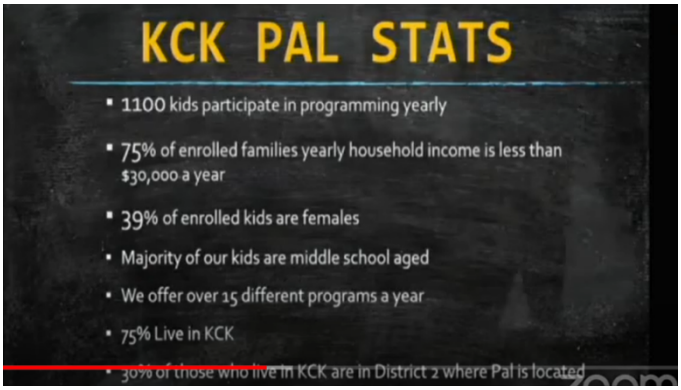
We take our kids surfing which, of course, everybody knows we don't have anything but lakes here, so we raise the money and we take them to California. It is wellness. It is to get their minds together. You'd be surprised how much kids will tell you when you're one-on-one with you.

We have a food pantry. We teach them how to cook. We're eating healthier. I, myself, have lost 10 pounds in two months because I'm eating with the kids. You have to show the kids that you can do it. If we live better, then they start to live better.

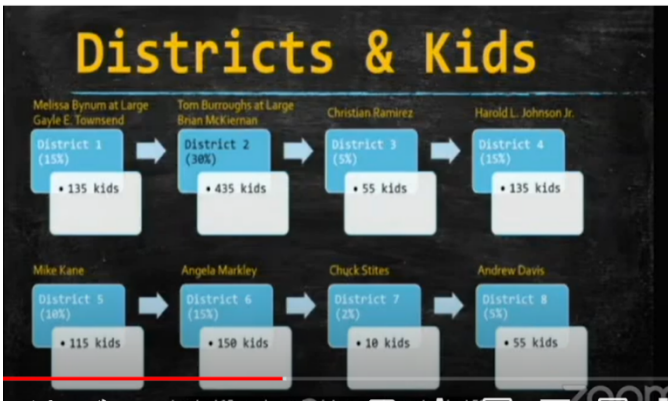
Christmas is great. You all are welcomed. Please come. We do a lot of Christmas, don't I?

Mr. Tomasic said we can't do nothing about the number of guns that are out there. What we can do is teach kids how permanent, final, and irreversible an incident with a gun is. So, the officers went and got certified through the state of Kansas and essentially BB gun. It's called Airsoft. We offered our Airsoft class in our basement and that is around to teach gun safety. The kids really enjoy that.

We had six kids go on a controlled pheasant hunt, after they got their hunter safety certification through the state, and then a controlled goose hunt. So, kids from the city who would never have this opportunity to experience this. I'm proud of that program, that's for sure.



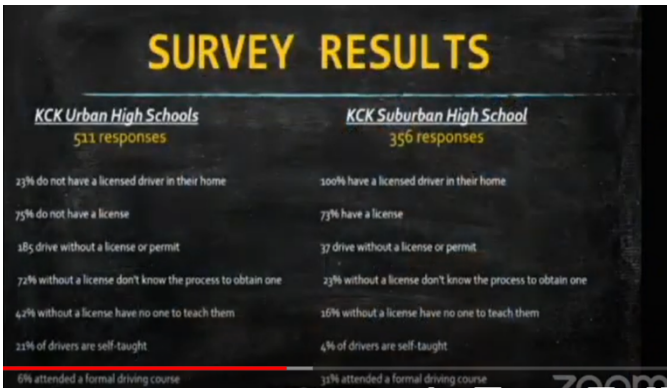
Last year we had 1,100 different kids come in our doors for thousands and thousands of hours. Seventy-five percent of them live below the poverty level. Through all our programs, we're almost 40% girls. The majority of the kids are middle school age. Seventy-five percent of those kids live in KCK.



Ms. Moore said what I did for you, each district, I went around and Tom Burroughs has the most, 435 kids; and then, Chuck Stites, you have 10. We had 7 more last night. Every night we get 4 to 5 kids. We don't turn any kids away. Mike Kane has 115. Markley, you have 150. We can track each kid by their address. I can tell you that the average kid—I pulled up Commissioner Markley's today. The average kid in your district, out of the month, spends 18 days at the PAL. That's an average of four hours a night. Every Wednesday, we feed them because, again, we don't know what's happening in people's households. If they don't tell us, we definitely don't ask.

Mr. Tomasic said PJ and I were one of the officers. We were standing and talking and we overheard a kid say that he had court. We asked him what he had court for and he said I got a

ticket for driving without a license. Why'd you do that, right? Why don't you have a license? You should have a license.



Then we went around and asked all the kids, about 15 of them that drive to the PAL every night, do you have a license? No, no, no. None of them had a driver's license. What we didn't know was that in the '90s, free driver's ed was eliminated from the schools. I paid the $500 to send my kids to driving school, but what do kids do when they don't have that kind of money. I think when they decided to get rid of driver's ed for free from high schools, nobody thought what are the poor kids going to do because what they're doing is just driving. They're driving to the store.

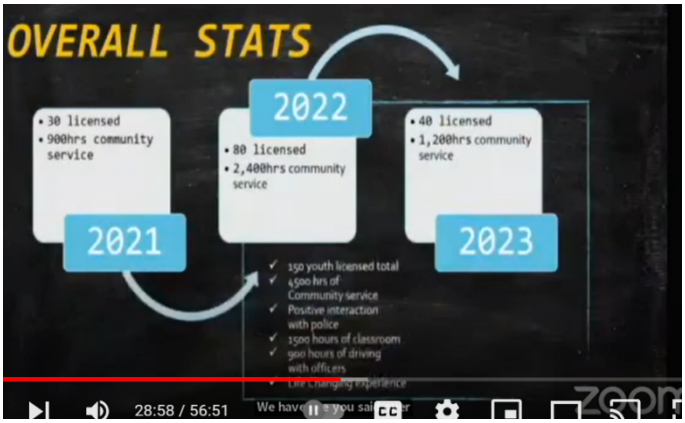
Anyway, the first thing we decided to do, we made a Google survey, a 10 question survey. We got about 500 kids from USD 500, teenagers, and 500 kids from the suburban school, from Piper to take the survey. A few of these things that stand out is 23% of the urban students that we surveyed did not have a licensed driver in their home. Now, how will they ever know how to navigate that process to go get a driver's license if there's not even a licensed driver? Seventy-five percent of the kids were driving without a license. Juxtapose that to 100% of the kids from the suburban schools had a licensed driver in the home. I won't go over any more of those, but we'll leave it here for you guys to look at.

What we did was we sent one of our police officers to the training and we opened up a commercial driving school. We got certified through the state of Kansas. We spent quite a bit of money and quite a bit of time to get it done. The Police Department gave us a car and the garage put a brake on the passenger side. So far, we're almost two years into it. We have over 150 kids who've gotten their license at the PAL for free.

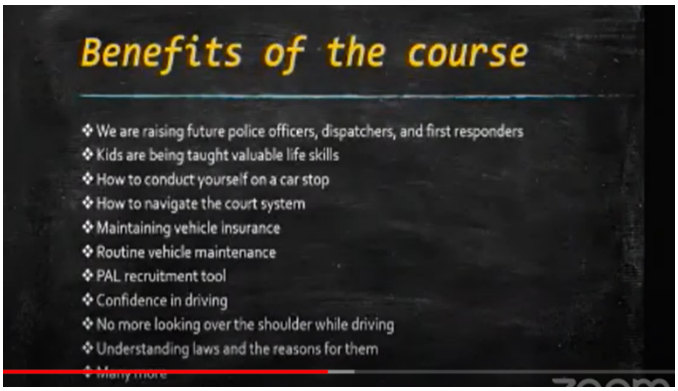
I can say competently that of those 150 kids, probably 130 of them would not have their driver's license today and would still be driving, which means their first interaction with police is a ticket and tow. To get out of that, it's a spiral because it's more money to pay that ticket.

Ms. Moore said that's the circle of unintended consequences. The consequences are horrible. Again, been a police officer my entire life. I didn't realize when I gave a 15-year-old a ticket that didn't have a driver's license that they would have to get a SR-22 and it's a hot mess. We spent, because our kid couldn't do it, we spent over $800 and something just so she could legally get a driver's license. So, a child that is not from here, usually, and doesn't know the system, they get stopped and get a ticket. No insurance. As a police officer, I felt hopeless, helpless because I couldn't help them. I didn't know what to do. I'm like how is that possible? We're the police officers and we didn't know what to do.

So, we navigated the system. We now know and we knew that we had to do something different and that's what we did.



We have, like you said, over 150 youth that are licensed. This year, we were able to give one of our kids a car. It wasn't easy. It was donated from one of our Board members' relatives.



The benefit of the course is, hopefully, we're raising, outside of the relationships that we're having, most kids are afraid. Most people will say I hate the police or I'm afraid of the police. Our kids run to us. We're the first face that they see.

They know how to conduct themselves in a car stop. We teach them how to maintain their vehicles. We get out there and if they can see me do it, then they should be able to do it. We change oil. We change tires. We do regular maintenance. They're more confident in their vehicles. They don't feel like they need to drag race. They don't have to look over their shoulder because they're legal. It's difficult when you're not legal and you're a kid.

Mr. Tomasic said our biggest measurable at the PAL, for me, is going to be how many of our kids come back and serve the community as police officers, dispatchers, firemen, and nurses. I believe when the majority of your Police Department comes from your community, you're solving problems that you'll never know you have because those problems are being solved. We're talking to these kids at 15, 16, 17. Have you ever thought about being a police officer? Yeah. You get a lot of time off. Never get a parking or speeding ticket. You know there's lots of benefits to being a police officer.

I think when we first opened four years ago, the police were uncool so we really didn't have very many teenagers. We had a lot of 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 who are now up in their teenage years. Wearing to high school police gear, you see kids in high school and their athletic league shirts and hoodies, that says something to me. But they're going to be the police officers of the future. I know that.

Video link on PAL's Learning to Drive:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eN9AXGN0SKE&t=1241s

Ms. Moore said I guess what that said, what we're asking is that if you have not visited the PAL, please do so. The best night to come, honestly, is really Wednesday because that's when we feed the kids. The community—we had a group from Rockhurst last night. This is the second time that they've fed our kids. So, if we don't have somebody that feeds them or volunteers, I do it. So, if you want to volunteer to bring food, please do. But seriously, come down. Like I said, you have quite a few kids and you might see kids from your own communities down there. Mr. Johnson, you've got a lot.

Commissioner Ramirez said thank you, thank you, thank you for all that you do. It's amazing to see what the PAL has become and how amazing that camaraderie that you provide for the children. We know youth violence, and just violence in general, is common in our community, unfortunately, but being able to give our children a place to be safe and to be, what I say, to be a kid. Not have to worry about life. Not having to worry about taking care of their siblings, taking care of parents, having to take care of the home. Just be a kid. So, I truly thank you for that and for all that you do.

I have not come down, but I will be there Wednesday. I will. I really do want to see this in action and see the kids. I love that one thing you mentioned, the smiles. All of the smiles that the kids have. They are enjoying it. So, just thank you for all that you do and what you continue to do.

The one question I ask, and I think you kind of already did answer it is, if a community member wanted to help volunteer, are there ways for people in the community to help volunteer with the PAL?

Ms. Moore said yes, absolutely. If they want to volunteer at the PAL, of course, we do just a little background check to make sure that they can actually be around kids, to be honest, because we want our kids to be safe. As far as like the food or dropping off the food, we'll take it from people. We have a kitchen downstairs. You can prepare it there. You can buy it, but yes. We do have an application that people fill out. But just for a tour, you don't need to do that.

Commissioner Ramirez said okay. I just ask if there are like volunteer opportunities because I know, hopefully, more people become aware. Hopefully, more children throughout our

districts are more aware of the program. I'll definitely do my part of speaking it to community members about the PAL and to the children in my district to get them involved in it because, again, the essence is, let them be a kid. Let them leave life at the door and just have fun. So, thank you for everything you do.

Commissioner Stites said first off, Elaine, congratulations on retirement. I know you were ready. Elaine and I worked together for many years on the Police Department and did a lot of good things together. I enjoyed working with her a lot.

How come you don't let George talk? George, are you just there to look pretty?

George Sims, Lieutenant Colonel, KCKPD, said no. I just come up and echo what they say. I will add that if you haven't been there, the PAL is really doing incredible things and we're proud to be a part of it. We heard the word safe several times. It is a place where the kids come to feel safe. They feel loved and they get to participate in meaningful activities.

I want to throw this out because they didn't mention during their presentation on the driver's ed piece that Matt and Rodney Boston, one of our officers, recently presented on that at the National Child. So, we had a bigger team up there and they presented on this. Watch for this to become a model around the country because the numbers that Matt put out there, they're not just KCK numbers.

A lot of us came up. We all came up differently and we took a lot of things for granted like having somebody to teach us to drive, help us with our homework, get us to a sport or other activity. The PAL does an incredible job of giving this kind of thing to the community.

Again, I can't say enough. Everybody who's had any contact with it is always amazed at the good work that comes out of this organization. We can all just be happy to have a part of that.

Commissioner Stites said well, good job. It definitely looks like a program that's well worth investing in.

Commissioner Stites asked, how about outreach, Elaine? I know you pointed out my district and you said there were 10. How do they get contacted? How does a young person find out about PAL so they can get involved?

Ms. Moore said what we did initially is we went to every school and put the word out, of course, through counselors and the teachers. Then on Facebook because all the kids are on

Facebook and Instagram. So, we went that direction. The biggest thing is once our kids start coming, they tell their neighbors or their friends and that's really how it just kind of—when we first started, we were like we got five kids in here. What happened? It just grew and grew.

Like I said, I was there last night. We got seven additional kids and three of them did come from your district. Like I said, anybody that wants to know that about their district, I can break it down completely. See how many hours they were there. How many were there, etc. We do have the website, too.

Commissioner Stites said I, too, will be visiting and I'm not afraid to put on a cooking robe there and help serve food. So, thank you guys very much.

Commissioner Johnson said I was just thinking as I was watching that video, that church used to be called, was it St. Ann's? Mr. Tomasic said St. Mary's. **Commissioner Johnson** said they used to have a food kitchen downstairs. My mother would go down and volunteer. She would drag me along, kicking and screaming, to serve. What she was doing was instilling the principle of service to others. So, as I was looking at the video, I thought I think I want to bring my mom down there and have her see what's going on down there. I am going to definitely do that. You have my word on that. Keep up the great work. I really appreciate with you're doing.

Commissioner Burroughs said I think it's been about five years now with the facility. I remember what you started with and what you have today. It's a tremendous treasure for the youth of our community, and to build on that foundation of interaction between law enforcement and our youth today that sometimes doesn't meet with law enforcement on the best of circumstances. To build the life skills that you and your fellow officers are putting forward is something that these kids will take back into the community. The dividends are not yet there but they're coming.

I commend all of you. Thank you for the time and commitment you give to the youth of our community. I'm still going to send more.

Ms. Moore said our arms are this long.

Mr. Tomasic said we've been contacted by nine police departments, after the presentation, about them wanting to start a driver's ed program. They see it as the perfect means, by this interaction, to preventing crime by helping kids, through clearing no fault of their own, (inaudible).

Mayor Garner said I've got a question for you. You didn't mention it. Your funding. How does that work?

Ms. Moore said we're not opposed to asking. We get grants. We apply for grants consistently, but we're not opposed to asking because it's not for us.

Mr. Tomasic said the function of our Board is to raise money and support the balance. Last year, we were about 30% grants and then we were responsible for the other 70%. It's a lot of people through the PAL; foundations. We have a couple of fundraisers a year. We get a little bit of support from the Unified Government, and we're very grateful for it. More dollars means we're able to put more kids through the door. We realize that the Police Department can only give us so many bodies because from the department side, it still has calls for service to go on and crimes to investigate.

So, from a Board perspective, we want to hire retired officers to come back and kind of get a—we kind of get the best of both worlds there. For us to grow, we have to grow the budget and then hire, hopefully, retired officers to supplement the officers from the Kansas City, KS Police.

Commissioner Bynum said I really appreciate all that you do so, I want to say that right up front. You know access to a photo ID is a big deal in this community and you're helping with that. I really appreciate it. If a parent of one of your PAL kids wanted to get a driver's license through your program, would you help them?

Mr. Tomasic said I think what we've talked about doing, once we have the staff in place, is having an adult class. We don't want to take away from any of the kids, but we also see the need for adults to get this too. So, it's kind of in our long-range forecast.

Commissioner Bynum said great. That would be awesome. Thank you so much.

Commissioner Stites said last question. When you said, Matt, that you get a little bit of money from the UG, what did you mean by that?

Mr. Tomasic said since we've opened, we've gotten money from the budget. I don't know the exact number. I think it was $50K, somewhere in that range.

Commissioner Stites asked, what's your annual operating?

Mr. Tomasic said last year it was half a million dollars. We hired Elaine and we also brought on a Director of Development. This year, it's $700K. We anticipate, because of the

number of kids—if we have the staff, the number of kids through the doors are virtually endless. We have a waiting list for our driver's ed program, I mean months. We have to have minimum staff to provide a safe environment.

Last summer we had to raise the age for kids that participate at one point because we had over 100 kids in the gym and somebody's going to get hurt.

Mayor Garner said thank you all so much. It's befitting that this presentation—this is Police Week, recognizing the work. You hear a lot about policing. I can say just from my experience—and we've got Deputy Chief Sims here that can speak to that—the Kansas City, KS Police Department goes out of their way to make sure that they try and build good, positive bridges for this community be it through 21st Century policing type of initiatives, community policing, but really more importantly is reaching these young people where they are.

So, thank you so much for what you do for our young people here in Kansas City, KS. It's applauded and, hopefully, we can continue to support you in the years ahead because you truly are making a difference and a positive impact here in Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS. Thank you so much for your presentation.

Action: Presentation was made.

Item No. 11 – 211539…COMMUNITY INPUT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Synopsis: Public forum to allow citizens to express concerns and present solutions relating specifically and solely to the Unified Government's span of interest and control. Participants will be limited to two minutes in duration. Citizens appearing in the Municipal Office Building will be given priority, followed by a limited number of participants who have registered online through the Unified Government Clerk's Office. Those who have registered online may not be given an immediate opportunity to participate due to time constraints to be determined by the Mayor/CEO. If time allows, persons listening online who wish to make comments will be recognized. All interested participants should know that Mayor/CEO Garner has also placed a maximum time limit of 45 minutes to host & conclude these discussions. In the interest of time, there should be no expectation for the requested participant's guaranteed inclusion to be recognized for comment and participation.

Mayor Garner said I will now open the public comment portion of this meeting and ask the Clerk to provide a synopsis indicating how many comments were submitted to the Clerk's Office and how many citizens have signed up to speak.

Mr. Deichler said at this time, we do not have anybody signed up to appear in the Commission Chambers.

Mayor Garner asked, is there anyone present that would like to speak on any items of the Unified Government interests?

Lisa Walker Yeager said I'm coming to you today, and I'm just so ecstatic about what I just heard. That is just so exceptional. I wish we could find some better ways. Also, the Vice President of Parkwood neighborhood, so I think also getting that information out to the neighborhood presidents and leaders so we can get our community interested in that because that is awesome.

Anyway, I stand before you today to see what we can do to—I've been going to a whole lot of different meetings, but we need something that could help with the taxes. Our taxes are astronomical on top of the fact that we are still dealing with BPU and dealing with all the fees. I don't know if you guys know that they're getting ready to raise your rates. There's a meeting coming up, I believe in June, where they're raising the rates again.

Back to the taxes. I think I posted on Facebook, Mayor Tyrone, to make sure that it was something that we can extend more time to abate our taxes. I know within Parkwood neighborhood, people are buying now. I'm not for sure who, but they're offering cash money for these houses, $300K for these houses that are not even worth $300K. They're raising them up so high so now our elderly are going to have to pay the taxes.

Now, if you look into it, and I spoke with Gayle, one of the main things that I spoke with her and I explained to her--this was probably about a year or two ago before I started running—that what made me run was the fact that I have some elderly in there that were struggling trying to keep their homes. I know several of them lost their homes in Parkwood. You could just see it. They just lost their homes. **Mr. Deichler** said one minute remaining.

Ms. Walker Yeager said so the taxes is what I'm asking what can we do, and we need someone to help because we asked for it to be extended for us to be able to abate our taxes. We need to put a cap on there. I'm asking you all to come to some type of way of putting a cap where they can't raise our taxes 28% in one daggone year. I don't know what you can do, but most like

in Kansas City, MO, you can't go over 3% or 5% or something like that per year. If you guys can please help out because I know you guys are going to get older. You're going to be on a pension plan. You're going to be on a fixed income and it's going to affect you guys, too. So, please help our seniors because I don't know who it is coming in here and throwing $300K cash at these homes and putting them out. **Mr. Deichler** said your time has expired.

Ms. Walker Yeager said …takes us out of any type of abatement as far as with the elderly.

Mayor Garner asked, is there anyone else present that would like to give comments?

Clerk, is there anyone online that would like to give comments? **Mr. Deichler** said seeing none.

Mayor Garner said I will now close the public comments.

Action: Public comments were taken.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Garner asked, do any members of the Commission or County Administrator wish to set aside any item on the Regular Consent Agenda? If an item is not set aside, all items on the Regular Consent Agenda will be voted on by one vote.

Action: Commissioner Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to approve. Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Ramirez, Johnson, Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend.

Item No. 1 – 212379…RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN USD 202, THE UG, AND KCKPD TO ADMINISTER A 911 CALL TAKER TRAINING PROGRAM

Synopsis: Approval of the Resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding between USD 202, the Unified Government, and KCKPD to administer 911 Call Taker training program, submitted by Karl Oakman, Chief of Police, KCKPD; and Renee Ramirez, Director of Human

Resources. On April 24, 2023, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve and forward to the full Commission.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-31-23,** "A resolution authorizing the approval of an agreement between the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, and Unified School District No. 202 for a 911 Call-Taker Training Program." **Commissioner Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Ramirez, Johnson, Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend.

Item No. 2 – 212380…RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN USD 203, THE UG, AND KCKPD TO ADMINISTER A 911 CALL TAKER TRAINING PROGRAM

Synopsis: Approval of the Resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding between USD 203, the Unified Government, and KCKPD to administer a 911 Call Taker training program, submitted by Karl Oakman, Chief of Police, KCKPD; and Renee Ramirez, Director of Human Resources. On April 24, 2023, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve and forward to the full Commission.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-32-23,** "A resolution authorizing the approval of an agreement between the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, and Unified School District No. 203 for a 911 Call-Taker Training Program." **Commissioner Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Ramirez, Johnson, Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend.

Item No. 3 – 212381…RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN USD 204, THE UG, AND KCKPD TO ADMINISTER A 911 CALL TAKER TRAINING PROGRAM

Synopsis: Approval of the Resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding between USD 204, the Unified Government, and KCKPD to administer a 911 Call Taker training program,

submitted by Karl Oakman, Chief of Police, KCKPD; and Renee Ramirez, Director of Human Resources. On April 24, 2023, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve and forward to the full Commission.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-33-23,** "A resolution authorizing the approval of an agreement between the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, and Unified School District No. 204 for a 911 Call-Taker Training Program." **Commissioner Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to adopt the resolution**. Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Ramirez, Johnson, Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend.

Item No. 4 – 212382…RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN USD 500, THE UG, AND KCKPD TO ADMINISTER A 911 CALL TAKER TRAINING PROGRAM

Synopsis: Approval of the Resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding between USD 500, the Unified Government, and KCKPD to administer a 911 Call Taker training program, submitted by Karl Oakman, Chief of Police, KCKPD; and Renee Ramirez, Director of Human Resources. On April 24, 2023, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve and forward to the full Commission.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-34-23,** "A resolution authorizing the approval of an agreement between the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, and Unified School District No. 500 for a 911 Call-Taker Training Program." **Commissioner Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Ramirez, Johnson, Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend.

Item No. 5 – MINUTES

Synopsis: Minutes from the full Commission meeting on August 25, 2022, and Special Session meeting on April 13, 2023.

Action: **Commissioner Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Ramirez, Johnson, Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend.

Item No. 6 – WEEKLY BUSINESS MATERIAL

Synopsis: Weekly business material dated April 20 and 27, 2023.

Action: **Commissioner Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to receive and file.** Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Ramirez, Johnson, Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend.

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

No items

STANDING COMMITTEES' AGENDA

No items

ADMINISTRATOR'S AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 212441…REAPPOINTMENT: REACH FOUNDATION BOARD

Synopsis: REACH Board of Directors requests consideration of the following individual and their respective new terms of appointment to the REACH Board, with all terms going into effect on June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2026, submitted by Lisa Rangel, Commissioner's Office.

- Deryl Wynn, 3-year term

Mayor Garner said Brenda Sharpe, President/CEO of the REACH Healthcare Foundation, is available for any questions, I believe she may be, or comments from the Commission.

Action: **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Ramirez, Johnson, Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend.

COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 212440…TRAVEL REQUEST: COMMISSIONER DAVIS

Synopsis: Request to travel for Unified Government business to Austin, Texas, to attend the NACo's 2023 Annual Conference, submitted by Commissioner Davis.

Commissioner Davis said as many of you are aware, we get regular updates from our Kansas Chapter, the Kansas Association of Counties, as well as the national. The national conference is in Austin, TX. I'm super excited to go particularly because this conversation about affordable housing is not just (inaudible) to Wyandotte County. There are other counties throughout the country that are doing a variety of things, so this would be very instrumental. I plan on using all the information from this conference to better our communities.

Action: **Commissioner Davis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Ramirez, Johnson, Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend.

LAND BANK BOARD OF TRUSTEES' CONSENT AGENDA

No items

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

No items

ADJOURN

Commissioner Davis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to adjourn. Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Ramirez, Johnson, Markley, Sites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend.

Mayor Garner said as we go into Mother's Day, we'd like to wish every mother in Wyandotte County a happy Mother's Day.

MAYOR GARNER

ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 7:52 P.M.

May 11, 2023

Brett A. Deichler, PMP|CPM
Unified Government Clerk

cg