

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

REGULAR SESSION
August 17, 2023

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Regular Session Thursday, August 17, 2023, with ten members present via Zoom and on site: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO, presiding. Ramirez, Commissioner Third District, was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: David Johnston, County Administrator; Wendy Green, Senior Counsel; Irene Caudillo, Chief of Staff in Mayor's Office; Major William Wallace, KCKPD; Angela Joyce, Master Sergeant, KCKPD; Dennis Rubin, Fire Chief; Jessica Kraus, Community Paramedicine, KCKFD; Jeff Miles, Water Pollution Control Director; Brett Deichler, UG Clerk; and Brittnie MacDonald, UG Clerk's Office.

Mayor Garner said before I call the meeting to order, I want to announce that some commissioners, staff, and the public are attending remotely via Zoom, by phone, or on site. All participants joining by phone should please 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 exactly who is speaking. Please be sure to speak directly into the microphone so the public can hear your comments and that an accurate record of the meeting is made to our Clerk. Also, make sure you speak at a tone that is audible so everyone can hear you and hear you clearly. 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: Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Garner. **Mr. Deichler** said Commissioner Ramirez has an absence notice.

Mayor Garner said the invocation tonight is going to be given by Commissioner Johnson, Pastor of Faith Deliverance Church of God in Christ, followed immediately by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Garner asked, Clerk, are there any revisions to tonight's agenda? **Mr. Deichler** said there was one change that needs to be announced. The blue sheet outlining a revision to Item No. 1 on tonight's Standing Committee Agenda was issued surrounding a real estate purchase agreement with Kansas City, Kansas Community College.

MAYOR'S AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 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 three 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 asked, Clerk, would you like to read the notes on that.

Mr. Deichler said when we call your name, please come to the microphone and state your name and residency for the record. You will have three minutes to speak. After two minutes, I will give you a one minute warning. We will also announce who is second on the list here. We've got four listed tonight, so you could be prepared to come right behind.

Ryan McCarron, Cleaner Now, said I've met some of you before. We've interacted. As you know, Cleaner Now, we are a community organization. We're out of the city here. We work with the community and for the community, and we're advocating always for environmental justice.

Why I'm here today is we have been going to a lot of the BPU meetings of the BPU Board of Commission, Board members. We attended—a lot of my colleagues were at the BPU/UG meeting that occurred a few weeks ago. We are here just to follow up on that, to talk about what our community members are relaying to you, to the Unified Government, to you the commissioners, mainly about the high cost of their BPU bills that keep rising and rising and the fact that they are connected together with the PILOT tax which cannot be separated from their utility bill unfortunately.

A lot of community members continue until today to face this dilemma of do I pay my utility bill or not because it's so high because of all that higher fees that are associated with it rather than having it separated. I know discussions were had to consider maybe try to figure something out about this. I'm hoping that this is a priority for this government. That something is on the agenda as soon as possible to address it.

We were surprised, shocked to learn how high the PILOT tax is. We know how high it is, but once the BPU showed us the comparison numbers of other cities that have a similar structure in terms of public utilities where their number is 5% or 4% or 6% on the PILOT tax while we are paying 11.9% tax every time we pay a utility bill.

I'm guessing, just to summarize, let us address these issues. Let's try to lower the PILOT tax as soon as we can. Let's separate the bills on the BPU. Give our citizens, our community members, the option. Like today, I'd rather have some power and I can deal with my taxes tomorrow because they don't have that choice today. As always, we continue hoping that asking that you are looking into every avenue. **Mr. Deichler** said you have one minute remaining.

Mr. McCarron said when we were discussing about all these federal funds that are coming in to help in the investment of our infrastructure and our energy for Wyandotte County so that we can try to bridge this gap, try to reduce the costs on the community members rather than continuing to, I don't want to use the word fleecing, but raising taxes on our community members to pay for something that could be coming in from somewhere else.

I guess my main ask is please prioritize this. If you have any updates about this topic for us, I would appreciate hearing about it.

Fannie Hill said I want to thank Commissioner Bynum and Mr. Stites for the meeting we had. I thought it was a powerful meeting. I don't know how they felt about it because we, as a community, are really struggling with the tax situation in this county.

I want to apologize to all of you for dropping it on you as a community. We weren't involved. We weren't there. We should have been there. Now we're asking for a seat at the table. When you're doing the budget, we don't just want to sit there, we want a voice there. We want to be a part of it because we are part of this community.

Everybody in this community is going to have to bear some of the responsibility to get us from where we are to where we're trying to go. We're trying to balance the budget. Much money is needed. We're over taxed. The BPU bills keep going up. Everybody needs to make a sacrifice. If you don't feel it, then it's not a sacrifice. That means you're going to feel it but it won't kill you. It won't kill any of us. I suggested to them that we give up the pizza parties that the commissioners have when they do their meetings. We don't need to give \$10,000 to everybody who's having a meeting out of the budget. That money is needed.

The casino money that's coming in, we discussed giving that up. They said it was for the 501(3)(c)s. The 501(3)(c)s are going to have to bite the bullet and make the sacrifice and get grants from other places: government, private grants. There's money out there. Grants are everywhere. I'm surprised at how much money is out there. They're going to have to be willing to make the sacrifice for the next two years.

I said the casino is a part of this community. Sit down with them. Explain to them where we are and ask for their help to reroute that money to where it's needed. Every department should be willing to take a 5 or 10% budget cut. **Mr. Deichler** said you have one minute remaining.

Ms. Hill said we're working together. Together we can survive. Divided, going on the way we are, we go down. A house divided will not stand because simply God said it wouldn't. You can't make Him out of a lie and you can't make it stand. It's going down. We're going to have to come together, be willing to work together, bite the bullet or go down. We have a choice to make and we intend to make it as a community. We hope that you hear what we're saying. There's a difference in hearing and listening. When you hear, you respond to what you heard. We expect some positive response in our favor. We need the commissioners to hear.

I have a meeting with the Mayor. I have a meeting with Reggie. I'm trying to get a meeting with the Administrator. We have the cuts that we feel that needs to be made. We're willing to

sacrifice and we expect the same for everybody who say I love this community and I'm a part of this community. You can't love without giving. **Mr. Deichler** said your time has expired.

Ms. Hill said there is no love with sacrifice.

Cece Manck, Wyandotte County, said I'm coming to the Board today because I was made or I already knew about one of the lawsuits, but there have been two lawsuits to the Unified Government from the United States about polluted water. One of them was raw sewage being pumped into our water or dumped into our water. The other one is more recent as of 2022, October, or as of 2020. There were all kinds of pollutants, lithium, sulfate, all these things, valium, arsenic in our water. Some of those levels are higher than the EPA and the establishments or whoever it is that governs those things. It's higher than that at this point.

How can you all raise our bill why you poison? You're going to charge us to poison us? That's what it is all the different poison. I have all my receipts and I'll share them to Facebook, if y'all want to see them.

Y'all raise the water bill by 6% why you're poisoning us. The current report was as of October 17, 2022. You knew currently that you were poisoning us and yet you still wanted to raise our bills. When I say our bills, I'm not just talking about BPU. I'm talking about the Unified Government because taxation without representation is illegal, period. Y'all not doing y'all jobs if you're poisoning us.

Edgar Galicia, Central Avenue Betterment Association, said the point I want to bring to your attention is the Central Avenue Bridge that is in disrepair. I want to bring to your attention the fact that connectivity, direct connection, and direct transportation to the market, to the city, to the whole metro is important for all of our businesses and the wealth creating or generating, bringing/coming from our community. There is lack of communication, transportation, and (inaudible) to prosper. We want to bring that back. We want to make sure these topics are on your agenda because the self-investing community that you are leading, it's being secluded. That is a challenge that we need to face rather quickly in the benefit of those who are paying taxes still and who have invested for the longest time through thick and thin in this community, in this economy. Please think about the Central Avenue Bridge that connects us to the biggest market that we have next to us, two minutes from us.

The downtown KCMO will pretty soon be topped out, will be maxed out. These people will look for places to go, where to take some time off, where to walk, where to build new families. If we're not connected to that market...**Mr. Deichler** said one minute remaining.

Mr. Galicia said we will suffer and we will continue, you know, stagnated in our economy.

Some members of the community are talking about taxes. I'm asking you that if you need taxes to operate, give us the chance to make the money to pay the taxes.

Louise Lynch said I have quite a bit to say, so I'm going to try and speak as clearly and quickly as I can. I want to talk about the taxes and revenue neutral. We all talk about we can't afford these taxes, but we can't afford them to go up. All of you commissioners who voted almost unanimously, without Tom Burroughs—Tom Burroughs was the only one who did not vote for going against revenue neutral—voted to increase our taxes. That is not acceptable when you guys increase your salaries every year.

We're about to have a budget go through. I want to make sure, and I want to ask each one of our commissioners, especially my commissioner who's MIA at an important meeting where his constituents get to ask questions, he's not here. Not surprisingly, Christian Ramirez.

All of you are given money, via the casino money, that you distribute to non-profits. We would like to have an accounting as to how that money was distributed and how much, ultimately, went to the cause. Not how much you just gave to the non-profits, but how much that non-profit took for administrative costs. What did the people really get out of that money? I'm in agreement with Fannie Hill. We need to cut that out and give the money directly to the people.

We're about to have a huge tax sale coming up, and many people are at risk of losing their homes that they've paid outright but they can't afford the taxes. One thing I want to ask each one of you commissioners, and I would like to have an answer even if you don't do it today. You can post it tomorrow. You can put it online because many of you know how to go online and do that really quickly or you can call. I can call tomorrow and leave you a number to call back. Out of the slush fund that was put up last year that Andrew Davis's motion and got voted on, and you all got out of the Mayor's discretionary fund over \$10 grand, how much of that is left in your districts? I want to know if you are willing to commit tonight to give whatever is left...**Mr. Deichler** said you have one minute remaining.

Ms. Lynch said to the tax sale to those people to save them from becoming homeless. I don't care if it's one within your district or not, you support all of the county. You need to save 40 plus families from being homeless and helping to pay their tax bill because it cannot be cut off this tax sale now. You need to put the community first. Those of you who have not used it or not used it all, I want your commitment to the people that you're willing to support them and give that money back. Give that back because it should have been used right the first time. It should have not been done the way it was. We want an accounting. No more freebies.

If we want to reduce money, please give back your raises. I know you don't get paid a lot, but there are people that don't even get paid that and don't get raises. Use this money from the Hollywood Casino to be put for relief for utilities...**Mr. Deichler** said your time has expired.

Mr. Lynch said and for taxes. We need to move on this for the people.

Mayor Garner asked, is there anyone else in the audience who would like to speak? (No response.)

Mayor Garner said I'd like to apologize. We've got Mayor Harrington here from Bonner Springs. He wanted to make a brief presentation.

Jeff Harrington, Mayor of Bonner Springs, said greetings from Bonner Springs. I'm the Mayor of Bonner Springs for a little while longer. I chose not to rerun. At the end of the year, I'll be finishing my third term. I've been very blessed to have served with a great group. I also feel very well supported now with our county commissioners, Commissioners Stites and Burroughs, who directly represent us and all of the commissioners here. Mayor Garner, thank you so much for your support.

Our town festival is coming up, Tiblo Days. It's named in honor of one of our founding fathers that operated a ferry across the river in Bonner Springs. Tiblo Days is a family fun, friendly event. We'll have a parade and carnival, entertainment, food vendors, all types of fun activities for children. I invite all of you. You've all been invited to the parade. If you'd like to come out, you're more than welcome. Meet at the high school for dignitaries at 8:30, I think. We'd love to have you in the parade. Otherwise, please bring your families out and enjoy Tiblo Days in Bonner Springs.

I did want to just briefly make mention that we were not able to meet the revenue neutral limit and had to have a hearing to exceed our revenue neutral limit; however, we will be reducing our mill rate by, I believe, two mills this next budget period. I'm very proud of that. We've continued to be blessed with development in Bonner Springs. That's helping to bring that forward, and we're doing our very best to spend our citizens' portion of the mill tax levy, property taxes, as best we can.

Also, Bonner continues to stand ready with space in our newly remodeled City Hall, 100-year-old city hall that's been newly remodeled, to help you provide county services to county residents. We have some office space for some of the activities that you've already been helping with residents out in the western portion of the city like flu shots with the Health Department, housing resource needs, Area Agency on Aging, other community resources, and transportation needs.

This last year, I believe, we had a Health Department intern for a period of time, and from what I've gathered, worked very well.

We stand ready to commit that assistance to the Unified Government to help better serve the residents of Wyandotte County in the western portion, as well as continue to make sure we're as cooperative as possible with all of our other infrastructure needs, emergency services, and all those aspects of the Police and Fire departments.

Mayor Garner said question for you, Mayor. When you say ready to assist the Unified Government, what does that look like to you and your Council?

Mayor Harrington said I think having office space or space that is utilized by the County Health Department or a county service resource area; an individual where we can save some of our residents in the western portion of the county a trip 25 minutes long into the City Hall if it wasn't necessary. Those types of community resources in a very economical office space. I don't know that we provide your laptops or computers, but we can sure connect them to what we've got going. I don't think it would be a large expense for anybody.

Mayor Garner asked, again, were there anybody who would like to speak that hasn't spoke for the public comments? All right. I will now close the public comments.

Action: **The public forum was held.**

Item No. 2 – 212635...UPDATE: FINANCIAL AUDIT

Synopsis: An update of the Unified Government Financial audit process conducted by FORVIS LLP, submitted by Tyrone A. Garner, Mayor/CEO.

David Johnston, County Administrator, said every year most units of local government have to undergo an annual financial audit, and the results of those audits are used to inform the public on our accountability, the use of the public funds. It's used in the financial markets by organizations that are responsible for setting the community's bond rating and many other uses.

This year, we have a new team serving the Unified Government and would like for them to introduce themselves and give a brief update of where they're at in our process.



Jacob Holman, Partner, FORVIS, said we truly appreciate this opportunity to present today. Like the Administrator said, this is our first year working with the Unified Government. We're very excited for this opportunity. I know it's been a long time since the Unified Government has switched auditors. So, we really wanted to take the opportunity to just really introduce ourselves, introduce our team, introduce our firm, and really just give an update. There's several different types of audits that are out there. Really, just give an update of what we're engaged to do and what other types of audits are out there.

Introductions



Jacob Holman, CPA
Partner & Lead Audit
Engagement Executive



Allison Swaters, CPA
Managing Director &
Uniform Guidance Executive



Shane Nickle, CPA
Audit Senior Manager

FORVIS

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From the introduction, my name is Jacob Holman. I am a partner with FORVIS here locally in Kansas City. I've been with the firm for about 16 years. I lead our public sector practice here in Kansas City. I work with cities, counties, state, political organizations, as well as large utilities throughout the Midwest, really.

With me here I have Allison Swaters. Allison is a Managing Director and she's going to lead the compliance audit. We'll talk a little bit about what that audit is as well. Allison leads a lot of our large public sector practice compliance audits really throughout the Midwest. Those include cities, counties, as well as support your universities.

Also, over here we have Shane Nickle. Shane is a Senior Manager and works really side-by-side with Allison and I really as our project manager on both the financial statement audit and the compliance audit.

Definitely truly appreciate the opportunity to be here. You'll see a lot of us really working over the next couple of months throughout City Hall. I'm really asking a lot of questions. I know we've met the Mayor. We've met some commissioners throughout this, as well as met several different members of management throughout the audit process.

Kind of high-level, kind of where we're at, we're right in the middle of our audit process. We've completed our planning and risk assessment really working on what we call our field work procedures. This is our first year. It takes a little bit longer being a first year, but we're really excited for this opportunity and really excited to present the audit results here later once we have this audit wrapped up.

I brought a couple of slides, but really I just want to go through some introductions and talk a little bit about kind of who we are.

Firm Background – Who is FORVIS?

FORVIS is driven by the commitment to use our forward vision to deliver Unmatched Client Experiences™. FORVIS was created by the merger of equals between BKD and DHG. We aim to carry on our respective legacies of high-touch personal service delivered with remarkable integrity, care, and innovation—all now backed by the resources of a top 10 U.S. public accounting firm. With more than 5,700 dedicated professionals located in 72 markets across 28 states, the UK, and Cayman Islands, FORVIS serves clients in all 50 states and across the globe. We offer a wide range of assurance, tax, advisory, and wealth management services.



8th

Largest US Firm



530+

Partners & Principals



5,700+

Professionals



28

States + U.K. & Cayman Islands*

FORVIS

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Who is FORVIS? I don't know if everyone here is familiar with our firm and familiar with our firm size. As you can see, we have a little over 500 partners and principals throughout the country. With that, it's about 5,700 employees, so definitely a large firm. The eighth largest firm in the country. With that, what that brings, that really allows us to specialize. My team really has a specialty in the public sector. This is what we do on a day-to-day basis. This is what I do the majority of the year. Over 50% of the year, really working on cities, counties, and utility audits.

In addition to that, something that we're really proud of, not only does our local team have that industry expertise, but our national office has a professional standards group that really has that expertise as well that really specializes when we have those tough issues, those consultation type issues that specializes in the public sector. So, we're really proud of that.

The other thing I just want to mention real briefly is when our clients do have needs that they can't fill and there's gaps out there, especially as it relates to financial reporting, we have an innovation lab. That innovation lab is something we're really proud of that really tries to help fill those gaps. We'll talk about some of those gaps that they've helped try to fill through the public sector.

Local Presence

FORVIS

KANSAS CITY BUSINESS JOURNAL FEBRUARY 12, 2023

KANSAS CITY BUSINESS JOURNAL

THE LIST

KANSAS CITY'S ACCOUNTING FIRMS (RANKED BY CPAS)

RANKED BY LOCAL CPAS

Rank	Firm Name	CPAs	Employees	Services	Key Client
1	FORVIS	5,700+	5,700+	Assurance, Tax, Advisory, Wealth Management	Various
2	BKD	1,500+	1,500+	Assurance, Tax, Advisory, Wealth Management	Various
3	DHG	1,200+	1,200+	Assurance, Tax, Advisory, Wealth Management	Various
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August 17, 2023

You can kind of see—one thing I just want to talk a little bit—high levels about our local presence. We're not new to Kansas City. We've been in Kansas City for a hundred years. You can see the *Business Journal*. We're the largest firm as ranked by the *Business Journal* by a number of CPAs. Locally here in Kansas City, we have about 200 certified public accountants here locally and a total of about 300 employees. We really have a deep bench strength here locally, not just nationally.

Experience and Qualifications

- 500+ Public Sector clients Nationwide
- 950+ Single Audits performed on an annual basis

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You can kind of see the next couple of slides really just talk about specific public sectors so you can kind of have an idea of how many public sector organizations we work with. About 500 public sector organizations. About 950 compliance audits or single audits, really looking at the grant funding.

Public Sector Expertise

- Understand the complexities of governmental accounting, federal funding requirements, and the nuances of financial reporting
- Can share industry best practices
- Require less time from your staff
- Help to assess risk and provide recommendations
- Access to public sector specific software applications (TRIS and LeaseVision)
- Has access to other advisory & value-added services and resources

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I'm just going to go through real quick public sector expertise and kind of what does that mean for the Unified Government. Really, that means you're going to get a fresh look. You're going to have a fresh perspective. We're going to be able to bring best practices that we have learned from working with other public sector organizations and organizations of your size. We're going to do

a fresh perspective and look at what we call risk assessment and really bring some solutions, we believe, when we look at those controls around financial reporting. I think that's something that everyone really should be excited about of having that fresh perspective.

The other thing I talked about was that innovation lab. We've really created some— because of that innovation lab and some needs of our current clients, we currently have two software out there that really helps public sectors and we're really excited about it.

One of the new accounting standards that has to be adopted this year, and as well as one next year, is leases in software really have to be present valued and brought onto the balance sheet, if you will, for public sectors. We really saw that hole. A lot of our client base didn't really have a software solution to do that, so we went out and created a software solution so our clients can actually have an Excel based tool that they can utilize and track their leases and really have that accounting really right at hand.

The other one out there is a software that we actually purchased called The Reporting Solution. It really helps organizations actually prepare their ACFR. The ACFR is the set of financials that we're going to audit. The Unified Government actually has a software license to The Reporting Solution, so we're really excited about that as well.

The last thing out there from a public sector is really our advisory. If there are one-off issues around financial reporting, financial needs, tax issues, those are things that we can help. We have a public sector advisory group. The lead of that is actually housed in Kansas City for our entire country. So, if there are those one-off issues, unfortunately if cybersecurity stuff happens, if there's fraud that happens, those types of issues, you don't have to go and look elsewhere. We have those expertise inhouse and can really bring those when those are needed.

Commitment to the Public Sector

- GFOA Special Review Committee- 10 individuals across the firm serve as well as participation on the Executive Committee
- GASB – Participation in Practice Fellow Program
- GFOA and KSGFOA – significant involvement, including presenting during annual conferences
- AICPA Government Audit Quality Center – National Financial Reporting Partner serves on Executive Committee

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The commitment to the public sector. I think this is a good slide that really talks about when you work with a firm our size that we really want to be not just your auditor, not just looking at compliance, but we really want to be at the standard setting table.

The GFOA Special Review Committee. We have over ten individuals that serve on that, myself included. Participation in Practice Fellow. GASB's our standard setting body for accounting standards. We actually loaned one of our employees for a two-year rotation to our standard setting, GASB. It really helps set the new accounting standards. Right now we actually have one Practice fellow and we've had two in the past. Something we're really excited about having the opportunity to loan those employees and really be at the forefront when they set those standards to really understand what is the dialogue when the professional standards are getting set. What was is the dialogue in the room? Why are they making these decisions and how does this impact? Really bringing that practical advice to GASB as well through that. So, we're really excited about that.

The GFOA is an accounting-based organization that really is for finance officers, the public sector. Definitely being involved in that here locally, the Kansas Chapter. I've been going to that for several years. I had the opportunity to present several years. Last year I talked about the new county standard on leases. We have a partner that sits on the Executive Committee of AICPA Government Audit Quality. So, definitely very involved in the profession.



Continuing Professional Education and Training Opportunities

KC Annual Non-Profit / Public Sector Seminar: Presented During May 2023 at KU Edwards Campus	Recent and Upcoming External Webinars	Recent and Upcoming Articles
• General Session: Diversity & Inclusion • General Session: Investment Market Update • General Session: Technology Solutions for 3 Common NPFO Roadblocks • Federal Grants Management • Driving Efficiency with Operational Assessment • GASB Update • Employee Retention Credits & Tax Law Changes • General Session: United Way Innovation • General Session: 2022 Cybersecurity Threats and Predictions • Closing Session: Best Practices in Good Board Governance	• Inflation Reduction Act Tax Credit Opportunities • Implementation Guidance for GASB 96 (SSB 14a) • Using Data Analytics to Detect Potential Fraud • What Makes an Accounting System "Adequate" from DCA's Perspective? • Exploring Ethics in the Public Sector • ESG Assurance: Fundamentals to Increase the Credibility of ESG Reporting • The Future of the Public Sector Finance Department	• Top 10 FAQs about Grant Management/Compliance • Dynamic Public Finance Workforce Solutions • Pitfalls of ARPA Funding • Succession Planning/Hiring Levels for the Public Sector

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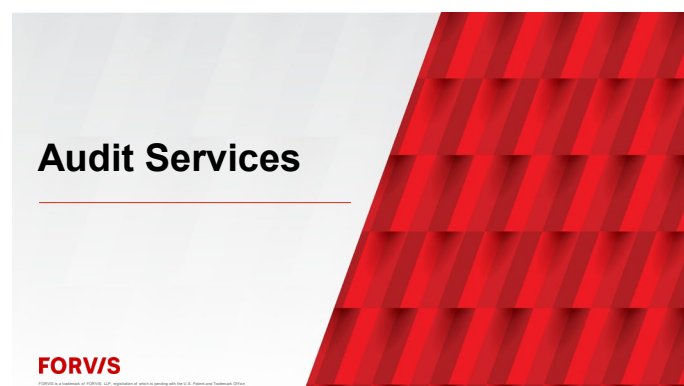
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In addition, we have CP and training opportunities so if the commissioners ever want to learn a little bit more about the financial statements or about areas that could be improved, definitely we have a day-long seminar here locally that's specific. It has a track just for public sectors. It's every year. It's here locally.

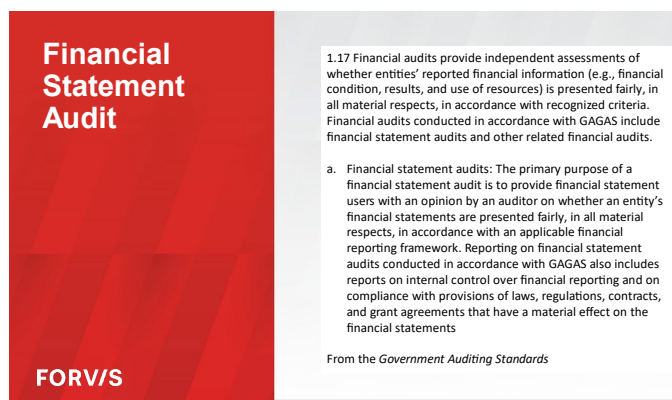
Last year it was at the KU Edwards Campus, so not too far a drive from here. Definitely some interesting topics. I put the agenda of the last year up on the screen on that far left box. I was the presenter. I talked about the upcoming accounting standards. Allison presented some compliance updates as well. Some really good dialogue. A lot of your counterparts from other municipalities definitely attend that. We have about a hundred participants, if you will, every year that go to that conference. You'll see some thoughtware that I think is really good. If the commissioners are interested, there's really good dialogue around public sectors.

Right now there's a lot of change going on in the public sector of finance department. So, we have a couple of webinars coming out about the public sector finance department and what the future of that looks like. Some ethics out there. Really, it's some interesting topics.

Another one, Inflation Reduction Act. It's actually a tax credit that public sectors can apply for, for capital improvements projects. Not a lot of tax credits out there really for the public sector. This is one that is out there that could be accessible for capital projects. Some good thoughtware. If you guys haven't subscribed, definitely something we recommend.

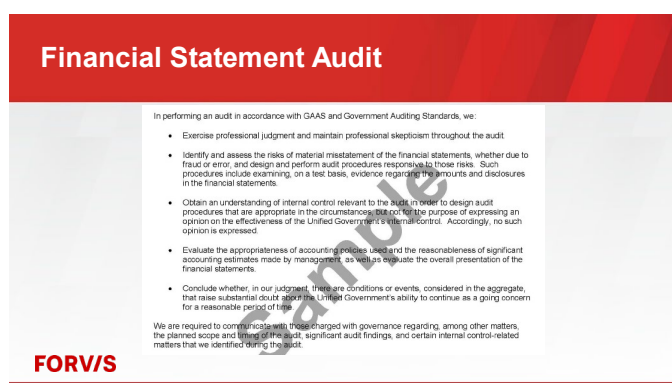


The next couple of slides is not necessarily about our firm, but really just talks about the different types of audits out there.



There's really three sets of audits out there that you can do under what's called Government Auditing Standards or sometimes it's referred to as Yellow Book. The first one is really a financial statement audit. The main thing that we're out here and we're engaged to do for the Unified Government is this is the prior year ACFR or set of financial statements. You can kind of see how thick it is. It's about 225 pages. The main thing and the purpose of our audit is really to make sure that this set of financials are materially accurate and conforms to our professional standards. There's a framework our professional standards put out there. Our job, as auditors, is to ensure that these financials are in accordance with those professional standards and they're materially accurate.

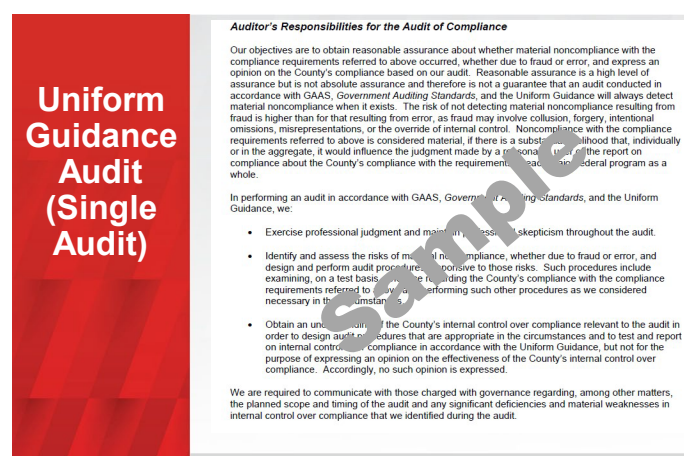
I think the County Administrator did a great job of kind of talking about who the users of the financials are, why the audit exists. This is an annual requirement. This is not a new requirement. We are just new to this organization for performing this audit function.



This is a slide and I think it's good to point out. This is just a sample of what our audit opinion will look like at the conclusion of the audit. So, just a sample. If you look at that, there's really five bullet points. I kind of want to just go through a couple of those because I think it's important

to point out. Not only are we looking to ensure the financials are materially accurate, one thing that I think is good to point out is really that it talks about the internal control environment. One thing as it relates to financial reporting that we will focus on is really the internal controls as it relates to financial reporting. That's really the biggest part of the audit that we've been working on, and is close to completion, really understanding the internal control environment. If there's anything that comes out of that at the conclusion of the audit, we would provide those best practices in those commentary back to the commissioners and the Mayor. Definitely wanted to point out that internal control environment is a big portion of our audit.

The other things out there is to look at your estimates. We want to evaluate your estimates, make sure they're reasonable. There's not a management bias in those estimates and really, the final thing is really just looking at your going concern and ensuring you guys are going to be around 12 months from when we issue your audit, and make sure that management has analyzed that really as part of their preparation of the act first. A lot of things go into it besides just looking at the financial statements itself, it that makes sense.

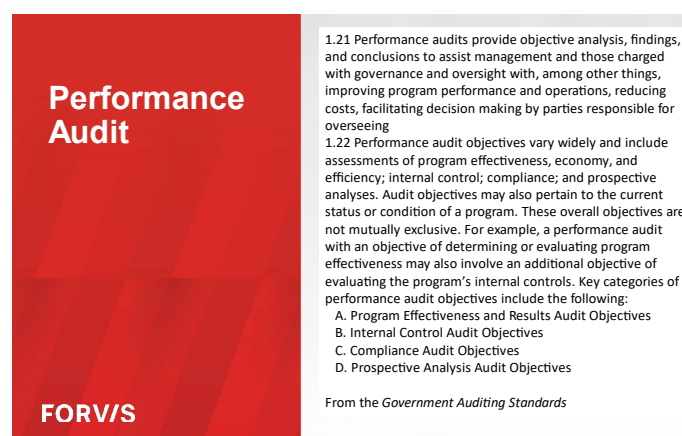


Allison Swaters, Managing Director, FORVIS, said I'll be overseeing the single audit. So, just a little bit about the single audit. The single audit is a compliance audit of grants received from federal agencies. All non-profit and governmental entities that receive more than \$750,000 in their fiscal year are required to have a single audit performed. This is different from the financial statement audit because our focus is on compliance with the grant terms, not necessarily on financial presentation. The single audit is performed under Uniform Guidance guidelines as well and Government Auditing Standards.

For those of you who may not be familiar with Uniform Guidance, those rules are set by the Office of Management and Budget. They're a government-wide framework for federal awards. Just kind of a couple of examples of procedures that we could perform underneath the Uniform Guidance audit would be reviewing expenditures for compliance with the grant terms, making sure that the funding has been used for the proper purpose. We could also look at items such as your procurement policy. If you're engaging in contracting with large vendors that you know the purchasing and the procurement policies have been followed, as well as looking at some of the policies and procedures and controls around how those funds are drawn down from the government.

Again, those are just a couple of examples. I just wanted to give you an idea of some of the procedures that we perform with the compliance audit and how it's different than the financial statement audit.

The Unified Government does receive a significant amount of federal funding every year. We have not reviewed the final schedule yet for fiscal year '23, but we do expect, again, some of the stimulus funds like the Coronavirus Relief or Recovery Funds to be in scope again this year. Typically we perform our piece of the audit at the tail end of the financial statement audit as well.



Mr. Holman said the last type of audit that really can be performed within Government Auditing Standards is what we call Yellow Book. This slide right here really actually just came from the Government Auditing Standard. A lot of these definitions and purpose really just came straight from those professional standards.

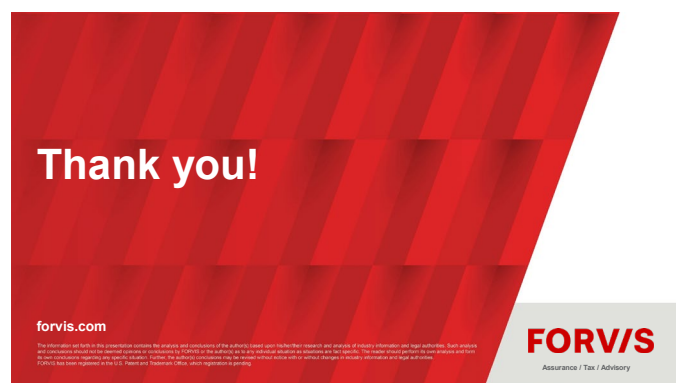
The last type of audit, a performance audit, really has a lot more leeway. There's a lot more opportunity to do different types of audits. Really, the objectives, you can kind of see there's

four different big, big types of objectives in a performance audit, but there's a lot of leeway there. A program effectiveness and results audit objectives, your internal controls. The legislative auditors, for example, do a lot of internal audits. Those internal audits are actually performed as a performance audit within Government Auditing Standards.

As part of our audit, when we gain understanding well, I should review those to make sure that we understand. If there's any findings in there that have an implication on financial reporting, we want to gain an understanding of that and incorporate that into our audit too. I definitely wanted to point that out.

There's a lot of opportunities out there. If you're looking more than historical financials, internal control around financial reporting, compliance on your grants, this is really the bucket, the performance audit bucket, where you really could do a lot of neat things in there around process improvement, operation improvement. This is that third bucket, that performance audit.

We are currently not engaged to do a performance audit, but I just wanted to make sure that the commissioners and Mr. Mayor that you obviously were aware this third bucket is out there. Like I said, the legislative audit does perform audits currently under this performance audit. I think over the last year, we had about 30 that we reviewed so far as part of our financial statement audit.



Really that's all. I just wanted to make sure that we had the opportunity to introduce ourselves. We're new. We're excited to be here. If there's any questions, any concerns that you want to talk through as part of the financial statement audit, that you knew we were here through that process.

Mayor Garner said thank you.

Action: For information only.

August 17, 2023

Item No. 3 – 212634...PRESENTATION: WILLA GILL CENTER

Synopsis: Presentation by the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department; Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department; and the Neighbors In Need Unhoused Task Force, submitted by Tyrone A. Garner, Mayor/CEO.

Mayor Garner said this is really an update and kind of just an overview of the unhoused, homeless, and impoverished situation in Wyandotte County from a variety of lenses, as well as a presentation from the task force that's dealing with those items.

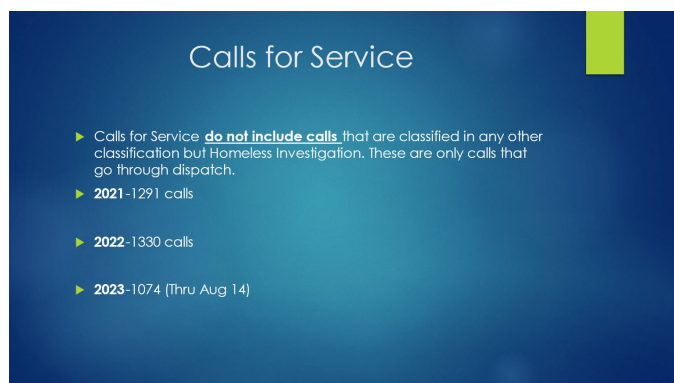
Irene Caudillo, Chief of Staff in Mayor's Office, said this issue, when you talk about unhoused population, it's probably one of the single, most discussed not just in our community, but across this country, and is a very difficult and sometimes uncomfortable conversation. It really transcends many other topics because of the varied reasons of why we have an unhoused population. It's connected to economic challenges, domestic violence, health, substance abuse, mental health, lack of affordable housing. Many of us have a support system that keep us out of this system, but what about those support systems that fail for our neighbors?

Today is really informational, and what we want to do is to give you an idea of what's happening in our community. For information, you'll hear from first responders, as well as the law enforcement, statistics and data and the impact of those systems. You will also hear the community talk about an increase in unhoused populations and why and really some concerning issues around some of our neighborhood groups and NBRs.

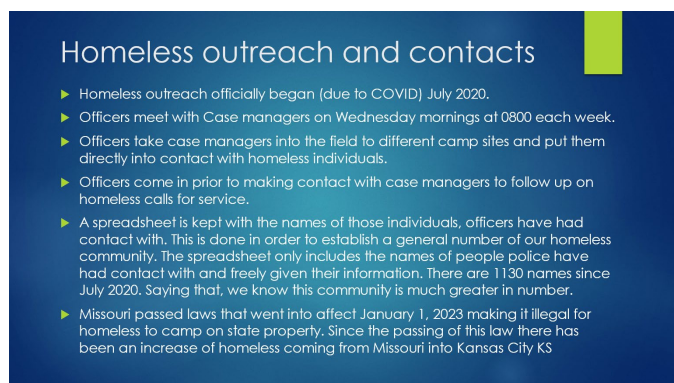
The really most important is that our system of providers that we currently have in the community work every day on developing some sustainable solutions, but there are some immediate needs for Wyandotte County and our community and we need your support. More importantly, you will have, coming soon, some decisions that will impact our population.

Tonight, we're going to start out with some data statistics from our Police Department, Fire Department, and one of our NBRs talking about some of the needs that we're having, and then we'll hear more from the support system and the programs that exist.

William Wallace, Major, KCKPD, said I am the Division Commander for Community Support. That is community policing, our SOU, and our Traffic Division. I'm here to talk about the interaction that we're having with our unhoused individuals in our community.



Calls for service for 2021, we had 1,291 calls. In '22, we had 1,330; and in '23 up to August 14th, we've already had 1,074. If you see, I skipped that first paragraph. These calls do not include calls that didn't mention homeless investigation. If it was a disturbance, if it was a theft, if it was coded as anything else, it didn't get added into that number. We know that those numbers are way low.



Homeless outreach officially began pretty much due to COVID in July 2020. Officers meet with case managers on every Wednesday morning at 0800. Many of those case workers are here today. Officers take case managers into the field with the different campsites and put them in direct contact with homeless individuals. Our officers come in prior to making contact with the case managers to follow up on homeless calls for service. We keep a spreadsheet with the names of those individuals that officers have had contact with. This is done in order to establish a general number of our homeless community. The spreadsheet only includes the names of the people police

have had contact with and freely given their information. Right now, there are 1,130 names since July 2020. We know this community has a much greater number.

Missouri passed a law that went into effect July 2023 making it illegal for homeless to camp on state property. Since the passing of that law, there has been an increase in homeless coming across from Missouri into Kansas City, KS.



Complaints private property VS city property

- ▶ **Private property complaints** - Owner signs a trespass arrest form and the homeless are told to leave the property. Delays associated with this process is being able to make contact with the owner of the property.
- ▶ **City Property complaints** - last direction from legal is that we have to provide them with notice and give a vacate date.
- ▶ The problem with both processes is, this homeless community is simply being moved around the city. Once they are moved the trash generated must be cleaned up. This clean up process is financially costly for the property owners and/or the city. At this time, we have no real solution to address this problem.

We have two different types of complaints that come in. That's private property complaints. The owners sign a trespass arrest form and the homeless are told to leave the property. Delays associated with the process is being able to make contact with the owner. If we come across someone that is trespassing, we have to have the owner's permission to make that arrest.

When it comes to city property complaints, one of the issues that we have is that we have to give them notice to vacate before we can make them leave. The problem with both processes is the homeless community is just simply being moved around in the city. They go from one place to another.



Bus Stop Complaints

- ▶ Bus stops draw many homeless because it provides a partial shelter and benches. Due to no other facilities, they will urinate and defecate in these areas regardless of the time of day.
- ▶ The buses (metro) are currently free, so many will ride the buses to different parts of the city and panhandle.
- ▶ The bus transit has signed trespass arrests for many of those bus stops where there are problems. There is also discussions of possibly removing benches.
- ▶ The major location generating calls for service is 7th Minnesota AVE. The location at Walmart in the Legends is also an issue. There are talks underway right now to move that stop out to Parallel PKWY.

Our bus stops are having many complaints. They draw many homeless because it provides a partial shelter and benches. Due to no other facilities, they are urinating and defecating in these areas

regardless of the time of day. I think we've all had the experience of walking past some of our bus stops and smelling the aroma of the urine.

The bus stops are currently free so many ride the buses to different parts of the city and panhandle. Bus transit has signed trespass arrests for many of those bus stops where we have the majority of our problems. There is also discussion right now on moving some of the benches. The bus stop out in the Legends at the Walmart is one of our big issues right now. We are trying to get that moved to Parallel, but I don't know if we're going to make that happen so now we're looking at other issues.



The major locations generate calls for service: 7th & Minnesota and then we talked about the Legends. This is 7th & Minnesota. We've all seen that. On an average day, there is at any given time, around 50 people just milling around. The bus stop there in front of the Police Department, we generally get calls for service there because people are fighting right in front of the Police Department or they're urinating in front of the Police Department. One of the smartest things we've done was put up the fencing there where the indentions are, where the windows are, so that they can't get in there because that's where they were doing a lot of their business.



This is the bus stop at the Legends in front of the Walmart. Folks will pull in like they're going to Walmart or leaving Walmart and they are bombarded by panhandlers, or either folks are fighting at the bus stop.

Camps

- ▶ The number of camps is unknown. Officers are having to move the homeless community from different locations on a weekly basis. This makes it difficult to keep track of camp locations, number of camps, and where specific homeless individuals are located.
- ▶ Since the beginning of the homeless outreach we are seeing more camps developing west, where previously the majority were in the south and east divisions.
- ▶ Cost of clean-ups: 555 River Park DR. cost the city \$4500.55 (manpower and cost of 15 dump truck loads) 01/21/2021. That's just one location.

The number of camps we have is unknown. Officers have to move the homeless community from different locations on a weekly basis. This makes it difficult to keep track of the camp locations, the number of the camps, and where specific homeless individuals are located.

Right now, we cleaned up an area at 59th & Leavenworth Road. We found an individual that was living at that camp that had a warrant for a sexual assault. We arrested him. We're working on that right now, but the problem is because we cleaned up that camp, now he's at a different camp. We believe we know where he's at so we're leaving that camp alone right now so that we may know how to find him.

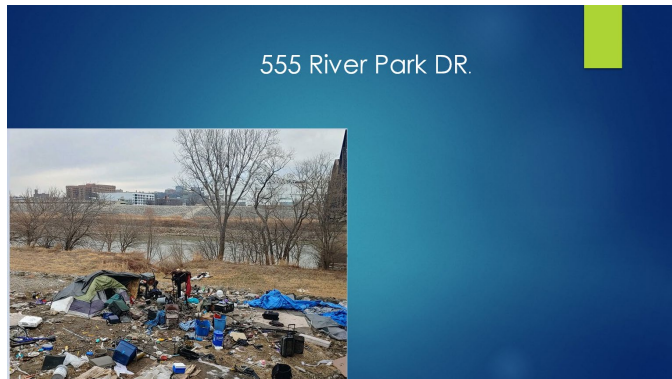
Since the beginning of the homeless outreach, we are seeing more camps developing west where previously the majority of the camps were in the South and East Divisions.

The cost of cleanups. At 555 River Park Drive cost the city \$4,500.55 for manpower costs and 15 dump truck loads. That was on January 21, 2021. That's just one location.

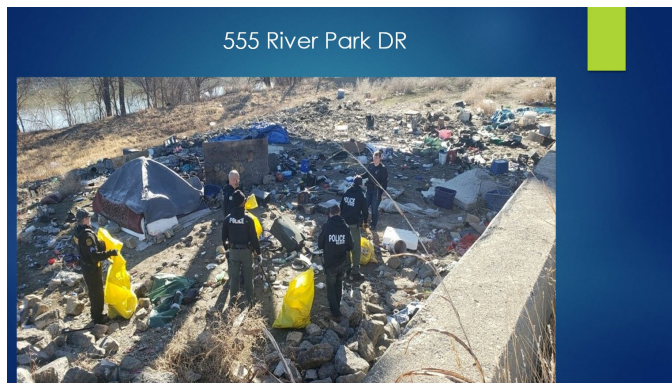


18th Metropolitan AVE.

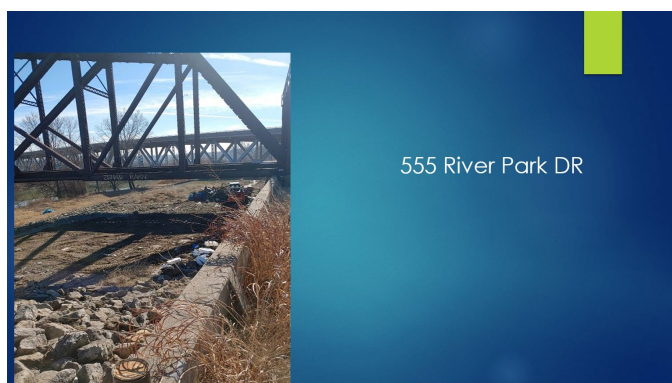
This is a site at 18th & Metropolitan.



This is at 555 River Park Drive.



Same park. As you can see, our community police officers are there with trash bags and gloves picking up a lot of that trash trying to minimize the cost to the city.



That is a bad picture, but the front loader has pushed the majority of that trash up into a pile and they're getting ready to take it away.

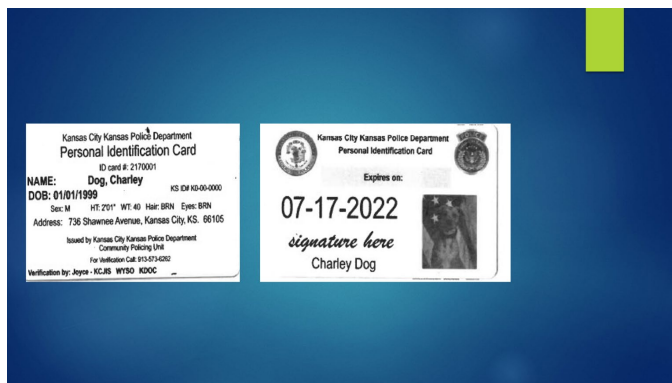
August 17, 2023

City ID

- ▶ City ID program was developed to assist with homeless in replacing necessary documents to get the necessary government assistance.
- ▶ We partnered with the State of Kansas in assisting participants in obtaining a temporary State ID.
- ▶ Since it began in Aug 2020 the program has expanded and assists anyone that is a US citizen and lives in KCK.
- ▶ Parolees were another group that needed assistance upon leaving incarceration.
- ▶ To date the program has completed 560 city id's with a 93 % verification rate (56 denials).

The one positive we have is our city ID. The City ID Program was developed to assist the homeless in replacing necessary documents to get the necessary government assistance. We partnered with the State of Kansas in assisting participants in obtaining a temporary state ID. Since it began in August 2020, the program has expanded and assisted anyone that is a US citizen and lives in Kansas City, KS.

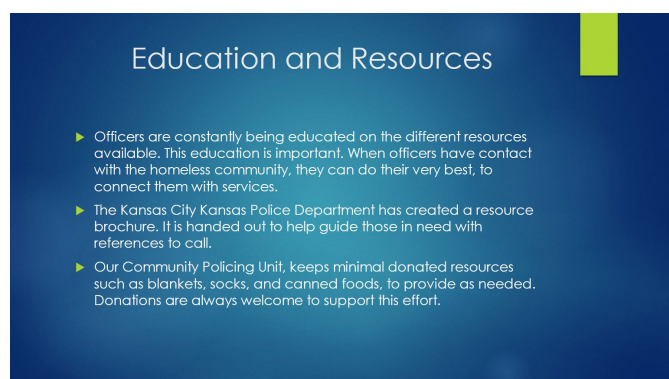
Parolees were another group that needed assistance upon leaving incarceration. To date, the program has completed 560 city ID's with a 93% verification rate. Fifty-six individuals were denied.



This is what our city IDs look like.



We also have the VISTA Program. Our UG VISTA person is working with the homeless outreach team primarily with our City ID Program. UG VISTA is hosted by AmeriCorps VISTA, and its members support organizations to make sustainable change in areas that affect poverty including education, public health, access to benefits, and more. She does assist with creating a follow up list for officers on Wednesdays. She primarily handles scheduling appointments for the city ID, completing applications, assisting with phone calls, and answering questions. City ID is handled by Master Sergeant Joyce, who is here with me today, Officer Thompson, and Bridgete Decker, our VISTA person. I believe we just renewed her contract.



Education and resources. Officers are constantly being educated on the different resources available. This education is important. When officers have contact with the homeless community, they can do their very best to connect them with services. The Kansas City, KS Police Department has created a resource brochure. It is handed out to help guide those in need with references to call. Our Community Policing Unit keeps minimal donated resources such as blankets, socks, and canned foods to provide as needed. Donations are always welcome to support this effort.

That is our presentation.

Commissioner Townsend said one question. What might be some of the reasons someone is denied a city ID?

Major Wallace said if we can't verify who they are. As a matter of fact, Master Sergeant Joyce, she's the one that does that on a regular basis.

Angela Joyce, Master Sergeant, KCKPD, said if we're unable to verify, and we go through multiple sources to verify them because most of these people are presenting where they have absolutely no documentation whatsoever. They can give us any information they want, but we have to go through the different sources, different databases and verify the information they gave us. So, if I can't do it through multiple sources, we don't just go with one because someone can be booked in the county jail with whatever name they want, so if I can't do multiple verifications through different sources, then I deny it. We've seemed to have the hardest problems with females who have changed their last names because they'll come in with a variety of last names. I might be able to find it in one source, but never anywhere else. I won't verify it. I won't give them an ID for that.

Commissioner Townsend said that made me think of another question. What types of databases would you normally go through?

MSGT Joyce said we use a lot of the police databases. We also have our Intel Unit that's assisting us with verification, so any kind of police database, KC's, REJIS, the Wyandotte County Booking, ID Core, whatever we have as law enforcement that we have access to those databases.

Commissioner Townsend asked, would those databases include someone who doesn't have a police record? **MSGT Joyce** said yes. Like your driver's license, when you've had a driver's license previously.

Mayor Garner said I had a question. I was at a community meeting and one of your officers indicated, and it was alarming to me, that you're seeing camps in places where you've never seen them before such as deep into Piper. I mean, really far west. Camps behind Walmart there. On top of the camps that we already know about, but there's camps popping up everywhere.

I know you mentioned it briefly about some of what we believe to be the problem with Kansas City, MO, or the state of Missouri basically criminalizing being homeless on the street. From what the community police can offer and some of the residents were saying is that they're

seeing a huge influx of not just those that were known here in Wyandotte County, but new impoverished and unhoused individuals migrating in huge numbers, large numbers, unprecedented numbers to Kansas City, KS. Can you talk about that more?

MSGT Joyce said it's not just from the Missouri side. We've also seen an increase from Lawrence, Basehor, Leavenworth. We saw a large population after COVID that were newly homeless. A lot of those aren't still out there because we connected them with services as some of the people in here were able to help them navigate the system; but a lot of your chronic homeless people, we've seen a huge increase. The numbers he presented as far as what we have on our spreadsheet by name, those we know are very low as far as what our numbers actually are. As a voluntary contact, I can't force people to give me their information. So, I don't put them on our spreadsheet unless I can identify them. We are seeing it up in Piper. We're seeing it in South Bend, any place within the city we are seeing it.

Major Wallace said one of the other reasons it's difficult to track is, again, the Metro is free. Today, they'll be in the east end. Tomorrow, they'll be in the south end. The day after that, they'll be in the west end. We're having some of the same issues with some of the same people, just in different parts.

MSGT Joyce said we're also moving them a lot, too, because we still have people, and rightfully so, are upset when people make a home in their backyard and they just want them moved. So, hey, you've got to move. So, they will move from this location to the next location; keep moving as long as we keep moving them.

Mayor Garner said when I was on the Police Department and dealing, even when I was the Public Safety Director with the Housing Authority of Kansas City, MO, we would try and triage these individuals. One of the things that I noticed was a lot of them had mental illness. They had criminal backgrounds. They were addicted, some of them, to harmful drugs or alcohol. Some of them had severe disabilities. There was a small percentage that just wanted to live off the grid. They did not want to have access to housing, jobs, or anything of that nature. That's the first question. Has that dynamic changed?

When you look at these individuals and you try and find resources, what does that dynamic look like when you talk about that distinct population that I just described? As officers, and I know its taxing your resources doing things that are untraditional for law enforcement, where do you

bridge these individuals to get them from being in poverty to, hopefully, some form of self-sustainability?

MSGT Joyce said the answer to your first one, as far as the description of what your population looks like within mental illness, addiction, that is still the same. A lot of your people who are in that homeless population have some form of mental illness or addiction. Then, yes, you have that percentage who just want to live off the grid. They don't want to pay bills. They want to just be left alone where they're at. That is not as high as a number as you would think, but there are a few.

As far as reaching them and getting them to start engaging with case management, that's what the homeless outreach team does with people like Rob Santel. We go out, we take them out to the field, and we take them to where they live in the field, out there in the camps, and they start developing a rapport with them. Get them to trust them. We're connecting with them and showing a positive side of law enforcement. We're not running them for warrants when we're in contact with them. We're like hey, we're here to help you. We put them in contact with case managers. Case managers now try to develop a rapport. Sometimes it takes them a while to get that rapport because there's a lot of distrust in their mental illness or past history maybe as far as their contact previously, but they have to work really hard to breach those barriers that are in their own mentality to get them to start engaging. Some of them are real successful eventually and allow them to help them get services and get out of the field. Some of them they'll stop engaging just out of the blue. It's a hit and miss whether they can get them to take housing. Once they get them into housing, that's a whole other problem to deal with because they could get them all the way to housing, but how do you get them to stay there.

Commissioner Stites said I appreciate the presentations so far. I guess my question would be, why KCK?

MSGT Joyce asked, why KCK? Why are they coming here?

Commissioner Stites said yeah. You gave several examples of Basehor. You named all these other cities around that are coming to KCK. There has to be a draw. What would that draw be? What are other cities doing that either addresses it or discourages it from happening in their cities?

MSGT Joyce said I don't have a true answer on that. I can give you some of the comments we've gotten from some people. Some of it is like when we started seeing a lot out at the Legends, and this is before they passed their laws where people started leaving their areas, we would talk to them out there and they would be like yeah, we ride the bus over here because the citizens of KCK are nicer to us and they give them money. Some of them were coming here just to panhandle and get back on the bus and go back to Missouri or go back to whatever community.

I don't know what the draw is to coming here. I do know that some of it is the negative law enforcement sometimes. Missouri, they've got a lot of comments about how police go about things there. I don't have that answer.

Commissioner Stites asked, has there been any—I know that you said that Kansas City, MO, enacted, I'm assuming, a city ordinance that prohibits them from camping on state property, or is it state statute? **MSGT Joyce** said state. **Commissioner Stites** asked, is there any stats after? Do we have anything to say what their calls for service or what that looks like now that has happened? **MSGT Joyce** said no.

Commissioner Stites asked, is there a push or a movement to have that same type of city ordinance or statute enacted in the state of Kansas?

MSGT Joyce said I think there's been a push for that which basically what you're doing is you're criminalizing homelessness by moving. It's a social issue. That's more of a government and society issue with homelessness and now you've moved it straight into law enforcement and say, you are now mandated. You will arrest this person and that's exactly what that law says.

Commissioner Stites said I'm not saying that the Police Department—obviously you know I was there for many, many years—that this is a Police Department issue. I'm not saying that. I was just wondering if there were others...

MSGT Joyce said it's actually something that's going across the nation that they're trying to cross different states.

Commissioner Stites said, Major, you said that you were having some difficulties in moving the bus stop out at the Legends. I guess you're meeting resistance. It sounded like you were saying that you're not able to get that accomplished. What can we do to help you if that's an issue?

Major Wallace said at this point, that is one of their major hubs. Moving that out to Parallel, which is where we'd like to see it, I guess there's not a lot of space for that to happen. In my opinion, they can leave that little area there for their buses to stop and get off and go into Walmart, but the actual bus stop, if they could put that out on Parallel, if that makes sense. That is the issue that we're facing. That is one of their major hubs that they use.

Commissioner Stites said there's clearly an issue. I mean, everyone's saying it. It's not fair to either side. **Major Wallace** said correct. **Commissioner Stites** said we definitely need to take action. **Major Wallace** said the other issue that came up with that is they spent a lot of money putting that there. **Commissioner Stites** asked, you're talking about the Legends? **Major Wallace** said yes.

Commissioner Stites said I agree. It's not fair to—we talk about our economic development. We're going through budget process right now and the impact that it has, I will tell you, and I mentioned this in a meeting here a month or so ago, there are people now that are not coming to the Legends because of a, b, c, homelessness, theft, fights. They don't feel safe. We cannot let this turn into another Indian Springs. I'm not just saying the Legends. We can't let this continue downtown. We can't let this happen in the south. No portion of our county is any more important than the others. I'm not saying that. We have to figure out something. I don't know what that is. That's what you are here for.

Major Wallace said that's what we're working with.

Commissioner Johnson said I just want to thank you all for the work that you all are doing. I'm at a point now where I'm feeling like I'm forced in my other hat being a local pastor, feeling like I'm forced to put a fence around my property because on numerous occasions, they've tried to establish a camp there and thereabouts. I made a point to my Board. Sleeping on a lot all night. Wanting to bring shopping carts full of their personal items with them and leave them. Leaving trash, that's the part. I don't mind you staying here, just don't leave a mess when you leave. Going through our trash receptacles, large trash receptacles, and taking the trash out leaving it there and leaving the receptacle lids. Tried to put a lock on it. They figured out how to unhinge it from the top so that they could get in there.

I'm held in tension because you want to help persons that are in those kind of situations because we are all human. We all bleed red blood. Then, the challenge is trying to make sure that

you don't allow your facility to be overrun by this. We've had the urination, defecation. We've had all of that.

What I've done thus far is, and I'm looking for maybe some help here, and I see Dr. Turner, I see the Sims that are here also that have churches here on major streets such as mine. I generally just call the non-emergency line, but I'm wondering if there's something else that we can do. We've had conversations internally about how do we minister to them, but as I try to let them know, this is a multi-layered issue. It's not just about giving them a meal and then sending them on their way. To what? So, we find ourselves, as a church community, in tension.

I'm looking for some feedback as to the best way to engage with them one-to-one. Some of them have confessed they're hooked on, they tell me, crack cocaine. Some of them, I just don't know what it is. But as a community that wants to help the community, now you have to make sure you try to protect that which you're saddled with trying to steward over as well.

MSGT Joyce said that's exactly where we're at with the Police Department. We're trying to help everybody within our community, but at the same time, you've got two sides. You've got the unhoused and then you've got the citizens. The citizens saying we need help with this and the unhoused saying we need help. At what point, what's the answer? We haven't found the answer because it's going to be a larger picture. It's going to take more than the Police Department, the Fire Department, the medical field. It's got to take the whole community. The services do what they can with what they have, but part of the problem we have is there's not affordable housing so where do they house them at. It's a continued vicious cycle.

Us, in law enforcement, we're walking a tight line. Help them; arrest them. Either way it's costing taxpayers dollars which side of it we go. We put them in jail and we spend all that money in the jail for them to kick them back out into homelessness and we're in a vicious cycle. If others have answers for the best way to go about this, I'm all on board.

Major Wallace said one of the other issues is even if we arrest them, that does nothing for the mental portion of their issue. It is multi-faceted. You are in good company with that. I was just talking to Dr. Turner about a possible camp that they have out by his church and some of the individuals that are coming onto his property. I'm a minister at First Baptist Quindaro and we have individuals that have started a camp down behind our church. It is reaching throughout the whole city. We're working on it the best that we can, in the best manner that we can with the resources that we have.

Commissioner Johnson said I'll just say this, this problem is not going to go away. As a minister, we can't even pray the problem away. You can't pray people into homes, into viable jobs, into vehicles, into whatever the case may be, more money. It's going to take a collective holistic effort. Again, I thank you all for what you're doing as you find other ways and other means. I'd love to be part of that conversation.

Ms. Caudillo said, Mayor, Commission, I'll remind you that we do have at least an example in our task force, potential solutions or at least a gathering of all kinds of people at the table.

We have our Fire Chief Dennis Rubin as well as on deck CABA Edgar Galicia from a perspective of the NBRs.

Dennis Rubin, Fire Chief, said it's an honor to appear before you today and to give you some information about the impacts with the Fire Department. In essence, I have to start off by saying when you take a look at the national picture for fire departments, there is no category to allow us to track information directly related to homelessness. We use the National Fire Incident Reporting System. It's a requirement and that is done in such a way that we continue to receive grants, which is quite a lot of money for your fire department. So, the information I'm going to share, I want to point out is woefully underreported. In fact, we feel like it's probably at least a factor of five as to what I'm going to describe.

The Kansas City Kansas Fire Department (KCKFD) responds to 35,000 requests for assistance each year. This level of response equals an average of 100 responses each day. The estimate of responses to unhoused population is 0.56 each day. On most of these requests for assistance, one advanced life support medic unit and one pumper is dispatched to provide evidence-based emergency medical care or fire control services. The typical responding crew is two paramedics and three to four emergency medical technician/firefighters.

We typically answer 35,000 calls in one year, which represents about 100 emergency responses on a daily basis. We went through and did a hand search for the past two years and we came up with about 0.56 calls to assist homeless. That's how we had to find the information, per day, every day.

Based on these **estimates**, the cost of this service is as follows:

Calculation		
200	200	Estimated annual responses to unhoused population
30 minutes	30 minutes	Average life cycle of alarm
\$41.00	\$20.50	FEMA (2021 hourly rate) deployment cost for ambulance
\$142.00	\$71	FEMA (2021 hourly rate) deployment cost for pumper
\$75.00	\$37.50	Ambulance staffing costs per hour
\$130.00	\$65	Pumper staffing costs per hour
	\$194	Total cost per alarm
	x 200	Number of alarms
	\$38,800	Subtotal estimated cost
	\$72,000	Lost ambulance transportation fees (Medicaid rate)
	\$110,800	Estimated grand total cost

During emergency responses the exposure to vehicle accidents and personal injuries increases along with the wear and tear on the KCKFD apparatus fleet.

If you amortize that out, it looks like about 200 calls per year. What that equates to is an aggregate cost of essentially \$110,000 per year that's spent responding to and caring for the folks that are homeless. Again, I would point out we're pretty certain that it's probably a factor of five, if you will, when we talk about the number of calls that we respond to.

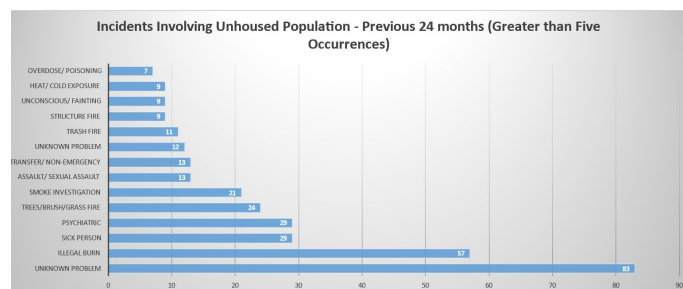
Unhoused Population Impact Summary

Methodology

Emergency incidents in the Kansas City Kansas Fire Department (KCKFD) computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system were queried for the previous 24 months, filtering only those incidents which contained the word "homeless" in the narrative information. Incidents were then sorted by type and counted for the number of occurrences for each. Many incident types had five or fewer occurrences during this period, making them statistically insignificant and not included in this report. These incidents included a wide range of medical call types of varying degrees of severity. Incident types with more than five occurrences are included in this summary.

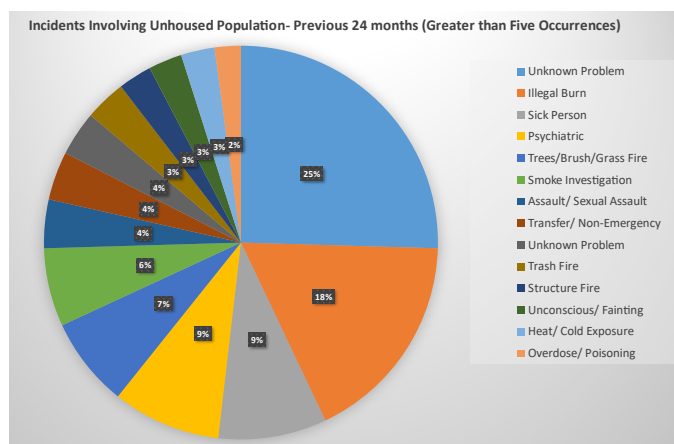
Again, that was the methodology that we used.

Data Charts



Here's what a graph might look like. The information that we did have at our fingertips speaks directly to the fact that we're responding to overdose and poisonings, heat and cold exposures, unconscious and fainting, structural fires, trash fires, unknown problems, transfer and non-

emergency—that might be from one hospital facility or clinic to another—assaults and sexual assaults, smoke investigations, trees/brush/grass fires, psychiatric issues, sick persons, illegal burns, and unknown related problems.



The next one takes that same bar graph and begins to break it down in percentages.

Summary

- The incident type with the highest number of occurrences are **Unknown Problems**, with 95 total calls. This incident type includes reports of unconscious persons and persons “down” in public. Most of these incidents involved reports of unknown parties in an undetermined state of consciousness in public, which were then determined by fire and EMS personnel to be persons sleeping or resting in areas visible by passersby.
- The next highest incident type is **Illegal Burn**, with 57 occurrences. These incidents include reports of unauthorized burning, typically involving cooking or warming fires.
- The third category, **Sick Person**, includes medical call types not captured by any other, more specific, category. There were 29 occurrences of this incident type.
- **Psychiatric** occurred 29 times during this period. This call type involves the lowest severity psychiatric incidents.
- **Trees/Brush/Grass Fire** and **Smoke Investigation** are the next two incident types, with a total of 45 calls between the two.

We know that we often go to calls where the homeless are actually resting. It was kind of fortuitous, just before attending the meeting this evening, we had a call for a young lady down. The Fire Department responded only to find that person was asleep. The homeless folks typically live outdoors. Let’s face it. With that said, it’s very difficult sometimes for a bystander to realize that that person is simply resting because that’s the only place that they do have to rest.

After looking at the data, several trends stand out. In terms of serving the unhoused population, KCKFD runs a high number of incidents involving passersby reporting persons down or unconscious. The fact that the unhoused conduct nearly the entirety of their daily lives in the public eye makes them visible even when they are resting or sleeping. Normal or mundane activities such as these are misunderstood by the greater public and reported as emergency medical incidents.

It is abundantly clear that the unhoused population contributes to our fire incident numbers. Illegal burns, natural cover fires, smoke investigations, trash fires, and structure fires involving the unhoused totaled 122 incidents over the previous 24 months.

Incidents which typically affect a lower socioeconomic status at a higher rate include psychiatric calls, assaults, substance addictions, and overdoses. Over the period studied, KCKFD ran 49 of these types of incidents.

With that, again, we feel pretty strongly that, without a doubt, our numbers are woefully below what is the actual situation.

Before I get off the podium and take questions, I'd like to mention a program that we have. It's a small program, but it's a pretty powerful one. We call that Community Paramedicine. The Community Paramedicine process is sweeping our nation; however, in our community, we have one person working out of one vehicle. They go out and meet the clients. They find out what their needs are. They try to assist in any way that they can whether it's to obtain necessary drugs, make hospital appointments and visits to get them doctors care when it's necessary.

I'm accompanied today, and she said she's a little shy, but a true hero on our system is Jessica Kraus. She runs that program. It's approximately two years old. It continues to gain momentum and force. I think that's going to be the Fire Department's way of the future to be able to provide that care long before you see those numbers. As to what a paramedic engine might cost or a transport ambulance, and that we can do it in the daytime instead of the middle of the night. I point that out only because the propensity for fires goes up at night, I think, as everyone might know, as well as responding apparatus through the streets. By doing it non-emergency and pretty much where the unhoused people live, it's a much better and more effective way of doing business.

With that, Mr. Mayor, I'll take any questions that the Council may have.

Commissioner Stites asked, what are we doing in connection with our Health Department? I mean, we've had the Police Department, Fire Department, NBRs, and all, but what about our Health Department? Are they involved in this? It sure seems like a health department area.

Jessica Kraus, Community Paramedicine, KCKFD, said that's a great question. I came up here to say I don't have an answer for you.

Commissioner Stites said I think that's pretty unfortunate that we—I would think—**Chief Rubin** said in Washington, DC, what we learned was the health department is centered and anchored in a building that has a lot of resources, and boy they do an incredible job. The Fire Department, however, we deliver items in the street. We really don't have a central, please come and visit. We can give you a flu shot. We don't have that service, but what we do have is a lot of folks that's mobile. For her to transition from a paramedic/nurse working in a fire station with a fire company, they're going out every day in a vehicle, was a very smooth and easy transition. So, I doubt that—a great comment—but I doubt that it's been broached that idea of partnering with them and we would certainly do it.

If you look at the fine lines and, again, I think our excellent police presentation would also support it, here is a lot of abuse and dependencies that tends to end up in some type of a mental situation that's uncomfortable for everybody. In other words, that brings out the worst in the population. So, by intervening early, by providing those services as soon as we can by doing this type of service, this will be the gateway in the future for the Fire Department. I'm pretty sure.

Ms. Kraus said I can say I do know that there are conversations happening, conversations have been happening. I just don't know what I'm allowed to speak to because I'm not from the Health Department. I've heard of different ideas and avenues and grants and things they're pursuing. I just don't know what I can speak to because I'm not with them and I don't know what's current. We're working on it.

Commissioner Bynum said I do know that the Fire Department EMS Division and the Health Department are working jointly, but I don't think it's specifically around the unhoused, but you have a joint program that you are doing together.

Ms. Kraus said I was going to say, we haven't addressed that in a partnership yet. We've had conversations about different ways we can do that. Funding is a big thing.

Edgar Galicia, Central Avenue Betterment Association, said an NBR. I come here feeling that I am speaking or preaching to the choir. Everybody has traveled through the city and has traveled through Central Avenue and knows of the challenge that we have with all of the commercial corridor. As an NBR that works with all of these businesses, we feel that we need to protect their

interest. Not only the businesses on the Avenue, also the neighborhoods around it; the safety situation that this challenge presents. It's growing as everybody has heard before.

I would like to tell a couple of facts, some stories, just to give a little bit of the background of how we deal with this challenge daily. In 2013, the School of Architecture sent students to the city to help and investigate what our situation was. They had a survey that they passed around the Central area. One of their questions was, what was the favorite places that you have in the community? Another one of the questions was, what was the worst place that you don't want to go to? Their favorite places were home, churches, and all of these. The worst places were parks where nobody wanted to go to. Bethany Park was the lead of that list. Nobody wanted to step there. Around that year, Bethany Park was totally trashed, cold, prostitution, homelessness, camping, drug dealing, you name it. It had a problem.

As a challenge to Central Avenue Betterment Association, we started taking on the cleaning of the park. We couldn't live with that reality and so we started working. That's how our program La Placita came to be because one of the actions that we decided to take was to start creating positive activity. The philosophy behind that is that good and bad are never together. So, if good moves out, bad moves in so good has to constantly be working, pushing, moving forward so that bad moves out of the place. That is synergy. That's how this works.

We decided to create positive activity, constructive activity in the park so that all of these negative activities would seize or go down and be reduced. So, we started cleaning. I remember some of the commissioners who helped us remove all picnic tables, benches that were broken and that people would use to sleep on. We cleaned that and we started having an event every month, sort of a celebration with music, food, and all of these once a month in the park. That actually helped move all of these negative activities out of the park.

We continued building on that and then we started the market. The market started operating once every other weekend. That was held for a couple of years or actually six years. Now we are in 2013, almost ten years after La Placita started.

In the last two years, as everybody said, we have seen an increase in homelessness and the challenges that come with that. Yes, this is a layered problem that is everywhere. Central Avenue has suffered from that because of the lack of programming, the lack of resources, and the fact that in the area there are two towers that are low-income housing and that invites a lot of homelessness,

a lot of individuals who are not doing anything through the day and they just hang around parks, Bethany Park to be specific.

There are a couple of situations and I was asked to bring pictures but, honestly, everybody has driven through Central Avenue. There are a couple of situations that we have lived, experienced on a constant basis such as homeless walking into businesses and demanding services, demanding something. The owners have come to us and said you know what, she just comes or he just comes in, grabs and walks out. We don't say anything because we rather just get rid of the situation. Let him walk out and just disappear. We have to deal with that the next time this person comes back. That has happened several times to several of the businesses.

There was an occasion where someone who seemed to be homeless just walked in and went to the cashier and just grabbed money out of the box and walked out. The business owner called the police. The police were busy and took time to go and check and do a report and whatever, but he didn't act immediately even when there was video of the person committing this crime. There were no results. I'm not speaking ill of the Police Department. I know how busy they are. I see their work, but we don't have funds. They are operating under a challenged situation with personnel, with officers, so that is a challenge. The fact that we don't have funding to create programs, to finance programs and to help our departments. This is happening on Central every day.

Another challenge happened that a homeless, who seemed to be drugged, was trying to light a cigarette. He was carrying a box and the whole box lit on the street in front of a building. We had to rush out and put water on it to put the fire out because it was right there in front of the business. That, again, happens constantly.

Recently, Harmony Heights building was emptied and rebuilt. During that process, the residents that were there were moved to different places. They were relocated to different apartment buildings and complexes and such. There was a layer of residents living in that building that were not registered, and they moved and camped in the park. All of a sudden, we're coming on Saturday operating our market, helping the people, and there is a specific group who are camping there. They seemed different. They don't seem homeless. They don't seem handicapped, per se, but they were there camping. We learned that that they were actually waiting to move into Bethanny Towers to relocate themselves. They were armed. They were active. They were doing

stuff, communicating. They were just waiting, so they were going from one tower to the other and trying to move in.

Later, somebody told us that these people are actually gang members that are sequestering the residents in these buildings, moving into their apartments and holding them hostage so that they can operate whatever business they carry on. We called the Police Department several times. We called the Sheriff's Department several times. They come and these groups, when the officers come back, they disperse everywhere. They were arrested a couple of times. Drug dealing, crime, homelessness is coming back to the area. It truly hasn't left. It truly has not gone anywhere. It just moves around.

I can go on and on with all of these samples and situations that have happened. Every Saturday we're there and we see somebody acting crazy, somebody in drugs, somebody fighting. One time this person was carrying about four or five of those push carts with all of his belongings. We asked him to—he was camping in the park and he had to carry everything—we asked him to move from that side because we were going to do the market. The gentleman got upset and all he did was to park his carts full of whatever belongings he had in front of the tents of the businesses and left. He left all of it there and he just walked away. He said I don't have anywhere to go. I don't have a place to sleep that allows me to bring all of my stuff.

Those situations are part of the challenges we have because at the end of things, the city does not have funding to help with holistic programming for all of these people. Are we truly even helping our residents? Are we truly even helping our businesses? Are we truly even helping our stable residents? If we cannot help all of these people who are making ends meet, how are we going to help those unstable? I think we need to rework the business plan, the action plan, the whatever plan you want to call it today because throughout my time, there have been several plans, but none of them have been funded.

We need to understand the real problem. The real problem is the city doesn't have any funding to help itself. We need density. We're not planning for bigger, better projects, but housing. We talk about housing. It's needed, but we're not planning on building new housing and making sure our people, our residents, our current residents are protected. We need to enact new rules, regulations, laws that protect the people here, that promote investment, but protect the people at the same time. We need to make sure that every project that is offered that comes to be built here has a community benefits agreement by default so that all people can grow with it, so that all

residents can get better and stronger and move forward, then we will have the funding to help all of these programs and all of the departments and move forward with this problem, otherwise we will not see the end of it.

Ms. Caudillo said as you're aware, one of ten of your task force included unhoused with the idea that resources and those really wanting to come up with solutions and recommendations sit around the table. We actually have the chairs, Dr. Evelyn Hill and Tom Lally.

Tom Lally, Hillcrest Transitional Housing and Co-Chair for the Neighbors in Need and the Unhoused Residents Task Force, said before I make my presentation, I want to congratulate you all and thank you all for having this conversation. This is difficult conversation that we're having and without this type of public discourse, the solutions will not be ascertained. So, we all need to come together, and I'm so proud of this community for having this conversation. We have Dr. Evelyn Hill with us.

I would be remiss to say that early on in the process when we started the task force, we had four co-chairs. Reverend Steve Neal and Andrea Tapia, with the Housing Authority, also served as co-chairs and served admirably. Because of work commitments, they had to step away.

I want to go over just a little bit of the history about the task force, and then Dr. Hill will talk about some of the accomplishments and the future of the task force. Starting about 18 months ago, we had over 90 individuals sign up for consideration for this task force. There was a lot of community input, a lot of community interest in this topic. We had conducted five listening sessions over a period of about six weeks just making sure that all the individuals who had signed up were aware of what that task force might look like and some of the work that might take place.

From the start, it was important to me, and I think also the other co-chairs, that we took both terms and both parts of that title in the equation very, very seriously. We have the neighbors in need. It struck me as I was doing some research for some of the first listening sessions, according to the United States Census, there's about 17% of the Wyandotte County population that lives below poverty. That's about a commission district.

So, those neighbors in need, although we are focusing a lot of our attention and conversation this evening on the unhoused and those that are homeless, we have a significant

population that is a paycheck away, just a crisis away from spiraling into that crisis. I think it's a good way to prevent some of these homeless and unhoused situations when we're providing those services to our residents who are already living here, who are already trying, but they're just struggling. So, the neighbors in need is certainly an important distinction and then, certainly, we're talking a lot about the unhoused residents.

Early on, we made the commitment, the co-chairs and I, to focus on three specific areas. Those areas were: developing community resources, identifying and benchmarking what community resources are already available, determining what are the gaps in those community resources, and identifying steps to fulfill those gaps.

The second was housing resources. Very, very similar. Determining what housing stock we have, what the gaps are, and how we go about fulfilling those gaps.

The third one, which was a lofty goal, was systemic change. Determining what those long-term barriers were that were keeping people in poverty, keeping people that are unhoused. What are those government policies: local, state, federal. What are the business practices, and what are those generational, geographic separations.

During this process for the last 18 months, Dr. Hill and I have had the privilege of representing the task force on a lot of the community issues. I would like to say that this task force has afforded a lot of the great social service agencies that are working today. You'll hear a lot from my colleagues over here. There is tremendous work being done each and every day for the populations that we're talking about today. A lot of times, those that work is being done in a vacuum. Because of this task force and the creation of this task force, we have had the opportunity, like no other time, to be able to come together and remove some of those barriers that might have been put in front of us or between us, artificially or otherwise by ourselves, to be able to really come together and talk as peers and have some great conversations and some solutions. For that, I am very, very proud of our work with the task force.

Dr. Evelyn Hill, Co-Chair for the Neighbors in Need and the Unhoused Residents Task Force, said thank you for this opportunity to speak this evening. As being the co-chair, I agree with Tom wholeheartedly that this has really drawn the social service community together. We talk regularly, sometimes with Kleenex, but at least we're talking. I'm very excited about that.

Tom mentioned one of the things that we worked on was resources. We came up with a couple of ideas. We found out, number one, that there are many organizations that have resource lists available including the Police Department, UG with the 3-1-1, even United Way. There's a list, but where is somewhere where we can really find a comprehensive list that can be updated because many times the lists are already outdated before they come online. We're still working on that but we came up with some ideas: have a QR code along with possibly an app that would be directly for resources here in our community.

Another thing that we worked on was possibly going to a couple of cities close by, maybe like Wichita, visiting HumanKind, and also going to Topeka. They have some resources available where they are doing a good job with unhoused neighbors in need. So, we thought we would pull that tour together. We have not yet accomplished that yet, but that is something that has been in conversation. We've contacted HumanKind we've contacted Topeka. They're having staff over turn just like some of our agencies are having staff over turn, so we are still in the process of making those plans and very excited to just see: what are their resources, where are they getting their funding from, what is the area, how are they accomplishing success. So, that is something we're getting ready to do.

Another thing that we've even talked about was looking at other cities that we thought might have had a successful rate when it came to the unhoused population not in the state of Kansas. We did that initially and very quickly. Those ideas were kind of shot down because at the end, they weren't as successful as we had originally thought.

We continue to work on this. Our goal is to continue to work together to get this done. We appreciate your confidence in us, and we appreciate the community being patient as they work with us. It's like Tom said earlier, and I've heard many others say, this has been a problem nationwide and it's not an easy solution, but we are here to make a difference.

Ms. Caudillo said at the heart of the work are those boots on the ground. We can't say enough about some of the unsung heroes doing this work and making a difference, trying to make even better quality of life for folks.

I'm going to go ahead and just tell you that Cross-Lines is here, Robert Santel, will be coming up to talk about homeless outreach and the warming center. Then I'll ask Frank Wilson Housing, Rachel Erpelding, and then Pam Smart and Andrea Penn from Willa Gill.

Robert Santel, Cross-Lines, said it's good to be with you again to talk with you about a topic that I've spent my professional career investing, researching, and trying to dig and learn as much as I can about.

I want to share a little bit with you about some data points and help us kind of reframe this conversation around homelessness. I want to share with you a little bit about the point in time number. Annually, we are required by HUD to do an annual census of persons experiencing homelessness in our community. Before COVID, our numbers in Wyandotte County were about 68. This is an underreported number just because of the way that those numbers had to be reported, but 68 persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness was kind of the number that we were kind of hovering around prior to COVID. In 2020 when COVID hit and then 2021, we've seen a steep increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness in our community. Those numbers have nearly doubled whereas in 2023 this year, we had about 121 persons that were counted in this last point in time count.

Another key indicator that is important for us to realize when we're coming to this conversation is our shelter number. We do not have an emergency low barrier shelter here in Wyandotte County. When you look at the region, the Kansas City region, in 2022, the Kansas City region made the top of the list of the community with the highest percentage of unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness. So, I'll say that again. The Kansas City region had the highest percentage of persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the nation, not just comparing us to other communities our size, but we beat out communities like LA, New York City, and other places like that. We've had a significant decrease in the number of shelter beds in our region and that has led to this significant increase in persons experiencing homelessness on the streets.

You talk about this like transientness. You see people on the streets more and more, yes. That's because we have about 500 less shelter beds than we did in 2020. That has led us to these street outreach efforts that KCKPD has shared about. I can sing nothing but praises for KCKPD and their community policing, especially MSGT Joyce and the team that she has assembled. There are many great things that have come out of our street outreach efforts over the last three years.

The city ID is a great program that has really escalated us to be able to have quick access to identification and document assistance for folks. I will say that when you look at other communities that have a homeless outreach team, our homeless outreach team is severely underfunded. We have dedicated officers that are supporting that program. Other communities

that have a homeless outreach team have dedicated officers full-time to that effort. But, they have been nothing but great to work with when it comes to solving the problem of homelessness in our community

We also have the Health Department. I know that question got asked. The Health Department has a peer support worker that works specifically with folks experiencing substance use, and that peer support worker has now started going out with us and really targeting folks that have that substance use piece. It's really important for us to provide that wraparound support piece, that whole person care. We've also started increasing our efforts to have that health and benefits navigation, making sure that people are getting connected to not only the mental and behavioral health component, which is so needed, but also that substance use treatment and also physical health components as well.

The reality is we have very few resources in our community. We talk about all these resources, but we have very limited resources for the people that we are serving. It becomes a very difficult thing to work with someone that has high barriers for housing needs, and we try to have these housing based problem-solving conversations with them and break those things down.

Just this week we have someone that we met through our street outreach efforts that is now in permanent housing because of those efforts, so that's a great win for our community.

We also have other communities that are coming to us here in KCK to look at our street outreach efforts, and they want to replicate that in other communities. So, it's a replicable project that other communities are looking at, and they say when they're—actually when Sedgwick County came to us, they looked at us and said, how are you doing what you're doing with the limited resources that you have? How are you doing this stuff without shelter infrastructure and those pieces? So, it's a great success that we're able to do what we're doing. We're only able to do that because of our collaborative efforts both amongst the social service agencies but also with our partnerships with the Unified Government, with KCKPD, and with the Health Department and those great pieces as well.

Some of that street outreach efforts really led us to that cold weather shelter. I've shared with you some of the statistics of the last two winters and what we've done with that. Again, I'll remind you just quickly. We had about 240 people we served last winter over about 28 nights. That project operates on the coldest of nights.

We have been in conversation with providers in KCMO to make sure that we are coming to this next winter with a much more prepared regional effort when it comes to cold weather planning, and making sure—especially KCMO has a significantly more prepared response to cold weather, but working with them in terms of trying to make sure that cold weather is really—we have a better preparation for that.

Remember, people are not the problem. The problem is affordable housing.

Rachel Erpelding, Kim Wilson Housing, said Randy Callstrom would have liked to be here. He wanted you to know he is out of town. Very quickly just how Frank Williams fits with Kim Wilson Housing and Kim Wilson Housing fits with Wyandot Behavioral Health Network. Kim Wilson Housing is an entity underneath Wyandot Behavioral Health Network. Frank Williams Outreach Center is a program underneath Kim Wilson Housing. We are all part of the Community Mental Health Center. Every person under Kim Wilson Housing is trained to recognize mental health symptoms and it's our focus.

Frank Williams is a program that falls under a continuum of programs from houseless to house. Under Frank Williams is a large number of services. It's more than just a drop-in center. It's actually access to services and access to housing. There are several teams that are just housed at Frank Williams.

We also then have housing subsidy programs such as rapid rehousing, rental assistance, permanent supported housing, and we have two of those programs. We have an interim housing program. Here in the next few weeks, we should be opening a step down program that is specific to people discharging from our state psychiatric facility into homelessness. Nobody should ever go straight from a psychiatric facility straight into homelessness. That has been happening. We then lose people and those are the people who are wandering from Missouri to Kansas.

Just out of respect for everyone's time, I'm just going to describe some of the programs that are out of our drop-in center. The drop-in center specifically is open from 8:30 – 12:30. We have laundry, showers, mail, people can store their clothes so they don't have to carry all of their bags around. Usually from winter to spring to summer, people come and switch clothes out. People can get on computers, but it's also access to their services.

We have a homeless outreach team and those are the people who go out with Cross-Lines, who go out with the KCKPD every Wednesday. They also answer calls from the community. They answer calls from KDADS. KDADS will call and say hey, we got a call from the community. Please go and check on this person. So, they do that more than just Wednesday. They do that throughout the week.

They also work with people who aren't even clients of Wyandot Center. They're not clients of the Mental Health Program. They will still do what they can to try and either engage them in services or keep them housed so they don't go into that system. That team also has an intake coordinator. That person will try and engage them and get people admitted into mental health and substance use services. Wyandot Center does have substance abuse services now, so we have a large range of services for people who are experiencing mental health symptoms and substance use.

Also, we provide a homeless outreach case management. That focus is specific to finding housing and meeting those basic needs while managing mental health symptoms in the community. They work with people in the community. Sometimes it takes months and months to engage a person, to build trust to allow them to complete paperwork. When somebody's experiencing paranoia, it's really difficult to allow somebody to help you with paperwork. If somebody's experiencing unmedicated symptoms of mental health, then they often don't remember that they have an appointment for their medication in three weeks. They're not thinking about that. They're thinking about how do I feed myself today and they just can't process three weeks from now.

Also out of Frank Williams, we have a coordinated entry navigator. Those people who enter the system and need housing, they go on a by name list. That's a prioritization list by vulnerability. We have a coordinated entry navigator that works between Frank Williams and Cross-Lines and finds those people who are on that list and tries to navigate them toward the appropriate housing for them. Often people get stuck on that list because that bottleneck stops when we can't find any more units for them and that's the housing problem. That's part of what's causing people to come into the system. Rents are going up. People cannot afford it. Salaries are not keeping pace.

We also have our supportive housing case management for once people do get housed. I think it was MSGT Joyce that talked about once people get housed, how do you get them to stay. So, we work with people who are experiencing severe and persistent mental illness to try and keep

them in their homes. We often have people—we are taking them from those encampments where they have a community. They have protection. It's not always the healthiest community. It's not always the healthiest protection, but it's their community. We put them in a home and we say, okay, good luck, and people experience loneliness. They experience isolation. They are afraid. They are not able to manage their mental health symptoms. We have people actually walk away from units and will just be back on the street. They might have an apartment, but they're back on the street so, we have a team that works with people to try and keep them in their housing. As soon as they're housed, we try to keep somebody in their house and meeting with them daily for a little bit to try and keep them housed.

We also have our Interim Program through Frank Williams. In our Interim Program, we have four units. Some of those are funded through the state of Kansas and the others we just pay that out-of-pocket. Those are units that we find people who are the most vulnerable on the street. In accordance with housing first, we don't ask for their paperwork. We put them in apartment. We must re-lease those apartments. We put them there. We say you're safe. Let's get your documents. Let's find a way to get you housing. It usually takes about six to nine months if they don't have any barriers to housing. If the Housing Authority list is open and they meet criteria—which is often hard to do for the people we work with to meet that criteria or if they can get an income-based housing apartment because they don't have a legal history, a criminal history, or they don't have evictions—then six to nine months, sometimes longer, but we have four units that we put people into to try and get those most vulnerable off the streets.

Also through Kim Wilson Housing and our permanent supported housing, we have housing stabilization. Those are HUD funded programs. We have a lot of services that are coming out of Kim Wilson Housing, a lot of those wraparound services, and that's really necessary when you are putting someone who experiences chronic homelessness. Chronic homelessness is really 12 months of continuous homelessness on the street. The longer somebody is homeless and on the street, the harder it is to get them housing, the harder it is to engage people, the harder it is for them to keep housing. They need somebody in there every day at first to try and help them keep that housing.

Just some quick numbers. Right now our current average number of people seen per day at Frank Williams Outreach Center is 108. Our last fiscal year it was 89. I know yesterday we had 117

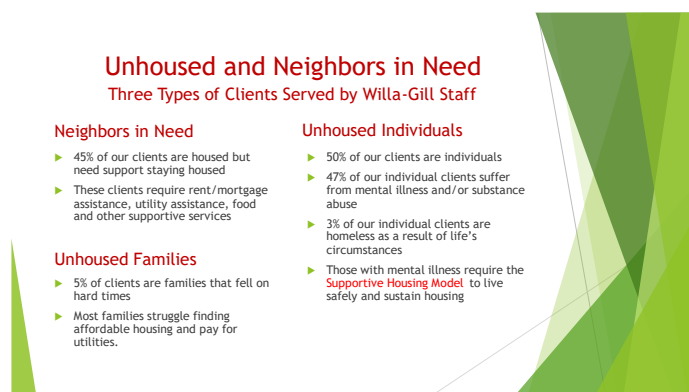
people through there. We are seeing the numbers increase quite a bit, and that does create a lot of other safety issues for both our staff and for the other people who are there. Our staff do a great job of de-escalation and trying to keep people safe and calm the entire day, but with people experiencing mental health symptoms, sometimes those symptoms get escalated. Sometimes people are just stressed. It is stressful and traumatic being on the streets and they're just looking for respite.

The average number of people that we assisted with basic needs and hygiene supplies per month in fiscal year 2023, 722 people. The number of people who were outreached by our homeless outreach team—and their job is specifically to identify people who are struggling with mental health and substance use symptoms and bring them into services—they brought 222 people into services last year. The number of people served per month on the homeless outreach team is 92. That means that each month, they had pretty much a rotating caseload of 92 people constantly. They did house 93 people last year. There were 9 people served in our interim housing and our housing subsidy programs—the permanent supported housing, which is an evidence-based practice and part of once you have housing, solves housing. Then our Rapid Rehousing Program and our tenant-based rental assistance was 113 people throughout the year.

Commissioner Johnson said I appreciate everyone that's up here and certainly MCRC is coming behind there, but we have a whole agenda behind this and it's 9:20. I want to make sure that we all have a chance because I really want a whole session to work through some of the challenges that we're facing as a community. I don't know that this is the right session for us to be able to do that, but I respect what everyone has said up to this point. You all have brought very valid and reasonable presentations, and I want to thank you for the work that you're doing. I'm just not sure that the Commission is put in a position to be able to take advantage of all these great programs and things that are being presented to us tonight.

Ondra Penn said Mt. Carmel Redevelopment Corporation has served as the managing agent since November 1, 2002, under the beloved leadership of the founder of Mt. Carmel Redevelopment Corporation who was Bishop Ervin Sims, Jr., and also with our Executive Director to my right, Mrs. Pamela Smart.

I serve as the facility manager at the Willa Gill Center. With us tonight is our pastor from Mt. Carmel, Superintendent Jason Sims.



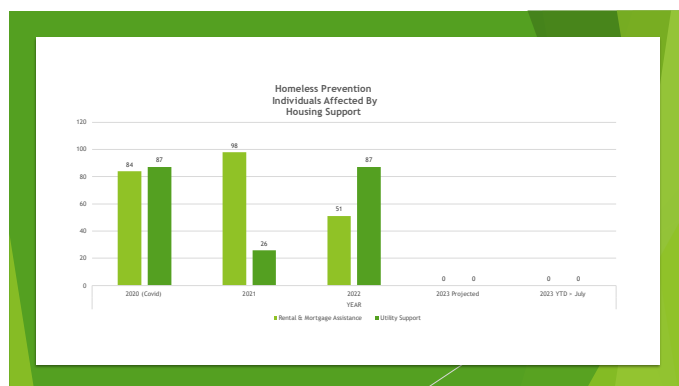
The Willa Gill Center, regarding unhoused and neighbors in need, has provided assistance to three types of clients served at the Willa Gill Center. First, the neighbors in need, which represents 45% of our clients that are housed but need support to stay in their homes whether they're homeowners or renters. These particular families and clients require rent and mortgage assistance and utility assistance, food, and other supportive services to help them continue to live. Most are cost burdened because 30% of their income is going to their housing expense.

The second are the unhoused individuals and those are 50% of our clients. Those are individual people. Forty-seven percent of our individual clients suffer from mental illness and/or substance abuse and most experience chronic homelessness.

The third are the unhoused families which represents 5% of our clients. Those are families that have fallen on hard times; had some unusual crisis that has affected them. Most of the families struggle with finding affordable housing and have to pay for utilities. Most experience temporary and/or sporadic homelessness.

With regard to the unhoused individuals, I mentioned 50% of those are clients that are individuals, they suffer from, and I mentioned, the mental illness and substance abuse. Three percent of those clients are homeless as a result of their life circumstances. Those with the mental illness require the support of housing model. That is a solution to a homeless issue that we're experiencing in this community. Supportive housing model means that it's going to be expensive, but it's a safe way to live and to get people to be sustained, to keep them sustained in their apartments or homes. It requires security on-site. It requires case managers on-site to work with

those individuals that are in the supportive housing apartments. Management has to be in agreement that's on-site of those units.



Our neighbors in need, Mt. Carmel Redevelopment Corporation, through the Willa Gill Center, has provided homeless prevention to individuals affected by the rising costs of rent and mortgages and the utilities. The year 2020, during the COVID time, we were able to assist 84 families with rent and/or mortgage. We were able to provide 87 with utilities.

In the year 2021, we provided 98 with rent and mortgage, and 87 with utilities. In 2022, we helped 51 with rent and mortgage, and, again, 87 with the utilities. This current year, 2023, we have not had any funds to provide rent, mortgage, nor utilities. That's due to reduction of funds; however, year-to-date, we have paid for six families, paid their rent and their mortgage for them.



We are an agency that believes in collaborating and partnering in the community with all agencies so that we can reduce as much of the cost as possible, and to provide the wraparound services that we are required to provide.

As I recall, the Unified Government wanted to make sure when the Willa Gill Center was constructed and finished in November 1996, you wanted to make sure that the people received

more than just a meal because the Hot Lunch Service, Inc., food kitchen is located in that building, but they wanted them to get more than just a meal. That's why we make sure that we have case management on staff that provides short-term and long-term so when clients come to the receptionist window, we open at 9:00, they're able to come in without appointments and be seen and interviewed. Our first step is to have them fill out our client application form. It's an intake. That gives them an opportunity to share with us what their immediate need is as they have defined it. Then we have a face-to-face personal sit down, sitting down with them, interview to identify additional needs that they have. That's the short-term process.

Secondly, option 1 is to identify resources to assist them either obtain temporary shelter or housing and/or a motel or hotel. Then option 2, as it relates to those who are experiencing mental challenges, we would refer several folks to Wyandot Behavioral Health Program for assessment which often includes admission into Rainbow services, their hospital on-site.

The long-term basis, option 1, is to see if people qualify for transitional housing that Mt. Carmel administers or our Hillcrest Ministries or our Veterans Administration for homeless veterans.

Option 2 is to try to help them obtain permanent housing. We work through landlords, the Housing Authority, and also non-public subsidy housing which may be affordable for the folks that have need. So, we are actually collaborating. We have agencies that continue to come on-site.



There was a question about the Health Department being involved. They are partnering with us through their Substance Abuse Department at the Health Department here in our city. This is a recent engagement, but they've made it known that they would like to work with us. We're excited about working with them to, hopefully, help those that are struggling with those abuse issues.

The housing support that we have provided, the year 2020, again during the COVID time, and then in 2021, 2022, and 2023 is projected, but there's been 88 folks that were supplied with temporary housing. Thirty of those that were seen out at the Wyandot Behavioral Health through their Rainbow Service Integrated Program, RSI, 24 were placed in transitional housing and 122 recently obtained permanent housing. We're receiving lots of referrals from the Kansas City, KS Housing Authority and other housing authorities throughout the metropolitan area.

MCRC WILLA GILL VALUE ADDED COMMUNITY SERVICES				
SERVICE	2023	2022	2021	
Numerous Community Partnerships	✓	✓	✓	
Clinical Therapist ~ Mental Health Services	✓	✓	✓	
Food Pantry	✓	✓	✓	
Grab N Go Homeless Food Bags	✓	✓	✓	
Grant Writing for Program Funding	✓	✓	✓	
Homeless Hygiene Kits	✓	✓	✓	
Community Support ~ Thanksgiving & Christmas	✓	✓	✓	
Contract Support Staff		✓		
Employee Training & New Technology	✓	✓		
Medical Supplies, Facial Thermometer, Air Purifier		✓	✓	
Community Rent/Mortgage & Utility Assistance		✓	✓	
New Refrigeration		✓	-	
LPN Nursing Services		✓		

What has MCRC brought to the table? In addition to the Unified Government Community Development Department funds and General funds, MCRC has added a number of community services over the years so we're not just using UG dollars. For example, the year 2023, I'll start with this current year, we have eight specific programs that we have in place. Through our numerous community partnerships, we've hired and provided funding to pay for a clinical therapist to provide on-site mental health services which includes client intervention, just checking to see what the pulse is in the building to diffuse any chaos that might occur because someone's not on the medicine, hasn't been evaluated or/and if there is a drug issue. That particular therapist hosts group therapy sessions three times a week and individual counseling and walkthroughs to be of support to myself and the security officer to keep down confusion as much as possible.

We've added a full-fledged food pantry. We have two types. One is for those that have apartments or homes where they can prepare food so they get fresh meat, produce, and other necessary staple items. They can come monthly. The other is the grab-and-go homeless food bags. Those are gallon size bags that have been filled with about 13 items that are ready-to-eat items that people who are on the street, unhoused can still have the protein that they need and other things that are nutritionally safe for them.

Of course, we've added grant writing to help us obtain additional funds. We provide also the homeless hygiene kits for both those that are homeless and those that are stably housed.

Community support is provided for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We do that. We have like 200 families that we provide Thanksgiving baskets for every year. With Christmas, we have a large number of families. Then we encourage people in the community that would like to partner with us through what we call Adopt a Family. That means we identify or have the families identify their needs, their dreams, their wish list within reason, and then we do that either anonymously or if the family is comfortable then they can know who they are.

Contract support staff. We've had to bring on some staff to help us in 2022 with some special projects. Of course, our employee training and new technology. We have new phone systems. We have new computers that are up-to-date. We have the telephone voicemail system in the lobby that's available for people who don't have phones, don't have landlines nor cell phones. That's a free service. They can have their email set up through our office.

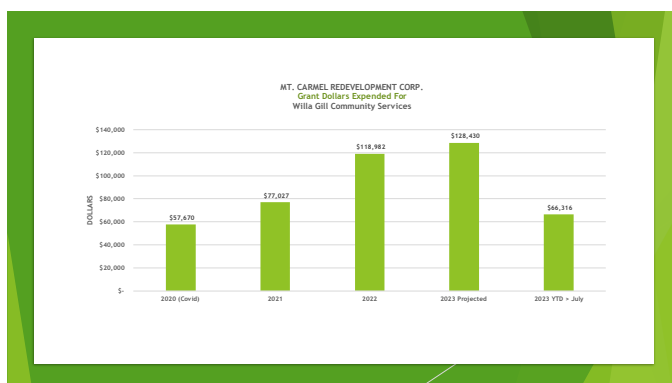
Medical supplies, we provide those and we have those on-site. We have a facial thermometer which we still use even though COVID has decreased to some extent. We still have people come in and get their temperatures taken so that if there's a problem, we can ensure greater safety for everybody else and address it. An air purifier that we keep in the lobby to try to help.

Community rent, mortgage, and utility assistance, I mentioned that earlier. We bought a new freezer and a new refrigerator so that we could store the food adequately and according to temperature.

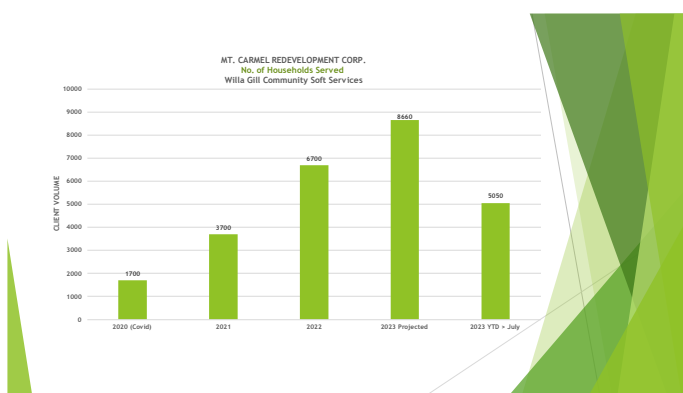
Then we had a licensed practical nurse who provided nurse services which helped reduce the number of calls that would be made to the paramedic, to the ambulance, or 9-1-1 for people. So, that's helped to protect some folks from having strokes, etc., the dollars.

Pam Smart, Executive Director for Mt. Carmel, said my part of the presentation is to talk about the things that Ondra just talked about here that Mt. Carmel has brought to the community in addition to what our contract with the UG requires us to do.

For those things, we have to raise money every year to make those things happen. From 2020 to 2023 year-to-date, we have raised \$319,995 that we've pumped back into the community to help our homeless and neighbors in need with these services that Ondra just went over with you.



When we look at the number of households that we've supported within that same timeframe, there are—and you got you all have the numbers in your packet. I'm not going to go year by year to save time, but if we add those households up from 2020 to date, we've served 17,150 families trying to support them and staying housed; support them with soft services.



Recently, the Midwest Center for Non-Profit Leadership did a study of the Metropolitan Kansas City area of 214 organizations; 214 organizations, 323 programs. That study found that 62% of those programs were ran by non-profit organizations, 30% by the government, 1% by for-profit, 1% collaboratives, and the last 6% is unknown. I stress that because I know for Mt. Carmel, we do good work. We're a small staff of 10 people. When you look at the stats and the numbers of the work that we're producing to try to end homelessness and try to help with homelessness, we're in that 62% along with our colleagues.



Our current challenges are the same things that you all have been hearing all night. We all are saying the same thing. The homeless rate, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, has jumped 11% this year from a year ago. It's the largest single jump since 2007. We have rising housing costs and people are—more families are falling off into homelessness because they can't afford to pay for their housing.

The end of the pandemic era is a problem because when the moratoriums are lifted, then a lot of people fell into housing yet again; the lack of permanent supportive housing, as Ondra stated, and the lack of affordable housing.

If you heard the numbers upfront, 45% of the people that we serve are neighbors in need. They have housing. They just need programs. Forty-seven percent suffer from some form of mental illness or drug abuse or something like that. They require wraparound services. Therein lies the problem for our homeless. If we could provide supportive housing with wraparound services, we could end homelessness. It's that simple. We need the wraparound services that will keep these people housed. That's what our numbers are showing.

Finally, as we talked about earlier, the growing influx of homeless population that are coming in from surrounding areas. It's like water. It's liquid. We can't get a hold of it. It's difficult for us because a lot of our clients don't have ID so we don't really know where they come from. We do know that it's a different temperament of the people. The homeless that know us that are from this area, they're easier to work with. Some of the homeless that come from other areas may have more of a sense of entitlement. They may be a little bit more aggressive and we're seeing more of that. Thank God we have a therapist because she is able and trained to de-escalate which is causing us to call the authorities less which is taking pressure off of our government, but we're seeing an influx that is hard to be able to contain.

Other barriers are the mental hospitals. They will see the patients, but they drop them off at the Willa Gill Center with whatever, their belongings or if they're in a gown, it just doesn't matter. They will just drop them off and we have to figure out how we help these people and get them off the street or get them somewhere for the night.

The mental illness and the substance abuse is rising. We're seeing more people that are in their addiction. We have limited resources. We have limited case managers. With all the work that we're talking about that Mt. Carmel does, we have one case manager. One case manager, and Ondra serves as the facility manager. She works with that case manager to try to see all of the clients that come there for services.

There's a lack of insurance and access to recovery and training programs. We don't have recovery programs and training programs. The ones that do exist, the people don't have insurance to be able to take advantage of.

We have a lack of temporary shelters. We don't have shelters. We don't have anywhere to send people. We have those clients who have pending benefits. They're waiting for their social security or they're waiting for their voucher. In the meantime, they don't have anywhere to go. Those are barriers and challenges that Mt. Carmel sees. It is very hard. I agree with everybody here. It is very hard to see the homeless but I promise you, it is much harder to be homeless. That's what we're dealing with every day. Yesterday, you heard Ondra say we don't have funds. We don't have anything in the bucket for hotels or to put somebody up for tonight. We don't have it.

We had a lady come. She has a seven-year-old daughter. They slept out on the concrete, on the sidewalk the night before. Our bucket was empty but staff put together nearly \$500 and put those two in a hotel for the next five days until we can figure out something else. So, it is extremely hard to see the homeless, but it's very, very hard to be homeless, especially when you have a seven-year-old kid and you're a mom and she's a girl. Two women on the street sleeping on the sidewalk. It's real. This is real time.

So, why are we here today and how can you all help? We all know that we got the issue of the Willa Gill Center having to move and Frank Williams. We understand that. What we need is a comprehensive community plan. We feel like it's moving quickly and we don't have a real plan. We don't know who's going where. We've been told that we will go with Frank Williams. We've

met with Frank Williams. We've talked about what would be needed for us to make that move, but we're asking you all for a comprehensive plan and a planner. A person to help carry that plan out so that we're not just doing something temporarily, but something that is permanent. Something that will work. Something that will serve the people, which is what I think we all want. That's what we're here for.

We would like a collaborative effort among all the agencies working together toward a common goal, not just the service providers, but all the agencies. It's going to take all of us. Our homeless situation is so far out of hand that it's going to take everybody to be on the same page. That's where a comprehensive plan will help us.

We need financial support and resources. As I said, our bucket to help people temporarily, it's empty. We didn't get any money this year for that so it's coming out of our pockets to help those, especially with children.

We need you all to consider the new space recommendations. We've talked with, again, Frank Williams. We know what we need. They've told us what they need. We need to find a space that's suitable for both organizations. We need help with the utility bills because for our clients, some of them can't get housing because they left their utility bill that was so high. Now it's against the law to rent to them until that bill is paid. So, there needs to be some real attention around what's happening with our utility bills in this county. We need more housing. That's the bottom line. We've got to figure out collectively how to get more housing.

A couple of things that we're concerned about, we're concerned about proposed housing and overnight shelter maybe being a part of wherever we move. They need to be two separate things. Then we're concerned about centralized property, just putting everything in one space and having all that property together.

For new space recommendations, right now at 645 Nebraska, we have four offices. We could use five. We have the food pantry and refrigeration, as Ondra said. We have storage space; very minimal. We have an office for private therapy. The therapist does private there. She does prevention. She does private therapy and then she does group therapy as well. We have the dining room that we share with the kitchen. When the kitchen is not in service, we have access to the dining room. You don't have a mailroom, but we have a mail area where we have mailboxes so that our clients can pick up their mail there. Those that are homeless can have their mail sent to

the Willa Gill Center. They have a phone bank where they can get their phone messages that they're looking for housing or job or what have you. Of course, there's the commercial kitchen that is serviced by currently by the Hot Lunch Service, Inc. Our building currently is 10,449 square feet and we're cramped in a suite so we do need a little bit more space.

In talking, with working with Frank Williams, we need additional office space. We need showers. That's what they have already in their space. They have showers. They have laundry service. They have the daytime drop-in space. They have computer workstations. They have storage space for their clients and store space for their agency. That's the space, that if we would come together, that we would need in order to be able to function and run the programs that we currently run.

Long-term goal, of course, I think we all are after the same goal and that is shelter space for about 30 to 40 with some added expansion room for cold weather shelter.

I'd just like to say it one more time. Mt. Carmel, we do good work. We're proud of the work that we do in this community. We thank you all for the support that you have given us over the years and the opportunity to serve. We want to keep up the good work, but we want to do it all together collectively.

Commissioner Townsend said I'm going to start off where you kind of ended. I didn't get that number. You mentioned 10,000 something square feet. What was that again?

Ms. Smart said 10,449 square feet. That's the size of the Willa Gill Center that we're in currently.

Commissioner Townsend said so your other here, long-term goal, in addition to the 10,449, you want to add how much more to accomplish the shelter space?

Ms. Smart said that would be a conversation that we would have to have with Rob. He handles the cold weather shelter space. There was a time when we offered for them to use the dining hall for the cold weather shelter but unfortunately, it didn't work out because of some things in the contract.

Commissioner Townsend said I ask the question because as you mentioned, are looking, it would be interesting to know how much more square footage in terms of that you'd be looking at to accomplish a long-term goal. I agree with you. The Willa Gill does good work as do so many of all of the agencies that spoke tonight. I can name at least four that I've supported over the years

through the Casino Grant funds. When we consider whether we can even change what the contract says about Casino Grant, I don't know that we're not locked into that. The suggestion to do away with it, when you hear what you've heard tonight, keep in mind that you are limiting the limited ability that we have, as commissioners, to aid these agencies to accomplish the good work that all of them do daily. Thank you to everybody who spoke tonight.

Ms. Smart said I would like to add that this presentation is strictly about what's done out of the Willa Gill Center. We have a main office where we do the same work. Those numbers are not included in this work because tonight, we just focused on the Willa Gill Center.

Commissioner Townsend said that was my understanding.

Mayor Garner said thank you so much. This presentation tonight was important. I know it was a long presentation. I believe that it's a needed conversation; a conversation I have not heard before this Commission in depth. One that we've got to face. The reason we've got to face it, and I think what came out, is the state of Missouri has passed laws and we're seeing an influx of that population of unhoused and impoverished people. They're flooding our city.

One thing that Ms. Penn and Ms. Smart didn't note is that a lot of times they get buses or Ubers of individuals that just drop them off at their location wanting services; one way. When you talk about camps all the way out in Piper now, all four corners of Kansas City, KS, this is becoming a huge problem for us. I know it's a national problem. Part of the conversation is, how do we get ahead of it?

There is a task force there that is doing that work, but what I picked up on is the lack of resources, the lack of money, the lack of housing, but there is no lack of will to try and help these individuals. Feeding them and giving them a place to stay when it's cold isn't a solution. The solution is how do we move these individuals from being dependent to independent and being self-sufficient and contributors in our community.

I've talked to other mayors on both sides of the water. My biggest concern is because of the influx from Missouri, they have a marijuana tax that helps with a lot of these issues. The state has criminalized being homeless in a variety of ways. I know the city of Kansas City, MO, has passed, at least their Council has added additional funding to deal with the issue so it's not as big

as a problem with you talk about what Wyandotte County's facing where we have economic challenges. We don't have a lot of resources. We don't have an actual shelter.

The message that I've sent to some of my neighboring mayors and other communities is that we are challenged just taking care of our own neighbors in need. It bothers me when I hear that other communities are sending their individuals to our city. I made it clear, as mayor, for as long as I'm mayor, I told them Wyandotte County will not be considered the home base for homelessness or the portal for poverty for the entire Kansas City metropolitan area. Unless there is some concentrated effort, and I mentioned a bi-state sales tax to help us deal with this issue in that regard. We've got to find solutions.

Earlier, this Commission, it was pointed out in the budget presentation of \$3M there was for a resource center. I'm not saying that's the answer, but as you heard tonight, the need is there for expanded space to enhance services, not to mentor services. That would also, hopefully, move the Willa Gill Center and the Frank Williams Center from a location where we know we're trying to enhance economic development with our college, and do so responsibly on a bus route in close proximity to those individuals that have become accustomed to those services in or near downtown.

What has occurred is, I know that a group of individuals, community members, along with Commissioners Burroughs and Bynum, have looked at some facilities. One facility that has stood out is the facility right there at 9th & State Avenue, just south of the Election Office, in between State and Minnesota. Part of the issue isn't so much of finding the funding. We believe the building could be purchased at a reasonable cost, but what comes with this is to retrofit it to the specs that you've heard tonight to provide those enhanced services that can provide the wraparound services, cold extreme weather station that we could partner with one of our stakeholders here tonight with the food, the services of Frank Williams Center, housing, jobs, transitional housing in one location, if that's something that we feel would be a best practice.

What this Commission really has to think about with our budget consideration is how do we sustain an operation like that over the long run. That's where the real dollars come in because there's just not a lot of dollars flowing through our coffers to be able to handle that. Then, you just can't throw money at the situation. Again, everything has to be transitional with the goal of moving these people from poverty to some level of self-sustainability. So, that's something for this Commission to think about.

I would love for any of you to meet with me, talk with me or my staff or to the task force, Mr. Lally, about some of these issues and help bring forth some good recommendations that, hopefully, if it's the will of this Commission, can, hopefully, get a handle on this problem because it's not going to go away. It's growing. It's getting worse and more people are in dire straits and we have to act now.

You heard about the cost to public safety, to our Fire Department. The Sheriff wasn't here, but there is a cost there with incarcerating people. There's a cost no matter how you look at it. But where do you want to spend the money? Do you want to spend the money helping people or do you want to spend the money pushing these people from one part, from one camp in our community to another without really investing in the resources that we know are there that can make a positive difference.

So, thank you all for your presentations. I thought it was really good.

Action: For information only.

Item No. 4 – 212636...PRESENTATION: SUMMER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Synopsis: A presentation conducted by Oak Ridge Development School, Heartland 180 Inc, and Central Area Betterment Association (CABA), submitted by Tyrone A. Garner, Mayor/CEO.

Mayor Garner said we know that school has started and education is really huge. It's really important when you talk about this ties into our young people and some of those community programs that are out there that help to improve the educational prospects for our young people just in our community. A lot of these private entities also receive funds from the Unified Government, so I thought it'd be a good time for them to give a brief, quick update in the interest of time.

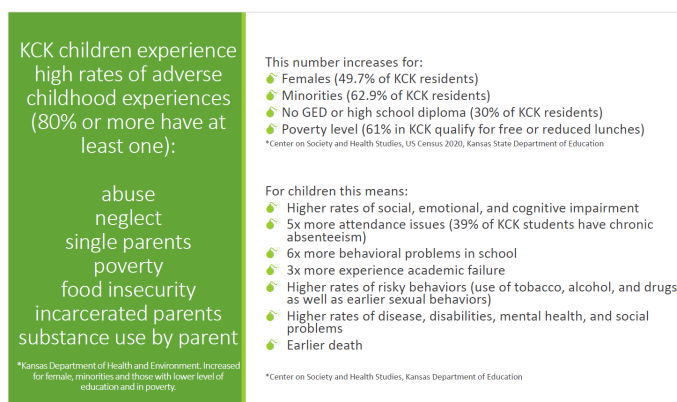
Ricky Turner said I'm the Senior Pastor of the Oak Ridge Missionary Baptist Church for 25 years, by the grace of God, this year. It's a privilege to be here tonight. This is Charlie Jennings, our new Executive Director of our Oak Ridge Youth Development School. Our school has been in existence for almost 17 years and we pushed about 2,800 kids through our school.

As you all know, and I think this is a good segue, if you will, based on what we've just heard, if we take care of our kids when they're at a young age educationally, we may not have to worry about a lot of the things that we've just heard. I wanted to just let you know what we do at Oak Ridge Youth Development School. I'm going to give Charlie opportunity to present a presentation, abbreviated, because time is of the essence.

Let me say, I thank many of you, Commissioner Kane, Mayor, Mr. Burroughs, Ms. Townsend, Bynum, Davis. Thank you all so much for coming and reading to our kids. They look up to you. They are our future, not of tomorrow, but today. They are our precious gems; priceless, and we need to make an investment in them at an early age, not when they get to high school. We've lost them by then.

Our school starts from pre-K through 8th grade.

Charlie Jennings, Executive Director, Oak Ridge Youth Development School, said thank you for having us here tonight. I will try to abbreviate this. So, I'm going to skip a lot of information because I think you can get a copy of this.



We all know the problem with education in our community. About 80% of our children are experiencing adverse childhood events when they're young: abuse, neglect, single parents, poverty, food insecurity, homelessness, some of the things that have been brought up tonight. We see those groups being females, being minorities, having no GED or high school diploma. The poverty level for those increase the issues for the children as far as higher rates of social, emotional, and cognitive impairments, attendance issues, behavior problems, academic failure, more risky behaviors, higher rates of disease, disability, mental health, social problems, and earlier death.

The CDC recognizes correlations between poor education and ...

➤ Employment Issues

- Less secondary education (only 31% of graduates pursue this in KCK)
- The unemployment rate for those without high school diplomas is 50% higher than high school graduates and 100% higher than those with college degrees.
- Working in jobs that do not provide a living wage
- Less advancement
- Short term employment

➤ Health Issues

- Higher use of tobacco products
- Increased obesity rates
- Higher rates of mental health issues
- No health care coverage
- Limited ability to pay for medical, dental or vision
- No mental health treatment
- Higher rates of infectious disease
- Higher rates of chronic noninfectious disease
- Higher rates of disability
- Higher levels of morbidity/mortality

➤ Community Issues

- Need for free and subsidized resources due to poverty rates. The poverty rate for adults ages 25 and older without a high school diploma is double the rate of high school graduates (28% vs. 14%) in the US. With only 5% of college graduates falling to poverty level.
- Taxing our current systems so that more get less or less get more
- Less revenue, taxes, businesses and other monetary resources for our community
- Increased crime rates and rates of incarceration.
- Individuals are less likely to report fulfilling, rewarding lives and lower rates of a sense of control over their lives and their health.
- Individuals report lower rates of feeling supported by their family, friends and community, leading them to feel apart from their community

We see this cycle repeat, with the disparity between the educated and the less educated continuing to widen with each generation!

*Center for Disease Control, Kansas State Department of Education

We see that the CDC recognizes that there is a correlation between poor education, employment, health issues, community issues. We see the cycle repeat over and over again where the disparity grows between those that are uneducated and those that are educated.

ORYDS SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



DID YOU KNOW:

Moderate to high income families spend 7x more on enrichment activities for their children, creating an opportunity gap for children in low-income families.

BUT:

Graduation rates match that of affluent students (85%) when low-income students have access to programming with academic focuses throughout their childhood.



**Wallace Foundation Study, 2023

So, just some quick information. Moderate to high-income families spend seven times more on activities for their children than those who are lower income; however, programs like Oak Ridge Development School can actually bring that up if they're participating in those types of programs so that they match the same graduation rate as more affluent families.

Before and After School Care

- Provides developmental opportunities,
- Teaches self-management and self-regulation through interactions,
- Provides a safe place for children and improving safety in our communities through supervision.



Some information about what we do. We have before and after school care programs, you can see these beautiful little smiles, which provide children a safe place to be while their parents are

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working, looking for work, or doing other activities. It also provides safety for the community because the children are being supervised.

HARAMBEE!
Starting the day with celebration!



- ✓ TEAMWORK and COMMUNITY
- ✓ GRATITUDE
- ✓ SELF-ESTEEM
- ✓ IMPROVED FOCUS
- ✓ BETTER PERFORMANCE
- ✓ INCREASED MOTIVATION
- ✓ POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEERS

Swahili for "all pull together" and a Kenyan tradition to celebrate our cultural heritage and values. Often called out when someone needs help from others. Others call it out as they join in, asking the community as a whole to help.

We have Harambee in the morning that we start with. So, we start our day off with the celebration. This is a Kenyan tradition; bringing the community together. These are some of the values that we teach with those activities. Those of you who have done the Read Aloud have been a part of this process.

Read Aloud
by community leaders and authors

- Builds vocabulary
- Improves comprehension and active listening skills
- Strengthens fluency
- Improves working memory
- Reduce stress

As we stimulate their imagination and expand their understanding of the world, we teach them important life lessons and build their character.



With our Read Aloud, we're building vocabulary. We're doing all those things that are involved in reading to children, and we're really kind of expanding what children understand about their community and the world that they live in.

MENTORING is integral in helping students reach their goals and character development.



MENTORS:

- Challenge any negative internalized feelings that underserved youth may have about their own race, culture or beliefs.
- Provide a renewed sense of value that positively impacts their personality and actions; allowing them to expand their mindset and see that they can achieve anything they want in life.
- Are culturally responsive, reinforce positive racial identity, have critical consciousness (experience that is relatable), and help address opportunity gaps.

Mentoring is a huge part. You might be able to recognize the back side of this individual, Mayor. Mentoring is an integral part. Ninety-eight percent of the students that attend our school are African-American. So, being able to see individuals who are like them, who are able to share their story, who are relatable, is very important for our children. It helps them identify and understand their culture, their race, and their beliefs.

In KCK, only 15% of our students are proficient in **READING** at their grade level (KSDE).

Lexia Core Reading is a industry leading program used in more than 22,000 schools nationwide. Our students use Lexia daily as well as participating in independent reading and integrated writing.

Over **6 weeks**, students gained an average of 7 new skills by completing 122 units each.

We started with only 31% of the students at grade level and ended with 47% at grade level and an additional 3% reading above grade level.



The most important things that we can bring up is our esteem education. In KCK, only 15% of our students read at third grade level, whatever grade level that is. When we bring students in, we're using not only certified teachers who provide education, but also some software as well. Just over six weeks, our students were able to gain 7 new skills and complete 122 units of those skill levels in order to promote their reading. We went from 31% of our students reading at grade level at the beginning of the six weeks to 47% reading at grade level, and 3% of those reading at above grade level. Even those who didn't get to their grade level still made quite a bit of progress in that time.

Only 8% of KCK students are proficient in **MATH** at their grade level (KSDE).



- MangaHigh is used in over 7,500 schools and provides lessons in math as a game where students practice and progress as they learn.
- In **6 weeks**, 91% of students mastered one or more skills with the average being 7 skills mastered per student. The remaining 9% progressed in their initial skills assignments.
- 2,413 medals were awarded to students for mastering not only the general skills but being able to complete questions that were considered "hard" or "extreme" in those subject areas.

With math, only 8% of Kansas City, KS, students are at the grade level they should be performing at. Again, in those six weeks, we were able to have 91% of our students mastering one or more skillsets with an average being seven skills. So, this is quite a few steps up as they're getting to their grade level performance. You can see we were able to award quite a few certificates for the progress that they made during that time. Just imagine six weeks versus a longer period of time what we would be able to do.

HEALTHY eating habits are more likely to stay with you if learned as a child!

We all know the benefits:

- Prevention of chronic diseases
- More active lifestyles
- Less missed days from work or school
- Fewer medical expenses throughout life.

WE SERVED:

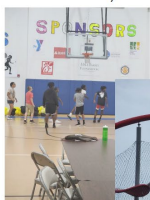
- 4,860 healthy breakfasts and lunches.
- 2,970 healthy snacks.

(Thanks to our dietician and amazing volunteers in the kitchen!)



We do have a health curriculum. We were able to provide about 8,000 healthy breakfasts, lunches, and snacks to the children. Ninety-two percent the children that attend our school are on free and reduced lunches during the year, so this is another way for us to make sure over the summer that they're receiving the nutrition that they need.

Our students dance during Harambee, have time outside after lunch, and have **PHYSICAL FITNESS** activities every day!



- ⚡ Improves cardiorespiratory fitness,
- ⚡ Builds strong bones and muscles,
- ⚡ Controls weight,
- ⚡ Reduces symptoms of anxiety and depression,
- ⚡ Reduces the risk of developing chronic health conditions.

We also have daily physical fitness activities. You can see some of the fun things we do. We know all of the benefits when we have our children engaged in that.

Swimming Lessons at the Providence YMCA



SKILL	PRE-TEST	POST TEST
Submerge	42%	91%
Swim-float-swim	18%	63%
Jump-push-turn-grab	33%	97%
Self Rescue with Clothing	56%	100%
Compression only CPR	0%	100%
Pass Swim Test (2 laps without stopping or help)	0%	87%

We also partner with the Providence YMCA. Here you can see some of the numbers. I just want to point out that we had 0% of our students do anything about CPR and weren't able to pass the swim test. By the end of that six weeks, 100% of them could do self-rescue so if they fell in the water with clothes on, they could get themselves out. They also got to learn CPR during that time. We see quite a bit of high numbers there as far as what they accomplished.

Kids in the Kitchen



Kids who learn how to cook:

- Are more likely to eat healthy.
- Contribute to the family.
- Learn about planning and making choices.
- Develop a life skill.
- Expand their understanding of math.
- Boost their self-esteem.
- Explore their creativity.



We have kids in the kitchen. You can see all the different benefits of that and mostly that we're teaching them a life skill that will last them throughout their life.

CHARACTER BUILDING

All of ORYDS programming is centered around good character and the 6 qualities we mentor and teach to our students.

These provide the ground rules for our interactions while stressing the importance of practicing these behaviors that reflect our values.

These help children and youth become:

- ☺ Conscious of the right thing to do.
- ☺ Committed to doing the right thing.
- ☺ Competent in doing the right thing.

Trustworthiness

Respect

Responsibility

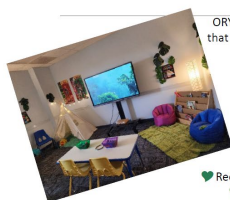
Fairness

Caring

Citizenship

We have character building. These are the character items that we look at. The main thing that we like to do is incorporate that in everything that we're providing the students. We're really trying to teach them the right thing to do. We're committing them to that. We're making them competent in those areas.

Social Emotional Activities & the Zen Den



ORYDS has a licensed professional counselor that provides weekly activities for all classes in social and emotional learning (SEL).

- Problem Solving
- Self Regulation
- Impulse Control
- Empathy

- ♥ Improves academics
- ♥ Reduces negative social behaviors like bullying
- ♥ Creates positive classroom climates
- ♥ Helps children successfully manage everyday life

Our LPC also addresses the special needs of any child enrolled in our programs.



We also address social emotional activities. We've heard a lot of issues about mental health regarding homelessness and really we see that in all aspects of life. We do have a licensed professional counselor who's able to use some of these things that we see a lot of benefit, whether that's improving academics, reducing some of the negative behaviors that we see, and just helping children manage their everyday life.

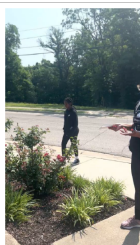
The **EMPOWERMENT** program for 6th-8th graders helps them:

- 🚩 Improve academics to decrease drop out rates when entering high school.
- 🚩 Discover their interests and goals.
- 🚩 Empower them to reach independence.



We also have an empowerment program for our 6th to 8th graders. One thing that we've noticed is when students move from middle school to high school, if they're not satisfied in their 9th grade year or their 10th grade year, our dropout rates increase during that time. They leave school and they don't come back. So, we're trying to engage them before they even get to that point by increasing their academics so that they enjoy school, that they like what they're doing. They're discovering their own interesting goals, and they are being taught about independence and what that might look like.

It is important to study **Black History** year round.



🏠 It provides context for how we got to where we are today and a deeper understanding of the issues we still face in this country. It shows our strength and ability to overcome adversity in any setting.

🏠 Black literature is instrumental in dismantling the barriers of inequality, discrimination, and stereotype. Their work provides a first-hand account of the oppression, trauma, and violence associated with our history. *Center for Black Literature

🏠 Students should be able to see examples of trailblazers and achievers who look like them and motivate them to succeed.

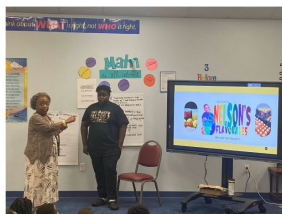
We also stress Black history. Again, 98% of our students are African-American so it's really important for them to know where they come from, who are some role models for them, and really understanding the process of their culture.

Successful **ENTREPRENEURSHIP** is a combination of knowledge, strategy, discipline, and experience.

ORYDS students:

- Problem solve
- Gain new insights
- Have a lifestyle of learning
- Recognize opportunity
- Think analytically
- Leverage their creativity.

Students are encouraged to follow their dreams and live a life they will love.



We also do entrepreneurship. This is one of my favorites. We're teaching a lot of different skills. We're having them use all the skills that they're learning over the summer to talk about what they could do as they grow up, so they can become business leaders, so that they can use their education in a positive way.

Research shows students with access to **FINANCIAL EDUCATION** have better financial outcomes as adults that result in less debt and a higher quality of life.



ORYDS uses financial literacy classes to provide a strong foundation that students can build on to avoid lifelong money issues. Research shows that students with access to financial education have better financial outcomes as adults that result in less debt and a higher quality of life.

WE TEACH:

- \$Decision Making
- \$Making Money
- \$Budgeting
- \$Living on Your Own
- \$Banking Services
- \$Credit
- \$Credit Cards
- \$Cars and Loans
- \$Influence of Advertising
- \$Saving and Investing
- \$Buying a Home
- \$Money Trouble

We also do financial education. Again, hearing all the information about homelessness, this is really important. We talk about navigating some of the difficult things that they're going to be doing whether that's credit cards, whether that's going on to a trade school or college or going out to be an entrepreneur, all the different tracks that they may come across. This is something that we really focus on as one of the benefits.

Chess and Critical Thinking

- ♣Increases your IQ,
- ♣Improves memory function and concentration,
- ♣Develops higher levels of creativity,
- ♣Teaches critical thinking and problem solving,
- ♣Teaches core math skills,
- ♣Increases emotional intelligence and social skills,
- ♣Teaches staying calm under pressure,
- ♣Increases independence and confidence.



Then, of course, we have chess which teaches critical thinking. You can see all the benefits of that as well. That's one of our activities.



We have field trips throughout our program. These are some of the places that we've attended.

What's coming next...

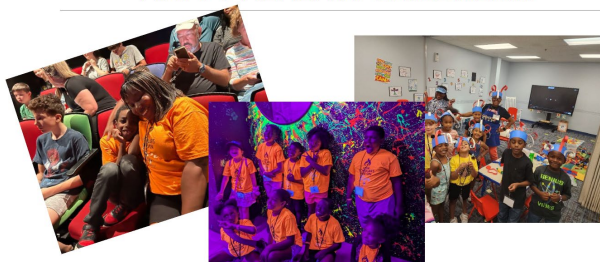
ORYDS will be providing tutoring to K-8 students in the Kansas City Kansas School District through referrals from faculty as well as individual requests beginning the **SPRING 2024 SEMESTER**.



- ✓ One-on-one tutoring will be provided Tuesdays and Thursdays after school for up to 12 students each week throughout the school year. A Read Aloud group of 10 students will also meet each day.
- ✓ Students will be provided with a healthy meal prior to their session and a social emotional game to prepare them for study.
- ✓ Students will work on assignments provided by their teacher as well as using Lexia and MangaHigh software.
- ✓ Students will have access to this software at tutoring, at school, and at home so that their practice is not limited by access to technology.
- ✓ We plan to expand as our finances allow us to meet more needs for this community.

Then to let you know what's coming next. We are starting a program of year-round tutoring for students in Kansas City, KS. This will be tutoring that's provided one-on-one on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. This is what we're starting with. Students can be referred from the Kansas City, KS School District as well as individual referrals for that. We are going to provide them with a healthy meal. They'll have a social emotional activity so we're treating the whole person. They will have access not only to that tutor's help with their homework, but also to the software programs that we have. We pay for those licenses so they're able to use that not only while they're tutoring and in school, but at home. We'll help any family that needs help getting set up with free internet services, telephones, those kind of things as well. We're hoping to expand this as we have the financial ability and the staff ability to do that.

**Our results speak for themselves...
HAPPY HEALTHY CHILDREN!!**



We see, as kind of a happy note for tonight, we see a lot of happy, healthy children from the program that we have. We do want to thank you for the funding that you guys have provided through the Casino Grant and for all of your support in what we do. **Pastor Turner** said but, we need more. Really, we do.

Pastor Turner said I want to leave you on this note. Many of you know Ms. Marian Edelman Wright, National Founder of Freedom Schools. She came to Oak Ridge School from DC and counted Oak Ridge as one of the number one schools in the nation. That's in Wyandotte County.

Commissioner Kane said I went out there and I was reading to the kids. I think the kids could do a better job reading to me. I think the best part about it was the ricochet effect. You walk through the building. All the kids are saying hi. They're all very, very polite. Then an embarrassing moment. We went outside and they decided to dance. I wasn't dancing and they made the fat guy dance. That was an outstanding program. I know I'm scheduled to come again. I appreciate what you did. What was really neat is one of the kids that went there, who started there, is now back there as a mentor. **Pastor Turner** said teaching.

Commissioner Kane said it's the ricochet effect. That young girl wanted. She received what she needed and she wanted to turn back and give back to the community what she learned. I appreciate you guys.

Max Mendoza, Executive Director/CEO/Co-Founder of Heartland 180, said we're going to hear some common themes tonight, especially around the concept of social emotional learning. One of my favorite phrases that I use when I talk about working with youth, especially when youth are in the education system, we expect our youth to be able to come into the school and just be

able to focus on the classroom. My favorite quote is, you can't read a book while running from a lion. These children are dealing with all kinds of issues and they're running from lions every day living in a state of fight or flight. So, learning how to regulate, having that social emotional education, that emotional intelligence to be able to regulate and to be able to focus and be successful and have those skills that they will start using today and going forward for the rest of their lives.



Heartland 180. We are a youth service organization that provides both in-school and after-school programming. We work with middle school and high school students providing a curriculum that is based on social emotional learning and CBT-based practices. We also, in the beginning of implementing this program, realized that working with the youth wasn't enough. That a lot of these issues are generational and that we have to include providing programming for the parents as well. So, working with both the youth and the family as a whole.



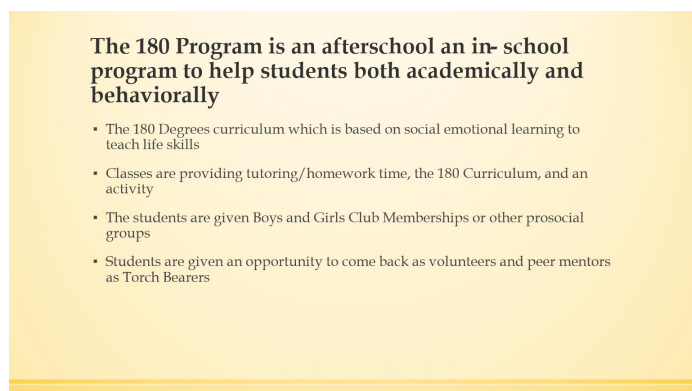
We have two branches within our organization. We have our youth service programming and then our parent and family support services. Up there you can see some of the logos of the different curriculums that we provide. We focus on providing evidence-based programming.

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The 180 Degree Program is a partnership. We know that we cannot do this work alone and that we have to partner with the agencies and the individuals that are working with these youth. Whether it's the juvenile courts, the child in need of care courts, the school district, community organizations, parents, families, their support networks, and making sure that everybody is working together and keeping the student central focus.

In some scenarios, a lot of times the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing. That's where we try to step in to help make sure that everybody is communicating and making sure that we're staying student focused.



The 180 Program we provide, like I said, both in-school and after-school programming focusing on providing those soft skills, character, education, and development training. Providing tutoring, homework time, and then plugging them into other pro-social groups. The idea is if we come in and work with them then once we're done, what next? So finding those other supports in the community to continue that support going on so that the rug isn't pulled out from underneath them. We want them to be successful. We want to work on their strengths and plug them with the community partners because not one agency can do it alone.

The other great thing with our program is that we also have the ability to have youth come back as torch bearers. Peer mentor model is a great asset. When you have individuals who have shared life experience, they become more receptive to resources provided when they see individuals that look like them and that also have shared/lived experience.

The 180 Degrees Curriculum

The 180° Program is broken down into three sections that allow participants the structure and time to develop their skills in the five key program elements of

- Core Values
- Character Education
- Life Skills
- 21st Century Skills
- Community Outreach

Our curriculum is designed to focus on core values, character education, life skills, 21st Century skills, and community outreach. We do this on focusing on three areas.

1st Degree: Self-Awareness

Reflection and Evaluation Skills

- Personal Values
- Character Qualities
- Empathy
- Integrity
- Responsibility
- Respect
- Setting Your Personal Compass
- Evaluating Personal Values

The first area is the 1st degree: self-awareness. They have to understand who they are, working on basically reflection, finding out what are their values, understanding who they are as an individual before they can move on to the next step which would be self-development.

2nd Degree: Self-Development

Life Skills

- Setting & Achieving Goals
- Identifying & dealing with Pressure
- Being Courageous
- Regulating Emotions
- Resolving Conflict
- Developing Fortitude & Determination
- Thinking Critically

You have to understand who you are to be able to focus on who you want to become.

3rd Degree : Social Responsibility

21st Century Skills & Social Awareness/Responsibility

- Understanding Your Environment
- Collaboration
- Teamwork
- Technical Fluency
- Perspective Analysis & Evaluation
- Creative & Critical Thinking
- Negotiations & Compromise
- Adaptability & Leadership
- Citizenship
- Community Responsibility
- Applying Your Compass in Various Situations (home, school, technology, community, and work.)

Then we move into the 3rd Degree of change of social responsibility. Helping them understand that they are part of multiple different communities whether that's school, home, work, and what are your responsibilities and obligations within those environments, and given the skills to be able to navigate and operate.

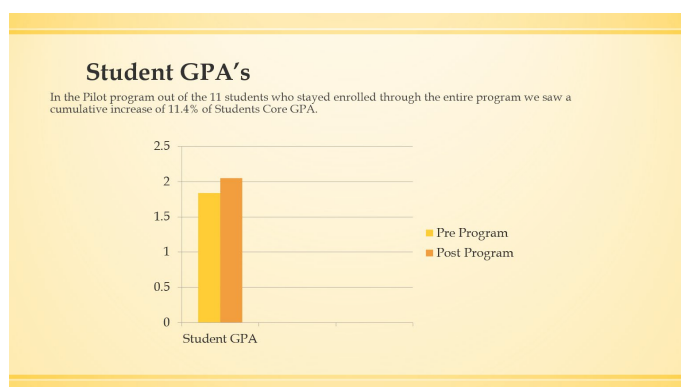
What We Hope To Accomplish

- At least a 10% Increase in GPA's
- At least a 10% Reduction in Unexcused Absences
- At least a 10% Reduction in Disciplinary Incidents
- At least a 10% Increase in Personal Development surveys

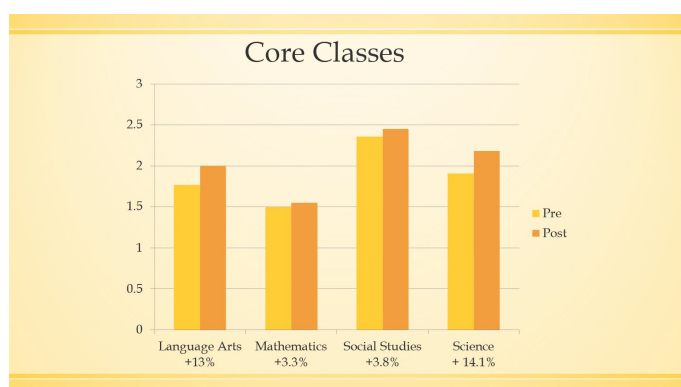
Like I said, we are an evidence-based program so we focus on the academic career. Traditional academics is important, but without those soft skills with the social emotional intelligence to be

able to self-regulate, to be able to make good decisions, to be able to understand why emotions correlate with behavior, it goes hand-in-hand. We try to look at both GPAs, unexcused absences, disciplinary incidents, and then some anecdotal evidence around personal development surveys.

Our goal is to see at least a 10% reduction in the unexcused absences, documented disciplinary incidences, and see increases in GPA, and then with the anecdotal where they see themselves from pre-program to post-program in 10 character areas that they've made improvements in.



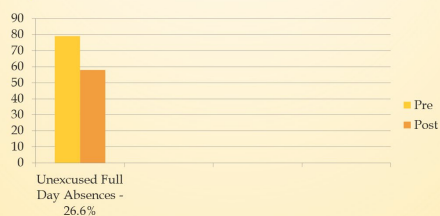
I'm going to kind of move through this quickly for sake of time. In our pilot program, we saw that we had about an 11.4% increase in the pilot group of youth in their GPAs, which I think is great. When we start looking at the behavioral side of it once they have those soft skills, that's where the real story comes in.



We kind of move through this.

Student Attendance

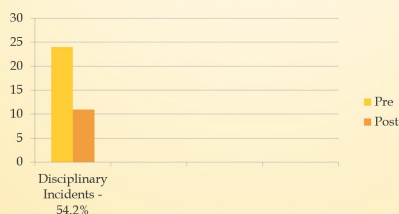
Full day absences for 11 students that remained in the program were 79 for the semester prior to the training compared to 58 during the 2nd Semester, representing a 26.6% decrease.



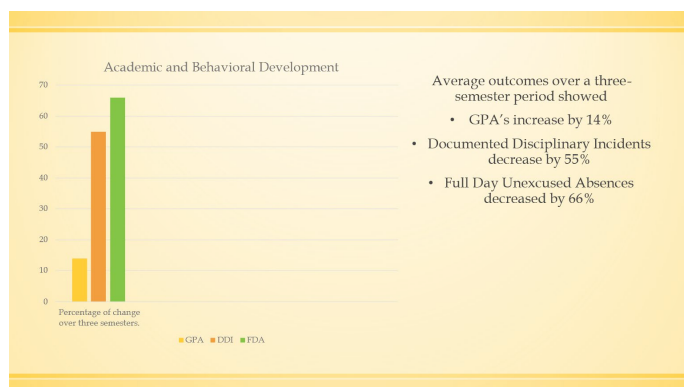
For the 11 youth that came into the pilot program, they had a commutative 79 days that they had missed of school pre per our program. When they finished the 180 Degree Program and was able to acquire the soft skills necessary, we saw a decrease of 26%. That brought it down to 58 days. If we can get the youth in the schools and give them the skills to self-regulate, then we see improvements in GPAs in the long run.

Documented Disciplinary Incidents

Combined disciplinary incidents records for 11 students in the program revealed a total of 24 the semester before the training compared to 11 during the 2nd Semester, representing a 54.2% decrease.



This was one of the greatest—to me, one of the big points was those documented disciplinary incidences. Once they learn how to navigate this, their ability to be able to make better decisions, to self-regulate, to learn how to use conflict resolution, we saw a decrease of 54% of documented disciplinary incidences within the schools. When the students came in, they had a total of 24 incidents. That dropped down to 11.



If they're in school more and they're able to stay in the classroom, that's the first step is getting them through the doors and getting them to stay in the classroom. Giving them the tools to be successful. Then those tools are going to follow over when they find themselves in the workforce.

Over a three semester period, we saw a combined improvement of 14% in GPAs, a 55% reduction in documented disciplinary incidences, and a 66% reduction in full day unexcused absences.

Personal Development Surveys

- Personal Development Surveys rating the students' progress (1 -poor to 5 superior) are to be completed by the students, facilitator, Teachers and parents, rating the students in ten different areas. This survey is done both pre and post the program to evaluate the student's progression.

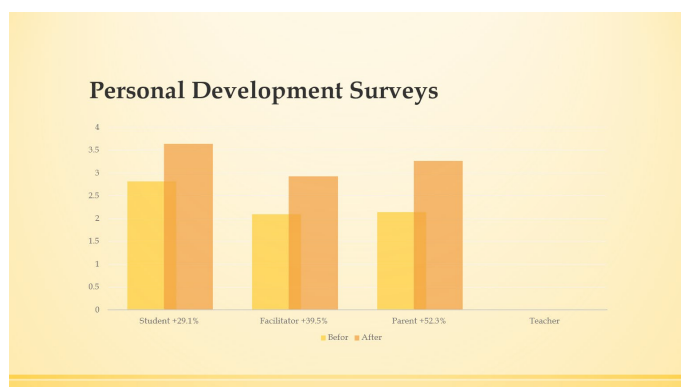
The personal development surveys really focus on 10 character areas...

10 Areas Surveyed

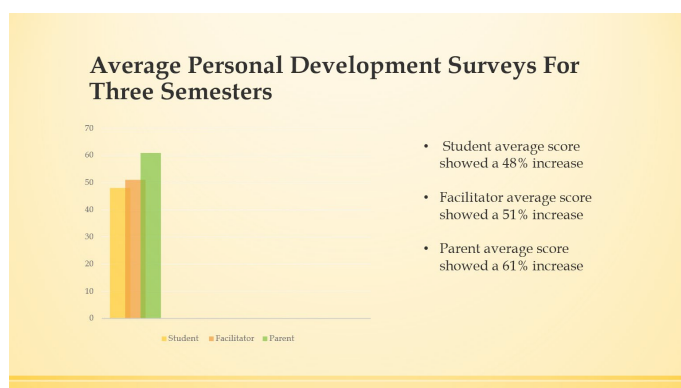
The following areas from before to after the training:

- (1) Attitude
- (2) Motivation
- (3) Achieving Goals
- (4) Organizational Skills
- (5) Self Control
- (6) Decision Making
- (7) Communication Skills
- (8) Team Work
- (9) Leadership Skills
- (10) Citizenship

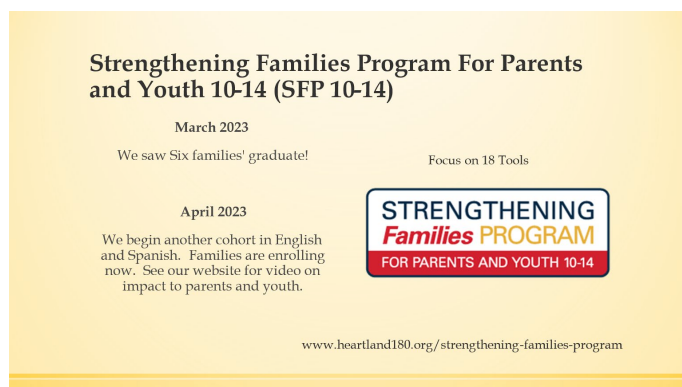
between attitude, motivation, achieving goals, organizational skills, self-control, decision-making, communication skills, team work, leadership skills, and citizenship. They grade themselves before they come into the program and at the end of the program, by the student, the facilitator, and by the parents because as we know, the parents are the real experts of these youths.



The one thing I wanted to focus on this one, the students graded themselves as 29% increase in those 10 areas. Facilitators saw 39, but the parents—the parents are the experts. Like I said, they spend more time with these youth than—really teachers and parents are the ones that spend the most time with these youth. We had a 52% increase response from the parents of the youth that went through our programming. I think it just speaks to the importance of social emotional learning.



Over a three semester period, we saw a 48% increase average score from students, 51% from the facilitator, and 61% from parents.



Like I said, it's important that we engage the parents. One of the programs that we use to do this is Strengthening Families. The Strengthening Families Program focuses on youth between 10 - 14. This is more of a prevention-based program giving those parents soft skills, but really focusing on developing the communication skills within the home. As we know that when youth reach that age of becoming a teen or that pre-teen, they start to pull away from their parents. So, how do we give them the skills to be able to communicate to deal with those rough issues and to keep the family together. This program has been one of my favorite programs that I've seen actually across the country.

One of the biggest things that sets off with this program is that when they come in, they share a meal together as a family. The common response I hear is that we never do this unless there's a funeral or if there's some special occasion. That's important for family dynamics. The families these days don't have that ability to be able to sit down and share simple meals together. When they do, there's a social awkwardness to where they don't even know how to communicate with one another.

So, when they come into the program, they actually sit down and have a family style meal. We actually have conversation cards that helps with table talk, but they learn those skills and they learn how to build those communications in the home. It sets the tone for the entire evening.

After the dinner, the family is divided up where youth are working with the facilitator, parents are working with a facilitator, and then they're brought back at the end of the session as a family unit to work on those topics together.

Parent Project Sr.- Changing Adolescent Destructive Behavior (CADB)

- ✓ **Effective:** Using a behavioral model, CADB addresses the critical issues parents face today and offers concrete, step-by-step solutions, not theory.
- ✓ **Need-based:** CADB is the only curriculum created by parent questions. Over 500,000 parents of high-risk youth helped to develop this unique program.
- ✓ **Easy to Teach:** The Teacher's Guide is the most comprehensive in the industry. Icon driven, the guide walks teachers through visuals, lectures, and group activities that help to provide parents with a smooth process for change.
- ✓ **The Best Teaching Strategies:** CADB is an activity-based curriculum built on cooperative learning norms. Parents work in groups to brainstorm, practice applying new ideas, and build support. The "magic" happens at the tables.
- ✓ **Parent Support:** CADB uses the UCLA self-help support group model to create on-going, parent-led community support groups.



Our next program that we provide specifically for parents is called the Parent Project. There are two versions of the Parent Project: Parent Project Junior and Parent Project Senior. Parent Project Senior focuses on adolescence so those are going to be your teens. It is really focused on giving parents the skills to address destructive behavior. One of the great positives with this program is that after 10 weeks of the program, the parents become a support group and they can continue to meet indefinitely. One of the unfortunate realities is that a lot of these parents may not have a natural support system, family members to call on, that aunt, uncle, grandparents. So, these parents end up developing that amongst themselves, and we try to support them by providing logistics to be able to keep those support groups to meet.

Parent Project Sr.- Changing Adolescent Destructive Behavior (CADB)

March 2023

We just graduated 7 adults (six families) from The Parent Project English.

We will graduate another five families in two weeks from our Spanish speaking cohort.

This is a 10-week course requiring 8 weeks of attendance to graduate.

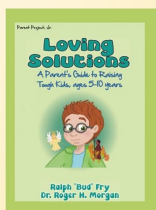


www.heartland180.org/parent-project-program

This past March, we actually had seven adults complete the Parent Project. All of our parent and family support programs are done bilingually. We do English and Spanish at the same time every night with those families.

Parent Project JR.- Loving Solutions A Parents Guide to Raising Tough Kids ages 5-10

- Loving Solutions is a parent training program designed specifically for parents raising difficult younger children, ages 5-10 years. Also known as "Parent Project®, Jr.," this program utilizes the same principles found successful in Parent Project® Sr. but adapted to the needs of younger children.
- Would like to begin offering Fall 2023.



The next program is the Loving Solutions which focuses on those younger children 5 - 10. The same practices as the Parent Project Senior but really focusing on those younger youth.

Q&A

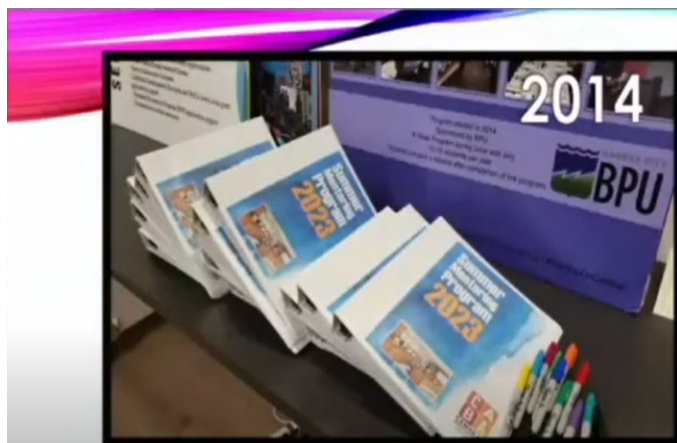
At this time we will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

I know I kind of rushed through this for the sake of time, but I'm more than happy to answer any questions.

I will say the summer program, we really did focus on the cultural competency. We have a version of our 180 Degree Program called Growing into Manhood, which is a culturally competent version of the program for African-American boys. Once again, like I said, we partner with our community so we do that program with the Jegna Klub who is already working with youth.

So, being able to provide an evidence-based program to other organizations is providing pro-social activity, strengthens, and also builds the bonds between us, as service providers, because as we see, so many agencies are in competition for funds, for dollars, and for resources. Only when we can come together and work in a collaborative effort can we make real impact in our communities.

Edgar Galicia, Central Avenue Betterment Association, said it seems like I've been here before. I kind of feel sorry for being the last one to present here because they do such a wonderful job with their programs that I don't know if I feel as proud as when I came into this room this evening, but we do our part. We do have a presentation.



Central Avenue Betterment Association works under a project that is based on five principles. The first one is the creation and promotion of community pride. The second one is the creation and promotion of leadership. Then we work on entrepreneurship. We work in a business excellence, and then we also work in healthy living. For any of these areas, we have programming, we have events, and we have several activities.

For leadership, we concentrate on our Summer Mentoring Program where we partner with Wyandotte High School, Sumner Academy, J.C. Harmon High School, and Bishop Ward High School. We work in the early months of the year because our program is between June and July only. That's the active program.

Before that, we go through a process selection where we apply a simple principle. We believe that leadership is everywhere. Everybody contains that leadership, but sometimes this leadership is mismanaged or misguided. We want to rescue those leaders in the community, in these schools, that are very smart or very able to make their decisions but they have the wrong information and are making the wrong decisions for that reason, or are at risk of falling through the cracks in the system. We visit with these students in high school, and we work with them April to June so that they actually participate in our program.

Then we have a series of events that we go through. We visit with them three days out of the week through, like I said, June and July. We host several activities that allow them to learn from community and learn from how we operate and then learn from themselves.

I heard that in the two prior programs that one of the biggest principles is their self-knowledge. It is one of our better and stronger principles because if you don't know who you are, if you do not know what your skills are, what your base for life is, then you don't know what you're doing. So, we engage with these students a great deal just to make sure they understand their core values and who they are for real.

We have a series of events, like I said. These are very personable events where we learn about discovering our personal abilities. We learn about defining our core values. We actually have these students go back to their families and understand their family's core values. Question their parents about their core values and how they operate so that they learn from their parents and they understand their own interests, their own core values.

We have classes such as La Placita, volunteering all over the community so they understand how literally everything works and everything functions, but they also learn how to be part of these programs and these activities. They go around the community volunteering and sharing their abilities, learning at the same time.

We take them to different places such as the Police Department, Fire Department, and the City Hall to see how they operate. We visit all of the buildings' different departments so that they understand how their community and their leadership operates. Then they go to all of our programs and volunteer. In this case, they are volunteering at La Placita helping all of these vendors set up and understand what and how their small businesses operate so that they also know that there is opportunity there for them.

We take a great deal of our time making sure they understand their own possibilities so life, finances. Then we do an analysis with family finances and business finances so they understand where the money for those sneakers that they want or the clothing that they want or the toy or TV screen that they want comes from so they're making those decisions wisely.



We do also have dress codes and base it with finance institutions. They learn from finance mentors and they learn how they can invest their money, how they're making their money, how they can find ways to save more. We understand how they are building equity. We make sure they all participate constantly in these events.

Understanding the processes of life. It's also very important for us so we spend time understanding the learning process. We understand the creative process. We understand that in our community, in our society, there are systems that operate over us and we need to understand those systems so that we can play or we can function within the rules, but make sure we utilize the advantages of our system.

We also invest a great deal learning about financial slavery where they understand how credit operates and how to use credit to build equity rather than just pay for every day's life. They learn about banking. They learn about credit and scores and all these. They also learn that saving money is very important, not just using credit. That's part of it.



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We spend a great deal of time doing entrepreneurship and visiting with entities in the city, not only Wyandotte County. We go all over the place. We visit with a program called One Million Caps that shows how entrepreneurs present their projects, plan their projects, and find investors. They learn from people who are really doing real projects, real business plans so that they can understand how these opportunities come about and how they can make or be part of these opportunities.

Again, we invest a lot of time in how community operates, how society operates. There is a part of this program that invites the current candidates for different positions in the government. The students participate in an investigative session where they learn about all of these candidates. They search the internet for information on these candidates. Then they, as a group, they built a series of questions so that we can invite these candidates to the table and go ahead and ask all of these questions, understand their positions, and then they render a report to the Board of Directors on who they would vote for; why would they vote for them. We do this in different levels.

We work with political candidates for public office. We also do that with our Board members for our organization so that the people who are actually willing to volunteer their time as directors working on our Board are also part of this process. They get to be questioned by these students after they do an investigation. They also render a report to say who they would be willing to accept into our Board. Obviously, there is more to this process, but they are learning how to vet people. They're learning how to investigate and build and size character so that they can choose who they meet with, who they relate with, who they build relationships with, and eventually who they will vote for. We're teaching them that also that their decision counts when it comes down to electing our officials.

We work with, obviously, understanding local government. It's been seven years that we've visited with the current Mayor and then we toured the facility so that we learn how all of you operate and what your job is like.

We visit with the Police Department and constantly build with this knowledge of the system and break these barriers of understanding. They understand that though they learn that the police officers are people just like us and just like them. They communicate with them. They learn how they operate. They visit their different facilities and talk to different officers. That teaches them that this is part of the community, and their purpose is greater than just giving tickets or generating problems or having a negative impression of the police officers.



We incorporated this year a new part of our program where we took these students to another organization that teaches them how to fly airplanes. This is a program that is a year-long. We went through the introduction. This is a not-for-profit organization that is called Red Tail. They go through it with simulators. Red Tail actually pays for their course. If they really want to commit to the program, we are funding these entry level. If these students actually want to go through the program, they're able to go and take these. This takes them to a private pilot license level and then they can continue going with this.

This is not necessarily to encourage them, obviously, we want to encourage them, but the purpose is not just to have them become pilots. The purpose is to show them that there is a lot of opportunities to go and work with other organizations and search and find their dreams and make them a reality with no boundaries. So, they can really break that ceiling.

We appreciate these partnerships throughout the community and truly like the results. Yes, they start understanding themselves, but they also understand the opportunities out there. We do a lot of networking so they lose that fear of getting to know other people. We teach them how to investigate other people and how to relate at all moments. We talk about dress codes and all of these abilities that they should have. We teach them so they can operate and break these boundaries that we set ourselves in community.

Definitely, the results of these programs have shown because these high school students are actually moving forward with their decision-making, caring or going forward with their plans, and learning that there are a lot of resources that they can work with, that they can get, and move forward and be successful in their lives.

We visit everybody in the whole community from the City Hall to the Court House and everybody participates. Everybody really enjoys this. These moments, they really represent a lot

to their heart because they see themselves in all of these places. They see themselves in all of these positions. It really worked for us.

When it comes down to their learning, but also their dream building because they see themselves growing because it becomes available to them. It's part of their ability. It's part of themselves and they can get there. If anything, we do a lot of goal-making, but also goal-building and resource-building. That's what we do. That's what our program does for our kids. We don't do half of what they do, but we're here to help.

Mayor Garner said thank you to all the presenters. These organizations are either funded or supported by the Unified Government in some way, and they're all summer programs or after-school. It's good to have that update not just for the Unified Government to see how our tax dollars are being spent, but just to see the good work that you're doing.

When we talk about homelessness and poverty, really starting at that young age, I think it was brought out, investing in our youth is the best way to positively impact and grow leaders in our community. I would say the first step to hope, second step to opportunity, the third step to an improved destiny starts with an education. So, thank you all for that presentation.

Action: For information only.

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 any item is not set aside, all items on the Regular Consent Agenda will be voted on by one vote.

Action: Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve all items as submitted. Roll call was taken and there were nine "Ayes" Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane.

Item No. 1 – 212590...ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION: SALES TAX & UTILITY REBATE PROGRAM

Synopsis: Approval of an ordinance modifying the Utility Rebate and Sales Tax Rebate Programs, submitted by Commissioner Bynum. On July 24, 2023, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve and forward to the full Commission.

Action: **ORDINANCE NO. O-88-23/RESOLUTION NO. R-50-23**, “An ordinance/resolution amending Sections 2-296 and 34-21 of the Code of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas to modify provisions refunding a portion of the city sales tax and a portion of some fees and charges to senior citizens and persons with disabilities.” **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve the ordinance/adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes” Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane.

Item No. 2 – 212425...NOMINATIONS: BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Synopsis: Nominations for Boards and Commissions:

Melanie Schwartzkopf to the WYCO Library Board from 8/17/2023 to 12/31/2025, submitted by Commissioner Davis.

Sarah Lynch to the UG Park Board from 8/17/2023 to 12/15/2025, submitted by Commissioner Burroughs.

Loren Taylor to the Landmarks Commission from 8/17/2023 to 12/15/2025, submitted by Commissioner Burroughs.

Action: **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes” Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane.

Item No. 3 – MINUTES

Synopsis: Minutes from the Special Session meeting on July 13, 2023.

Action: Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve. Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes” Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane.

Item No. 4 – WEEKLY BUSINESS MATERIAL

Synopsis: Weekly business material dated July 6, 13, and 20, 2023.

Action: Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to receive and file. Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes” Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane.

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

No items

STANDING COMMITTEES’ AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 212627...RESOLUTION: REAL ESTATE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS CITY, KANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Synopsis: Approval of a resolution approving a purchase agreement with Kansas City, Kansas Community College for real property located at 600 and 645 Nebraska Avenue, submitted by Jeff Conway, Assistant Counsel. On August 14, 2023, the Economic Development and Finance Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Burroughs, voted unanimously to approve and fast-track to the August 17, 2023, full Commission meeting.

Commissioner Burroughs said there was much discussion in reference to the transfer of property. I believe, as chair, it was my diligence to ensure that we guided the committee to come to a resolve on the property for the community college development that is being proposed. You’ll hear the development this evening. There was a proposal to bring forward an amended piece of language to the contract, and I believe that’s what we’ll be discussing this evening.

Wendy Green, Senior Counsel, said I was going to offer that we do have Dr. Mosier who does have a presentation that he would like to provide to the Commission if we could go ahead and see that.

Greg Mosier, President, Kansas City, KS Community College, said I appreciate your time this evening and your attention to this project. I have to say it was very impressive what was presented tonight, the discussions that were had. It's a very important part of how we move forward as a community. I truly believe that this project is a big solution to part of that homelessness because it's getting people an education where they can get jobs, where they can afford a home, and afford a very good quality of life. I appreciate the work being done by everyone who presented tonight.

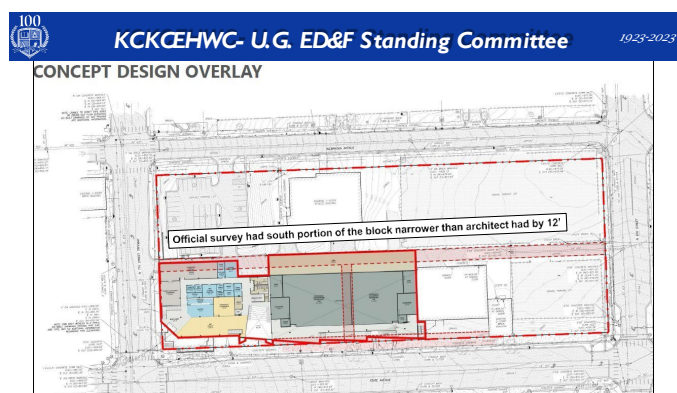
I have a little presentation put together. I'll kind of walk through that with you.



As you know, we have the Kansas City, Kansas Community Education, Health & Wellness Center project moving forward. After tonight's presentation, I thought it is important to remind everyone what the mission of this project is. It's to provide hope in generational poverty, improve the quality of life, and increase the socioeconomic mobility of our residents living in and around downtown Kansas City, KS.

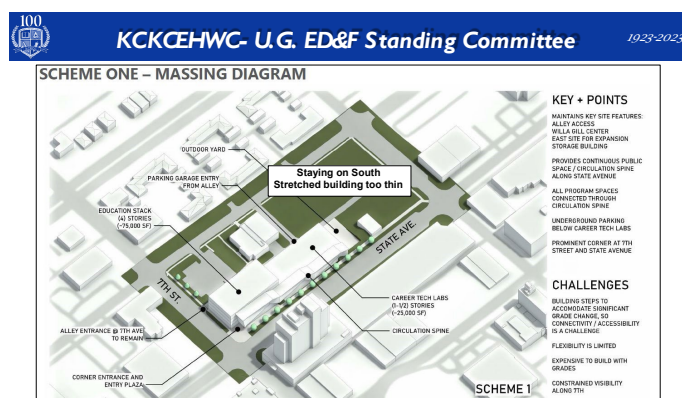


This topic came before you about two months ago. What occurred after that is we received information, and this was the original request, which was approved.



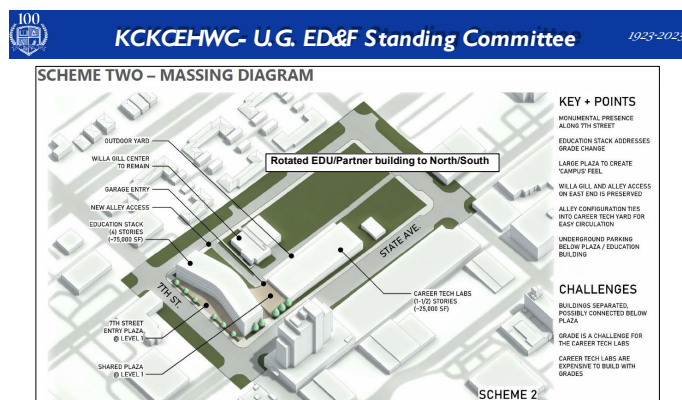
About three days after that, we received word from the architect working on the project that the official survey came back and the southern portion of the block where the facility is designed to be built, is 12 feet shorter than the information that they had previously.

The dotted line in the middle with the pink is the alleyway and the dark red line is the footprint of the building. You can see that it overlapped the alleyway.



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So, we looked at several different designs to see how we could rectify this issue. One of them was to stretch out the building to stay along the southern half of the block, but it stretched the building so narrow that it really lost a lot of its functionality, especially in the large technical labs.

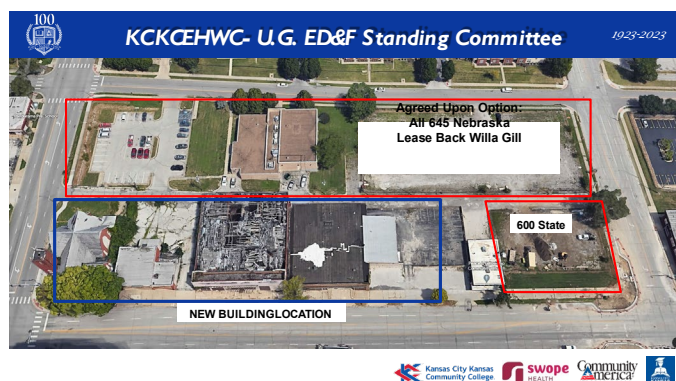


Working with the architect, we came up with a different model and that was to go ahead and change the orientation of the educational and the partner building to go along 7th Street, which goes on to the parking lot currently being used by the Willa Gill Center. We did not have the transfer of land for that piece of property.



We looked at different options. We sat down in a meeting with the Mayor and the City Administrator, County Legal, City Planning, and other individuals to look at options. One was to obtain the parking lot and then leave the center block where the Willa Gill Center currently resides alone.

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But the long-term vision for the block has been for many years, as we've been discussing this, is to transition it to the community college and the project so that we could have future expansion of additional educational opportunities or otherwise at that location.

This is the identified space that we agreed upon when we left that meeting. The two red blocks are now what is the request before the full Commission.

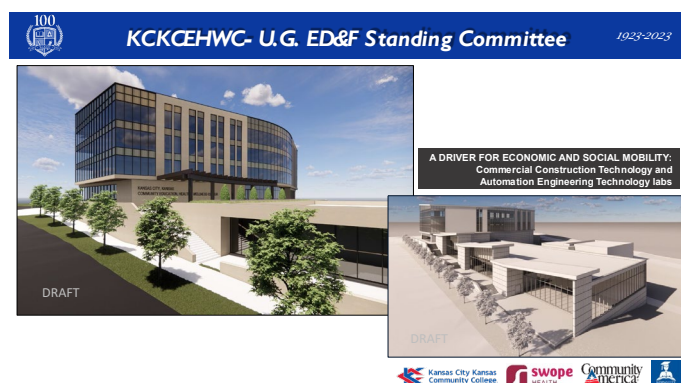


This is a rendering of what the new facility would look like in this new orientation. Again, just as a reminder of the importance of the project, it is a \$65M economic investment in downtown Kansas City, KS. Speaking with several individuals, to anyone's recollection, it's the largest economic investment in eastern Wyandotte County in more than 30 years. It will have 33 new jobs on site for \$1.4M additional revenue and new income downtown per year. Over \$4M in total salaries. We have programs that graduates, after a semester or two semesters, will make between \$50 - \$60K a year. With overtime, they'll make more than \$100K a year.

With our two-year program, they'll make \$70 - \$75K a year and upwards of \$120K a year with overtime. That brings a lot of money right into downtown Kansas City, KS.

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Panasonic needs 600 of these programs that I mentioned. They need 600 of these individuals. So, if you take that at \$100K a year, that's \$60M a year in earnings that these people who have these skillsets will earn.

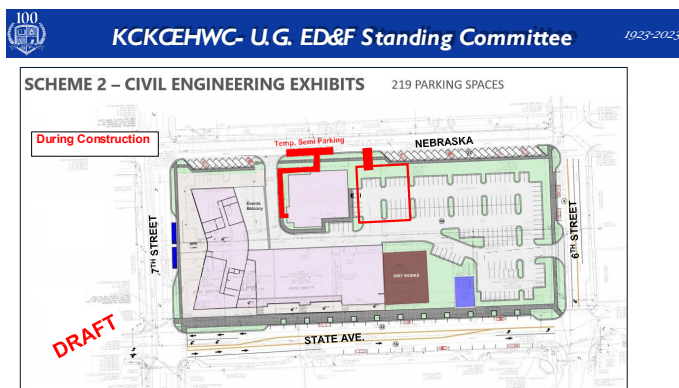


This is a view of the east side of the building. Some of the partner services that I didn't mention, we're partnering with Swope Health who will provide health care, dental, and vision to the people in downtown KCK. They are a federally qualified health care provider, so it can provide health care services to low-income and no income individuals. Community America Credit Union is going to work with us with financial literacy. We take individuals who may not have a job, have any income, or they may be on some sort of social assistance and transition them into a life where they're making \$60, \$70, \$80, \$100K a year. They're going to need some help with financial literacy so that they don't become unhoused and spend it all immediately.

Over 10 years, just with the income and the investment in the project alone and the graduates that we determine 57% of our graduates are from Wyandotte County, and we take a retention rate of that to graduation rate, this project will invest more than \$130M in downtown KCK in the next 10 years.

It will serve in the first three years, on average, over 10,000 people per year. When it's fully staffed and operated with all three partners, it will serve over 20,000 people per year.

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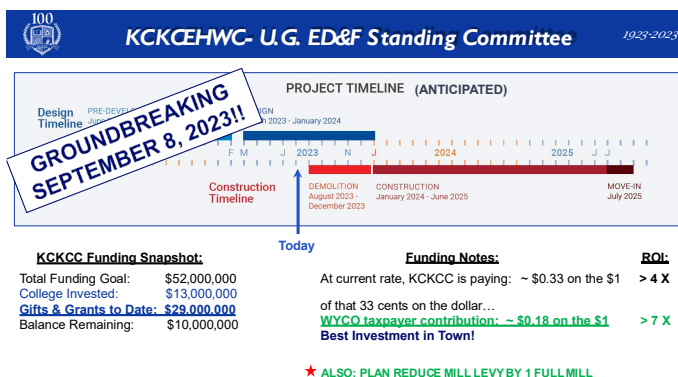


We've said from the very beginning that we don't have any—we have no desire to hurry Willa Gill out of that site or to get in the way of their individuals that they provide these important services to. We don't want to hinder that in any way.

With this new layout, since it does take the parking lot where they're currently located, which happens to be about 18 feet higher than the level where the Willa Gill sits, we will make a cordoned off area, that you see in red, with concrete barriers for reserve parking for Willa Gill employees and patrons. Then that whole area will turn into parking.

Deliveries will be able to come in off of Nebraska. For the smaller trucks, they take all deliveries on the west side of the building, not the loading dock on the back because it's too high above ground level. Then we would do temporary, maybe even permanent, cut-in, semi-parking on Nebraska, which would need to go through City Planning.

This is what the site would look like in the long run.



We are on track to have groundbreaking on September 8th.

A current note on funding, I think, which is really important for everyone to understand. The KCKCC portion of this project is \$52M. The college has invested \$13M and we've already

raised \$29M in grants and through philanthropy. About \$10M to go. If you just take the rate that the college is paying toward the project that's not coming out of KCKCC's coffers or local coffers because it's through donations, the college is paying \$0.33 on the dollar for this beautiful downtown facility. They'll provide tremendous services.

The amount of tax revenue that we receive through the mill levy is about \$0.55 on the dollar. When you take that out of the equation, for our Wyandotte County taxpayers, if we continue at this current fundraising level and equation, our Wyandotte County taxpayers are paying \$0.18 on the dollar. That's \$9.3M to get a \$52M facility. So, it's a fabulous investment for the community that gives back in tremendous ways in the long run.



With that, I'll end my presentation and take questions. I believe, as the Unified Government Legal mentioned, there's a blue sheet with this. I'm not sure what that language says at this time. I would ask maybe to turn it back over to Wendy, if that's all right.

Ms. Green said the blue sheet in the packet did add the language that the commissioners at the standing committee were concerned about. One was an indefinite term of the lease. The purchase agreement is separate from the lease agreement. We will also have a lease agreement after this purchase agreement is entered into. But, to alleviate the commissioners' concerns about what that lease agreement might contain, we did add language to Section 2 of the resolution as well as Section 4 of the purchase agreement. What was added was the sentence that the term—this is in Section 2 of the resolution—the term of the lease agreement will be for an indefinite amount of time to provide the Unified Government the time needed to find a new location in which to provide the services currently being provided in the Willa Gill Center and to transfer those services to the new location.

The other thing that was added is the last sentence and this says, the lease agreement will further provide the KCKCC will assume the future maintenance expenses of the Unified Government as identified in the current lease agreement with Mt. Carmel Redevelopment Corporation, Inc., and the license agreement with Hot Lunch Service, Inc., while operating substantially the same services as offered in the Willa Gill Center during the term of the lease.

That language is also added in Section 4 of the purchase agreement.

Commissioner Townsend said thanks to Attorney Green and our other Legal staff for making those inclusions to the resolution and the sale agreement, based on the conversation we had Monday, I guess, this week. Is this a change, though? It seems like we went back and forth on this. This is a great change if it is, that the maintenance will be taken over basically by the college.

Ms. Green said yes, that is correct. That was the last change that was added actually this morning with my conversation with Mr. Goheen, the attorney for the community college.

Mayor Garner asked, could you read that language again on the maintenance?

Ms. Green said, again, it's the same language in Section 2 of the resolution as in Section 4 of the purchase agreement. It's the lease agreement will further provide the KCKCC will assume the future maintenance expenses of the Unified Government as identified in the current lease agreement with Mt. Carmel Redevelopment Corporation, Inc., and the license agreement with Hot Lunch Service, Inc., while operating substantially the same services as offered in the Willa Gill Center during the term of the lease.

I do have both of those agreements with me, and I've looked over the maintenance sections. The maintenance of the Willa Gill Center was provided both by Mt. Carmel and by the Unified Government. So, what this contemplates is that the community college will now take over what the Unified Government had agreed to do for Mt. Carmel as well as the Hot Lunch Service.

Commissioner Johnson said it sounds good. I just want to make sure, and I know this may not be in order, but we have representatives here from Mt. Carmel. I don't know if it's appropriate or if there's a way to allow for them to be able to speak because I want both. I'm being greedy right now. I want to see the community college expand downtown, but I want to make sure that Mt. Carmel is taken care of and not just kicked to the curb or put in some terms that they're not

comfortable with. So, I just want to know, is there a way to be able to ascertain their comfort level with what is being proposed?

Mayor Garner said I will allow that.

Mayor Garner said I can say, just for the sake of the conversation, we have involved Mt. Carmel. I made it a point to have Mt. Carmel at the table every step of the way. They met with Dr. Mosier and really outlined their needs, their asks as it relates to them being in the building. One of those were some of the things that the Commission talked about at the standing committee as well. They did note and they have been involved in looking at some of the prospective sites that may be part of a relocation. I know Commissioner Bynum was there. I don't know if you want to talk about that first before I allow Ms. Pam Smart and Ms. Penn to come forward.

Commissioner Johnson said they can just give me a thumbs up or a nod, I'm good.

Mayor Garner said, well, let me finish. Commissioner Burroughs, did you want to add anything about the site that you looked at?

Commissioner Burroughs said if I remember correctly, it was just a preliminary opportunity to view the facility firsthand with the partners in the process. I believe there was much discussion, but I don't think there were any decisions made moving forward. It was just an opportunity to view the facility.

Mayor Garner said yes. That's just to reiterate that we have made it a point to have them. Ms. Smart, you could come forward and just share with the Commission your thoughts and your needs.

Ms. Smart said as I stated before, we understand that we have to move and we're comfortable with that. We just don't want to be pushed out in a hurry. That's all. We're comfortable with everything else. We're comfortable with the fact that there's language in there that give us, the Unified Government, and us time to find a place that's suitable that will work best for us and our clients. That's all we ask.

Commissioner Stites said my problem that I have is that on Monday night, the 14th, at our standing committee meeting, we had this discussion of selling this property for \$10. Then I find out that on Tuesday, there's already a site walk at other places to look to get you out. My concern is that

you are going to be forced out quickly, and that's what I don't want to see happen. I just don't want to see that happen to you guys.

Dr. Mosier said it's been the college's long-term statement and full belief that we have no intention to push Willa Gill, Mt. Carmel, or Hot Lunch, or the services that are currently in the Willa Gill Center out because we understand how important they are to the community and we saw that tonight. That's why we have an indefinite timeframe on the resolution.

Commissioner Stites said I can appreciate that, but then tonight in our budget work session, we're given a line item out of our county budget that shows that we are to fund \$3M in this next year's budget issuing county debt for a location. You guys all know the situation. We've talked about it. Tax relief is everybody's top priority, yet we are being asked now, because of a sale of real property that basically moves you out of a facility that you're currently operating in, and we don't have, just as everybody has sat here and talked about, we don't have \$3M right now to put toward a new facility, but yet Tuesday, 8:15, we were out touring sites and trying to find a location. Then tonight at our 5:00 budget workshop, we're asked to fund that. That seems like it's moving pretty darn quick to me.

Mayor Garner said I can answer that. This conversation has been going on since I got news that the college was there. This isn't nothing new. When you look, and the Police Department mentioned it, when you're trying to mix the operation that Willa Gill and Frank Williams both provide at that location, which are valued, and Hot Lunch, Inc., and trying to mix that with an educational institution, it's not a good business model when you talk about all the issues that were brought up with that population.

So, the conversation came about in talking with Mt. Carmel and the college, through various conversations on, okay. If we're going to move to make that site sustainable and successful when you talk about a downtown redevelopment for our community college and other things that we want to see downtown, it was shared—and we got all the input we could from Mt. Carmel, that they did agree reluctantly, and I'll say reluctantly that they were wanting to move.

We tried to meet their expectations that it had to be on a bus route, they did not want to move very far away from their current location, and they didn't want their services diminished; they wanted it enhanced, and they want it done at a timetable that was reasonable and responsible to make sure that it's not done quickly. We wanted to make sure it was done right and not right away. So, these discussions have been ongoing.

One thing that frustrates me with this Commission and some of you, if you would meet with me like I've asked you to do, you would know a lot of these things. Now there are some commissioners that meet with me. Some of you have gotten this mindset that the mayor doesn't matter, that I'm not important. We've asked you time and time again to meet. This community expects us to work together. We are supposed to be a unified government.

I'm going to say it again. It's shameful that I hear this talk about I didn't know. Nobody told me. I'm not a part of. I have not rejected this Commission. I have, since I've been mayor, extended an olive branch time and time and time again and said we have got to work together. This breakdown in communication, not caused by me because I have not rejected any of these commissioners when it comes to conversations that need to be had on behalf of the people to get the work done. Some of you have refused to do that. It's very unprofessional. It does a disservice and an injustice to the people of this community that voted for all of us to get along and work together.

We don't have to agree on everything. I don't expect us to, but we are adults and we are professionals. Some of the attitudes I've seen have been shameful, and the community has seen it over this past 18 months and they're embarrassed.

Now, if you want to know what's going on, get involved and work with the mayor, the duly elected mayor of this town, and you'll know. Some of you've had meetings with me and guess what you've done. You've cancelled them. Why? I don't know. No reason that I can think of.

I encourage you again. If you want to be engaged and involved, work with me, work with the other commissioners, work with our community, work with our stakeholders to find real solutions to problems and be a part of the process. I can tell you Commissioner Bynum and Commissioner Burroughs have been real good about that. Commissioner Markley meets with me. Commissioner McKiernan meets with me. I've asked time and time again, meet with me so we can communicate. That is the basis of any good relationship is communication. There are too many issues for us to sit up here as elected officials and not communicate in an effective way.

I'm a collaborator. Anybody that has known me throughout my professional career knows that I'm a collaborator. It doesn't mean I have all the answers, that I'm right, that I want to be the things that I've heard out there, king of the hill or whatever you think. I don't have the authority or power to do anything. I don't even get to vote. But I am a visionary. That is part of what the

ordinance says. I bring things forward to you all, but to get the right things for it, we have to work together. It's frustrating when I hear those things.

I've worked very hard. My team has worked very hard. This staff at the Unified Government has worked very hard to try and get you things in front of you all so you can make an informed decision. I don't like the politics of this job, but I guess that just comes with it. I just want to get the job done for the people because they deserve us to get something done for them. It hurts me that we can't seem to be able to get past political nonsense that I've seen for the last year and a half.

We've worked with the college. We've worked with Mt. Carmel. Mt. Carmel is not going to be pushed out. When I first met with Mt. Carmel, that was one of the things that I was adamant about in talking to the college and Dr. Mosier is that Mt. Carmel and the services that they provide and Hot Lunch provides will not be diminished and will not be pushed out. That is why you see this long-term lease. That is why we put all these things in place to protect not just Mt. Carmel and Hot Lunch, Inc., and the services they provide, but to protect the very people that depend on those services.

If we do move, the big if we move them, if this Commission thinks that—and I have to say this Commission thinks that is something that you want to do because, ultimately, it will be up to you. Yeah, we could move it. We could do some administrative things, but you still have to sustain any type of development for Mt. Carmel, for Frank Williams, for the Hot Lunch, Inc., services moving forward. I can't do that. We've all got to be a part of this. That is why I made it a point that until—and we may never find a place—but until we get there, Mt. Carmel, Hot Lunch, Inc., and the people that depend on those services will be safe, secured until this Commission or the next Commission and the next mayor decides for a better option for them.

Commissioner Johnson said you have a really unique situation here because as the commissioner for District 4, I can tell you, Dr. Mosier, I want to make the motion; but I have also the unique situation where Mt. Carmel is present and I want to make sure that we take full advantage of this moment before I make that. So, if Mt. Carmel is pleased, Mayor, I don't discount anything that you've done. I'm with you. I want to make sure that this project works. Then, I'm ready to make that motion.

Ms. Smart said I just need, Mr. Mayor and Commission, clarity. I need to understand that the language that Ms. Green is speaking of ensures that we will not be pushed out because once this—I just need clarity. I need to be clear that the language that Ms. Green is talking about that’s been put in the agreement, assures that Mt. Carmel will not be pushed out because once the building is sold or given away, however it works, from the Unified Government and the college owns it, then at any time they want to call the building, they can. So, I want to make sure that the language is there that will keep us in place. It’s not that we want to move, it’s that we understand that we have to move. We just want the time to be able to find a place that’s suitable. That’s it.

Dr. Mosier said if I may, on behalf of the college, we are making that commitment and we’ve made that commitment for the last three years. It is in writing. We’ve stated it and stated again and again over the last three years. We are fully committed to that.

Commissioner Johnson said, Ms. Green, if you’re satisfied that you’ve answered that, and Mt. Carmel is satisfied in your answer, then I make the move that we approve this as submitted.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-51-23**, “A resolution authorizing the Unified Government to enter into a real estate purchase agreement with the Kansas City, Kansas Community College for its downtown campus.” **Commissioner Johnson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to adopt the resolution.**

Commissioner Kane said you say you want to meet with us. I’ve went into your office multiple times. You’ve had people in your office that I don’t like, and you know that. One day I’m in there for 15 minutes and you walked out. My time is valuable as well. When you have people in there that I don’t like, you know I don’t like them, they know I don’t like them, and then they’re talking to me like I’m some sort of dog, I don’t take that kind of crap.

You can get mad at us. We are all elected to each one of our districts. Each one of us has to do the best we can to represent our districts. No, we’re not always going to get along, but just because we don’t get along doesn’t mean we need a browbeating once a month about not getting along with you because it’s a two-way street, Mayor. It’s not a one-way street. It’s frustrating for

me to get browbeat then get on Facebook and then get on the radio and say we're going to be like Detroit in two weeks. That's not the case.

Yeah, I'll meet with you. You just don't have anybody in that room. It's just me and you and we'll talk man to man.

Commissioner Townsend said I was just going to suggest that as soon as possible, we get in the hands of Ms. Smart a copy of it. I think that would add a lot of clarity so she can actually read it because at Monday night's meeting, the lawyer that I am, that's why I asked for something that addressed the term, which it does. You are the service provider and I would rely on your expertise to determine what may be proposed would be acceptable so that you can continue the services that you currently provide at the same level or better. The sooner we get this in your hands, I think that will help.

Commissioner Stites said I'm frustrated and I'll tell you why. I don't think asking questions that have major impact to our budget—I represent District 7, but I'm also a county. My title is County Commissioner; not District 7 only Commissioner.

I don't know and I don't understand why it is. I don't yell. I don't get upset and try to belittle or berate people because they don't agree with me. I think it's very unprofessional. I don't like it, and I'm actually kind of sick of it. Because you don't agree with me, Mayor, I'm sorry. We are going to have differences of opinion. If you don't like the fact that I won an election, just like you, and that my constituents ask me to represent them and we are presented with a budget that has us debt financing \$3M when we have been constantly talked about, from you, about how much we are in trouble and we've got to do more. I don't think that it's right for you to get upset and put somebody down for asking questions. That's all I did to get more informed.

As far as meeting with you, I was never asked to meet with you. If you can provide an email or show me where that's happened, I would be glad to read it and come back and I'll apologize if I'm wrong; but I've never received an email that says hey, Commissioner Stites, will you meet with me.

Mayor Garner said well, be prepared to apologize. Anyway, to answer your question...**Commissioner Stites** said I will. **Mayor Garner** said I can tell you I'm not upset. **Commissioner Stites** said oh, really. **Mayor Garner** said I'm not angry. I'm passionate and

that's that stereotypical Black male thing you're trying to throw on Black people. I'm not having it. I'm passionate because I care about people. Because I'm passionate, don't throw that I'm angry. That doesn't work with me and it doesn't work with a lot of people in this community.

You can meet with me if you want. Mr. Kane, I don't know who you don't like in my office. I had to step away to take a phone call one time. We were meeting just fine. That was one time out of many. **Commissioner Kane** said you sent somebody else in there to replace. **Mayor Garner** said while I took a phone call. We've met. We've had great conversations. There's no reason why we can't continue that. If you have a problem, let me know. We're both men. **Commissioner Kane** said I'll tell you all three of the people I don't like. **Mayor Garner** said okay, off the record. You come talk to me because we need to meet. We've got to get the business of this community done. I don't like sitting up here arguing going back and forth about this. We need—**Commissioner Kane** said two of those guys I've never liked. **Mayor Garner** said I don't know that. You've got to let me know. **Commissioner Kane** said I'll share.

Commissioner Davis said I would just say for community folks, it's super important and this has happened where I've said something or someone up here has said something that something's going to happen. We've had presentations and people come in thinking that because one of us said something that that means that's it. What I would encourage folks to do is to hear from multiple elected officials just to get a real good temperature. Just because one of us says it's going to happen, especially when we're talking about spending money or talking about property, does not necessarily mean that that is going to be the case.

So, just like anything, trust, verify, hear from multiple sources. I'm so sorry to Mt. Carmel if this has been their experience, to the college, but I really hope that as a commissioner, we can learn from this experience. Do trust and verify.

I'll call for the question to get on with this.

Roll call was taken on the motion and there were nine "Ayes," Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane.

Item No. 2 – 212639...RESOLUTION: AMERICAN ROYAL ASSOCIATION INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BONDS

Synopsis: Resolution approving the intent of the UG to issue industrial revenue bonds in the aggregate amount not to exceed \$250,000,000 for the benefit of the American Royal Association, submitted by Jeff Conway, Assistant Counsel. On August 14, 2023, the Economic Development and Finance Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Burroughs, voted unanimously to approve and fast-track to the August 17, 2023, full Commission meeting.

Commissioner Burroughs said we have Todd LaSala here tonight and Jackie McClaskey, with the American Royal. I believe they'll be going over the information as to why they're asking for \$250M in IRBs.

Todd LaSala, Stinson Leonard Street Law Firm, said the resolution before you is \$250M of industrial revenue bonds. This one is purely for the purpose of abating the sales tax on construction materials in the project. We had a very robust conversation at committee. Commissioner Burroughs asked a lot of very good probing questions, but they were really around are these the kind of bonds that go out to market publicly where the UG might have bond risk or risk of any kind. The answer is absolutely not. These are really just to get the American Royal the sales tax exemption certificate for purposes of abating sales tax on construction materials. That's what's before you tonight.

The Royal is here to give you a presentation about what's going on and why they're here and kicking back off.

Jackie McClaskey, CEO of the American Royal, said, Mayor, Commissioners, Administrator Johnston, I just want to thank you all for your service and I appreciate what you all do. We're excited to be planning our new home in the Unified Government of Wyandotte County in Kansas City, KS. To be perfectly honest, one of the things that some of the very things that we've heard tonight are some of the reasons we're excited to be there.

We're building a one million square foot food and agricultural complex. So, when you think about summer programs for kids, we talk about things that we're going to host like ag STEM

camps and nutrition programs, and we're interested in food demonstrations that help people understand how to be more food secure.

There's a lot of things we're going to do in addition to the traditional American Royal profile that you all have heard and know about us. My intent is not to pull up our slides and to go through all of those slides for you. I know you all have copies. Well, I've been asked to. I think we may have a problem because I think we provided them as a PDF so we're going to let you all look through them.

We are very, very excited to be a part of this area and to make the move. When we asked for this sales tax exemption and when we knew originally that we would be asking for IRBs I think in 2017 is the first time we talked about it, we were obviously planning to do this project earlier but we were delayed due to COVID. We have started. If you haven't driven by the property, we started dirt work on March 17th and are still doing dirt work because right now we're clearing 127 acres and preparing that. We will start to see foundation related work probably tomorrow. Our goal is to go vertical as early as, we think, the week after Thanksgiving.

With all that in mind, we have a lot of construction expenses coming forward and moving a little bit more rapidly than we planned, so we appreciate you seeing this on an expedited schedule and urge you and ask for your support in allowing us to have this sales tax exemption.

I'm happy to answer questions about who we are, what we're doing, and what we're planning, but we know we'll have the opportunity to be in front of you again. I'm certainly happy to meet with any of you one-on-one to discuss the project.

Commissioner McKiernan said I just want to encourage any of my colleagues who are not on Economic Development and Finance Standing Committee to look through the slide deck. What you are proposing is absolutely spectacular. We're all thrilled that there is dirt moving. I, personally, am very happy that we have the opportunity to support this project. I would move for approval as submitted.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-52-23**, "A resolution determining the intent of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas to issue its industrial revenue bonds in the amount not to exceed \$250,000,000 to finance the costs of acquiring, constructing and equipping commercial and recreational facilities for the

benefit of the American Royal Association and its successors and assigns (sales tax exemption only).” **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to adopt the resolution.**

Commissioner Stites said that went quickly, but it’s 11:20 at night and I had this whole big, long thing I was going to say about how we were so excited to see the American Royal and all the dirt moving, but there’s been a motion and a second. We are glad to see you guys coming, and we look forward to what you guys bring.

Roll call was taken on the motion and there were nine “Ayes,” Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane.

ADMINISTRATOR’S AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 212638...RESOLUTION: HOMEFIELD CID PUBLIC HEARING

Synopsis: Adoption of a resolution to set the public hearing on creating the Community Improvement District (CID) to be known as the Homefield Community. The public hearing is set for September 14, 2023, submitted by Jeff Conway, Assistant Counsel.

Wendy Green, Senior Counsel, said what the Legal Department is going to do is turn this over to Todd LaSala to make remarks.

Todd LaSala, Stinson Leonard Street Law Firm, said this is very simply, follow-through on a meeting we had last month where we approved an amendment to the Homefield development agreement contemplating a community improvement district and ultimately selling bonds. There’s a lot of detail in that meeting about this. This is really the hearing to set that public hearing and consider that CID petition on September 14th.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-53-23,** “A resolution calling and providing for the giving of notice of a public hearing to be held on September 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., on the advisability of creating a community improvement district in the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas to be known as the

Homefield Community Improvement District and regarding the Unified Government's intent to levy community improvement district special assessments and sales tax within such district and issue special obligation bonds.”

Commissioner Stites made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to adopt the resolution. Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane.

Item No. 2 – 212637...RECOGNITION: WATER POLLUTION CONTROL DIVISION

Synopsis: Recognition for Water Pollution Control, which was awarded with 4 awards. Kaw Point & Plant 14, Platinum Awards for 5+ years of compliance, and Plant 3 & Wolcott for Gold Awards for 1 year of compliance, submitted by Jeff Fisher, Public Works Director.

Administrator Johnston said when you work in a field, there's no more satisfaction when your peers recognize the great work that you do. In our Public Works Department, we have such an honor and their Manager Jeff Miles has asked, and fully supported, recognizing the individuals that do the hard work that earned this distinction.

Jeff Miles, Water Pollution Control Director, said when I became Director of Water Pollution Control, one of the first things I said is we're going to celebrate our wins. Even if it's 11:30 at night, we're going to celebrate our wins.

I also want to thank David Johnston, Bridgette Cobbins, and Jeff Fisher for this opportunity for putting us in front of you guys. As you know, there's three vital utilities that's delivered to our homes and businesses throughout our community: good clean water, good electricity, and a sanitary sewer system. The group that you see behind me does that day in and day out, 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, supplying an efficient and clean sanitary sewer system that not only protects our environment, but our community and the visitors that come to our community.

Water Pollution Control is responsible for 707 miles of sanitary sewers, that's all underground, out of sight, out of mind; 320 miles of storm sewers, 46,000 manholes, 70 wastewater pump stations, 9 flood pump stations, 5 treatment plants. Those 5 treatment plants clean 21 million gallons of flow a day. I did some quick math while I was sitting there. That's about 4 million gallons during this Commission meeting. A lot.

Once flow is delivered to our plants, there's some really strict compliance rules that is done by the state as well as the federal government, EPA, that we have to stay in compliance. That water that's being delivered back to that river is typically cleaner than what's in the river itself, so we really have five filtration plants is what we have.

It takes a team of a hundred plus team members from sewer maintenance, construction, electricians, mechanics, laboratory staff, plant operators, and administration to accomplish that.

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA, represents the interest of publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities, collection systems, and stormwater management agencies before the United States Congress, several federal agencies, and in the courts.

Each year NACWA recognizes the commitment, innovation, and achievements of individuals in public agencies in the clean water community through annual award programs. I'm here tonight to talk about four awards that the Unified Government Water Pollution Control won. A Gold Award is given for one year of compliance, 365 days in compliance. A Platinum Award is given after five consecutive years of Gold Awards.

I'm happy to share our team was awarded with four awards for 2022. Wolcott Treatment Plant, as you guys know, is our newest treatment plant. It was put on line early last year with the latest in technology. It spoke volumes to me by it winning it's first Gold Award. As Director, that told me all the engineering that took place, all the legal that was involved, all the site visits, everything, all the hard work that was done beforehand in its very first year, won a Gold Award. That's something to be extremely proud of.

Plant No. 3, located up to the north, as well won a Gold Award. Plant No. 14, located off of Inland Drive, was awarded a Platinum Award for five years of Gold. Lastly, Kaw Point Treatment Plant, the mothership that we call it, takes 70% of our flow from our city is the oldest and our largest plant, they were awarded not only for the five Golds, not six but seven now, seventh year of being in compliance. Seven years in a row. That's a Platinum Award. Team effort, of course, from all hundred employees, we are 30 people down at this point.

The staff that's behind me had the opportunity to go to Kentucky to receive these awards and instead, they chose to stay here and do their job because we're understaffed.

Before I end, and I was hoping this crowd would be a lot bigger to give a big round of applause, I did want to recognize a couple of people. Again, it was a team effort from every person within our organization, but a couple I'm going to call out first is Rick Bird. He's our Plant

Manager at our Plant 20 location and over our satellite plants as well that won those awards. He's a 35-year employee of this organization. Started at the bottom and worked his way to the top. Gary Everhart as well, another 35-year employee of our organization and is responsible, with the team, for winning those awards. With that said, I just want to give them a big round of applause. That's why we waited all night. I'll let them hold up their awards.

Brett Deichler, UG Clerk, said, Jeff, I wanted to say thank you as well. I know we had a brief conversation in my office the other day. I want to say most people see me as the Clerk, You guys, I know everyone here and thank you. I've worked with all of you over the years. I've been an engineer a long time myself. This is not an easy lift. To get to this status, you guys—there's so much that goes on that the people don't know. So, thank you. We can't stand up here and applaud you enough. I can tell you that right now. It's a tough job. It's sometimes a thankless job but you, sir and your team, all of you are great people. Thank you for what you do for us and we appreciate everything you do. I always fly the flag for Public Works because I started there and I worked over a third of my career there as a young man. Rust never sleeps. It's 24/7 and thank you for everything that you do. I applaud you continuously.

Mr. Miles said one last thing. Kurt Winters retired late last year. He was a Director. He was my predecessor. I know he's enjoying Florida right now probably on a golf cart, but he definitely deserves that big thanks as well.

Commissioner Townsend said one quick thing before the group sits down. Mr. Miles deserves to be recognized. He has been so helpful to me in District 1 responding to the concerns that some of our constituents have had. He's gone out to their homes. He's sat with them taking them through the process, so he deserves kudos as well as all of the ladies and gentlemen there.

Action: Recognition was made.

Mayor Garner said well, another good note I'd like to end this on before we close out is KABOOM, Vibrant Health, CarMax, and more importantly our Parks and Rec, under Angel Ferrara; and I know Bridgette Cobbins, she helped as well as some others. Commissioner Bynum

was there. Commissioner Townsend left a really good thank you to the group that put a brand new park together at Parkwood Park. It is really beautiful. It's something that was needed. It was really a nice addition to a park that was desperate for some investment.

So, I just wanted to say thank you to a lot of folks who, believe it or not, flew in from out of town from various parts of the country to come here just to help put that park together. It was an awesome display of just people coming together to just refurbish, clean the park, and put together something really nice for our families and for our kids.

For everyone that was involved near and far, I just want to say on behalf of all the great people that call Kansas City, KS, home, thank you so much for the work you did in improving that park.

Commissioner Kane said I just want to take a shout out for a park out in Piper.

COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA

No items

LAND BANK BOARD OF TRUSTEES' CONSENT AGENDA

No items

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

No items

ADJOURN

Mayor Garner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bynum, to adjourn. Roll call was taken and there were nine "Ayes," Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane.

MAYOR GARNER
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 11:32 P.M.
August 17, 2023

Brett A. Deichler, PMP|CPM
Unified Government Clerk

cg

August 17, 2023