

Consent Agenda No. _____

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

REGULAR SESSION
July 13, 2023

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Regular Session Thursday, July 13, 2023, with ten members present via Zoom or on site: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO, presiding. Markley, Commissioner Sixth District, was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: David Johnston, County Administrator; Brett Deichler, Unified Government Clerk; and Monica Sparks, Deputy UG Clerk.

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 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 that the public that is observing knows exactly who is speaking. Also, make sure that you speak directly and clearly into the microphone so the public can hear your comments and that there is also an accurate record of the meeting to be collected. 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: Kane, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Garner.

Mayor Garner said tonight, we're going to have an invocation given by Pastor Jared Altic of the Wyandotte Christian Church, followed immediately by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Garner asked, Clerk, are there any revisions to tonight's agenda? **Mr. Deichler** said no revisions were made to tonight's agenda.

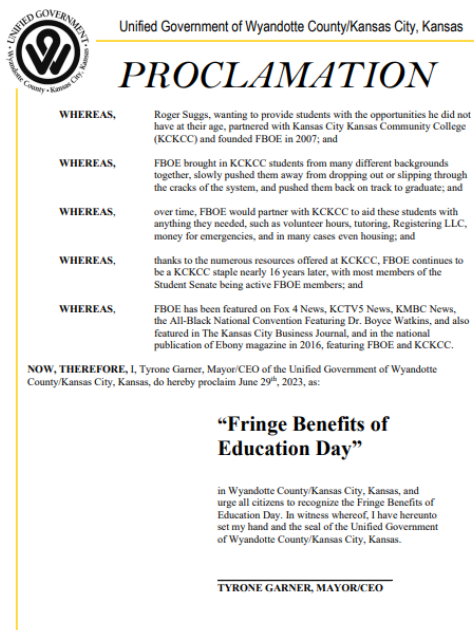
MAYOR'S AGENDA

Mayor Garner said we'll start with the Mayor's Agenda. There are proclamations. Clerk, if you could read those.

Item No. 1 – 212586...PROCLAMATION: FRINGE BENEFITS OF EDUCATION DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming June 29, 2023, as Fringe Benefits of Education Day, submitted by Tyrone A. Garner, Mayor/CEO.

Brett Deichler, UG Clerk, read the following proclamation.



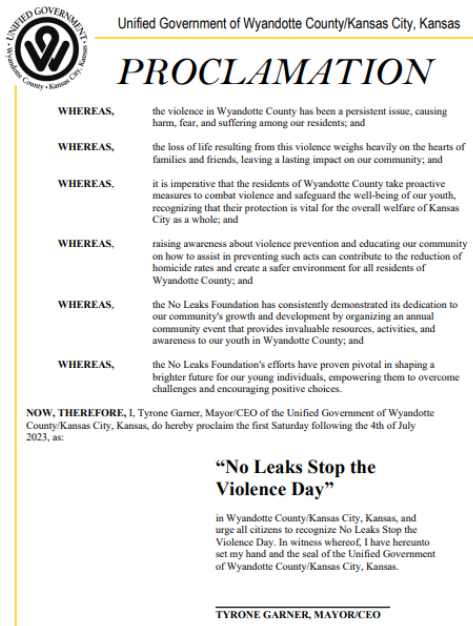
Action: The proclamation was read.

Item No. 2 – 212587...PROCLAMATION: NO LEAKS STOP THE VIOLENCE DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming July 4, 2023, as No Leaks Stop the Violence Day, submitted by Tyrone A. Garner, Mayor/CEO.

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Brett Deichler, UG Clerk, read the following proclamation.



Action: The proclamation was read.

Item No. 3 – 211539...COMMUNITY INPUT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Synopsis: Public forum allows 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 placed a maximum time limit of 45 minutes to host & conclude these discussions. In the interest of time, there should be no expectation for the requested participant's guaranteed inclusion to be recognized for comment and participation.

Mayor Garner said I like to call this open mic. It's a public forum allowing you to either address compliments or concerns you may have with your Unified Government. We ask that you please be concise. If you do have a concern, we also like to ask that you bring forth a recommendation

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and just be respectful of the time and the decorum as well. I will now open the public comment and ask the Clerk to provide a synopsis of the meeting.

Brett Deichler, UG Clerk, said during the open mic, you will be allowed three minutes to speak. At two minutes, we will give you a notice of one minute remaining. We have three people who are signed up and they will go in this order: Helen Hokanson, followed by Fannie Hill, and Sam Colson.

Helen Hokanson, 6453 Cernech Rd., said I also own a home at 419 S. 81st St. where my son lives. That's a long story. I am here because I imagine serving as a county commissioner is sometimes a thankless job so I wanted to thank Commissioners Davis, Stites, and Bynum for the work that you've done around animal services. It gives me a little bit of hope and eases my anxieties, and I possibly made a mistake moving to Wyandotte County for a second time. I'm looking forward to seeing you all on May 18th for the Community Pet Forum.

I also wanted to thank those of you who reached out to me regarding the large item trash pickup issue that I had. I was listening to the joint BPU/Commission meeting online. It's interesting that a reoccurring theme was our trash service.

So, thank you, again, for those who called and emailed me. We've managed to get most of the large items picked up eventually. What I'm asking for is the same thing that I got around animal services. I'm not after anyone's job. I don't want anyone to get fired. I would like for us to look at the procedures. For myself, my neighbors, and my community, I just want the promise made to me in the UG Mission Statement, which is that we will deliver high quality, efficient services, and be a resource to our residents; and we will be public servants focused on our community wants and needs. **Mr. Deichler** said one minute remaining.

Ms. Hokanson said I'm finished. Thank you all for serving.

Fannie Hill said I'm here on behalf of the Wyandotte County community and our tax situation and the PILOT. We are at a crossroad. We're going to be bankrupted in 2025 or 26. I know you all have been working hard to come up with a solution but the solution you come up with is not a solution. You know if you're going to take the PILOT off the seniors and give them a discount and raise their water and their lights, you're coming back with more than you took away so that's not a solution. Then people like me don't even get a break from the PILOT, you're going to double it for

me because you're going to give me higher water, higher electricity, and the full PILOT, so that's not a solution. I'm here because the community is willing to negotiate.

I think this all started when they wanted to do something about the PILOT. We decided to leave the PILOT as is, leave the water as is and leave the electricity as is and take the time you need, at least a year, to try to figure our way out of this because we're in this ship together and it's going down. If the ship goes down, we all go down and I'm going to be the first one jumping off and anybody would be ridiculous to stay on a sinking ship. We need to consider what we're doing as far as the taxes. We decided if you just leave the taxes where it is because right now our taxes are high, extremely high. They was raised last year, quite a bit of revenue came in. We're not asking where the revenue went. They came in, they should have helped the taxes because so much has happened that didn't help our taxes.

Because when Schlitterbahn came in there was going to be tax revenue and good jobs. Taxes went up. The racetrack came in and you told us it was going to be tax revenue and good jobs. Our tax went up. Cerner came in, you spent lots of tax dollars, you told us again it was going to be tax revenue and good jobs. Our taxes went up. **Mr. Deichler** said one minute remaining. **Ms. Hill** said so there's not been—it hasn't been working but yet you keep doing the same thing. We're in a hole, you're in the hole and you got us in there with you. We can't pull you out, we don't have any more money. We're about to lose our home. Residents are leaving. They're not leaving because they want to, they're leaving because they can't afford the taxes and I'm going to follow if the taxes continue because I can't pay the taxes. Right now, we're all struggling to just hold on and more pressure is being applied every time you come up with a solution. We're making a negotiation because we know it's going to have to be some compromises and some negotiations. So, if we can leave the taxes the way it is, we're willing to accept that and just keep your PILOT money. Leave the water and electricity alone, we can accept that.

Sam Coulson, 1895 South 7th Street, said I'm here to talk about also the taxes. I've listened to the budget meetings and everyone's—I'm actually part of the camp that wants UG to collect as much revenue as possible but if there's—I don't know if you've heard of the Laffer Curve, but there comes a point where you can increase the taxes but you still decrease your revenue. It's not very scientific like you can't say we are exactly on this point of the curve or at this point on the curve.

That being said, revenue neutral would keep us where we're at. I think there are many things that have come across during the last budget meetings that suggest that we may in fact be to the point where if we do increase the tax rate, we will actually collect less revenue and if we don't want to dig ourselves deeper into a hole, we need to at least maintain where we're at. I think that mostly does it. I would urge—my complaint would be with Kansas, they're in charge of the evaluations but you guys control the mill rate part of it. I will hassle Kansas for the evaluations, but I would also implore you guys to say revenue neutral while we really figure out where we are on our finances. Thank you very much.

Mr. Deichler said no further registers Mayor at this time. **Mayor Garner** said is there anyone online? **Mr. Deichler** said seeing no one as well. **Mayor Garner** said you can come forward just state your name for the record and anybody else that would like to speak can follow.

TaShear Manck said everybody knows me as CeCe. When the righteous aren't in authority, the people rejoice but when the wicked bears rule, the people mourn. Proverbs 29 and 2. Mr. Garner, Wyandotte County has been in mourning for a very long time, and very rarely are we the beneficiaries of this trust called the Unified Government or BPU or whatever his name. Anyway, I understand that things—well never mind. Mr. Garner, I called you about March or April concerning the BPU bill and you asked what BPU had to do with you and I'm going to try to explain that. In the early 1900s, 1909 the beneficiaries approved us, the people of Wyandotte County approved the water plant to open here. In our—we bought a water plant. In 1911 we voted \$350K in bonds for the electric company and it opened in 1912. I could not find any paperwork where you spot it back from us or anything like that or it's squared away.

With that being said, on the BPU's website, it says that for more than 100 years the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities has provided safe, dependable water and electrical services across Kansas City Kansas. As a non-profit public utility we are fully committed to servicing our customers. Servicing what—anyway then I was on a public website called publicpower.org and it says just like public schools and libraries, public utilities are community-owned and ran by division—ran as a division of your local government. These utilities are governed by local councils and or elected boards, I mean elected or appointed boards. Community citizens have a direct voice

in the utility decisions, including the rate study charges and the source of electricity. Now Tyrone...

Mr. Deichler said you have one minute remaining. **Ms. Manck** said you have a dual title. That means you are a Mayor of Wyandotte County and the CEO of I guess Kansas City, Kansas. But when I go to the website that looks up payroll, the only places or the only city that's representative for Kansas City, Kansas is BPU. There are no city employees, except for BPU employees. So, therefore, I'm going to say that when you guys unified BPU took over the spot where Kansas City, Kansas was and if that's the case, then we very much own it. Now in the original contract, we were supposed to get the electricity at like five cents per kilowatt and it's way over that now. We're supposed to have a direct voice in there. We have no voice in there. They ignore us, y'all ignore us, you send us back and forth but what you don't do is get a solution to the problem. And the solution to the problem would be when you had the audit and the lady said that 24% of the deals made here in Wyandotte County were not collected upon. I would say go and collect that 24%.

Mr. Deichler said your time has expired. **Ms. Manck** said and the PILOT fee is an acronym and infrastructure is included in that PILOT fee. So, the money that BPU wants to charge us to raise it, you need to get it from—we need to get it from that PILOT fee.

Ray Freeman, 2814 South 25th Street, said I believe that's Third District. I've had the pleasure of meeting a few of our city leaders and commissioners, the Mayor. I represent One Community Jiu Jitsu Club. We are the only Brazilian Jiu Jitsu being offered in Wyandotte County. It is a very growing martial art. It's used to control your opponent, you don't have to hurt your opponent. It's also great for your mental illness or mental health. It's also great for your physical health and something that—I've been born and raised here in Wyandotte County my whole life, I was actually a foster kid here in Wyandotte County. And knowing that, I mean, that's kind of a small epidemic here in WyCo, the foster system being there's a lot of kids in that system without a whole lot of youth programming. So, here at One Community Jiu Jitsu Club, we offer that youth programming. We also offer it for young adults. Our goal is to reduce the gun violence here in Wyandotte County as well as the mental illness. I heard the Mayor's calls for stopping the violence. I think this is a great initiative but we also need the support from our leaders in our community. That's what I'm

here asking for today. So, if any of you guys want to hit up my line, I believe my number is easily accessible but please see me after this and we can get that happening.

Montisa Smith said I currently reside in the Rosedale community. I am from this side of town born raised. I spent 10 years in Minneapolis, Minnesota. When they put up the information about Rochester just a little while ago at the other meeting, it did strike a chord with me. I lived in a place where the city actually listened. I'm not saying that you guys do not listen, you just may not listen clearly. Your public is crying out for help. We don't have grocery stores in half of our community. We have nowhere for our children to play. There are no water parks, there are no easily accessible playgrounds with safe equipment for them and our schools are constantly and currently failing. The status of our city is in dismal mean at best and at the worst of it would be the guys and the girls that are on this council, and other councils from the past and undoubtedly councils for the future.

What I'm asking, I'm requesting of you today is that you take what you have heard from each and every one of us and you go home and you think about the lives that we must live with the raise taxes, but we have no grocery stores. With the raise taxes, but we can't afford to buy our medicines. Our prescriptions are going up higher and higher. The cost for insurance for cars and homes is going higher and higher right along with the amount that it costs for us to purchase a home. When in Kansas City back in the day maybe \$50K at best, at best for an extreme what we consider mansion today and you look at what we have today. I implore you all to roll through these city streets, on 5th Street, on Quindaro, on Parallel, on State and see the dismal city that you are a part of. You take the time and the effort to come forth and make these meetings but it doesn't seem as if you're actually listening, because we're the back end of that. We're looking at our water bills going up. We're looking at our light bills going up. We're looking at the skyrocketing cost of food, the shelter. The pandemic showed us that we are struggling beyond belief before...

Mr. Deichler said one minute remaining. **Ms. Smith** said and after the pandemic. Just three years after 2020 look where we are today. Yes, we are making moves forward in our community. We're bringing things out such as the Legends and etc., but it doesn't help when the citizens that reside in the city are profiled while they're there at work. At the community center up there, one of the community excuse me, the stadium up there. And I've been profiled on the job. I'm in the security, I'm here to protect you and I'm being profiled in my uniform as I was looking

for a place to park, why are you here. These are the people that you employ. These people behind me are the people that make sure you have something as a job. We work very hard for our money, our kids and everything in between. And for you to sit here today and have the meeting, we applaud you for that yes, but we need you to dig deeper than just throwing numbers and charts and graphs at us. We need you to pull at your heartstrings and understand that the community is dying around you. There will be people that will leave this board and new people will be commissioned in. **Mr. Deichler** said your time has expired. **Ms. Smith** said but we need for you to think.

Mayor Garner said thank you, is there anyone else that would like to speak? Come forward, name and address.

Terence Maddox said a citizen here in Kansas City, Kansas who has been on both sides of our tax issues. I've seen our tax issue one as a commissioner and now currently as a citizen. I am here requesting financial relief as a tax paying citizen and an advocate for my community. Our country is enduring the highest rates of inflation ever. Citizens everywhere are in financial distressed. Most often being financially distressed and financially burdened can lead to mental illness. Here recently our community has seen increased cases of mental illness.

Today I'm petitioning the Mayor and Commission body to consider all of the constituents in WyCo who are financially burdened in our community before raising the mill levy. I know dozens of citizens in our community who have relocated to other cities simply because they can't stay afloat financially in Kansas City, Kansas. I can admit I haven't seen much of the data and I don't know all the shortcomings of services that are—that have possibly been presented during the budget cycle. But what I do know is that at least 95.5% of the tax base in WyCo does not want our taxes raised. We are the voters and our needs matter most. I realize that the city has recently hired a new County Administrator just weeks before starting this budget cycle and that possibly the data needed hasn't been properly communicated to commissioners. As a result, still I am here asking every elected official here to consider the fact that the utility rates at our local utility are possibly soon to rise, and the raising taxes this year along with the utility rate increase will lead to more financial strife for citizens.

Again, I sat on the elected body of adopting the budget and I know it's stressful having to collectively agree or to make the difficult cuts. Looking at those 300 page UG budget books are

no fun. In fact, in July the 9th floor is no fun. However, each commissioner has taken on the tasks and oath... **Mr. Deichler** said you have one minute remaining. **Mr. Maddox** said to do what's best for the citizens of WyCo. Lastly, I seen the homeless population almost double in the last two years here in KCK. I've seen the two-mile traffic waiting at the Harvester food giveaways, and what I understand most is that our community and its residents need financial relief. I simply ask that each commissioner lower the mill levy or that the budget this year remain revenue neutral.

Mayor Garner said is there anyone else? Clerk, is there anyone online? **Mr. Deichler** said seeing no one sir.

Action: Community input was taken.

Mayor Garner said thank you all so very much for your comments tonight, as always, it's both valued and appreciated.

Mayor Garner said that takes us to our next item and it's the next item on the Mayor's Agenda and it's a presentation from Terri English Yancey regarding Essential Families. We're also joined this evening by Kimberlyn Jones, the Digital Equity Program Manager with the state of Kansas Broadband Office. We appreciate the efforts of the State Broadband Office to expand access to broadband for all of Kansas especially here in Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas. We're pleased to welcome Ms. Jones back to Wyandotte County and look forward to continued partnership with the state to address digital equity and inclusion. Ms. English Yancey, please proceed. This conversation is really going to be centered on the value of broadband but it's really important especially in some of our most distressed zip codes here in Wyandotte County. Particularly when you look east of 635 and some of the opportunities that exist to expand that broadband access, especially if we look to where we're headed with technology and it's becoming more imperative for people to have that access and availability to connect online just to conduct the day-to-day business of everyday life.

Item No. 4 – 212584...PRESENTATION: ESSENTIAL FAMILIES

Synopsis: A presentation by Terri English-Yancy, submitted by Tyrone A. Garner, Mayor/CEO.

Terri English Yancey said I am the founder and CEO of Essential Families. I do not live in Wyandotte County, I was born and raised in Missouri but I have worked on the Kansas side. I used to work for the Family Conservancy down the street.



The Cost to Close the Digital Divide

Essential Broadband Program
"Closing The Digital Divide"

An Urban and Rural Community Centric Digital Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Development Solution.



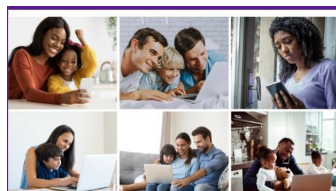
Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City Mayor Tyrone Garner and Board of Commissioners

July 13, 2023

This is our presentation. We're here to present the Cost of Close the Digital Divide. As the Mayor said, we want to ensure that the citizens of Wyandotte County have access to the internet and we have a solution that we have done on the Missouri side that we would like to bring to the Kansas side.



Essential Broadband Program
"Closing The Digital Divide"



Vision: To reach, inform, and inspire the lives of children and families.

Mission: Strengthening Families is Essential to our community, city, and state.

We believe, Everything Starts at Home...

July 13, 2023

Essential Families, our vision is to reach, inform, and inspire the lives of children and families. Our mission is strengthening families is essential to our community, city, and state, and we believe everything starts at home.



Terri EnglishYancy, BA, MA, MA
Founder & Chief Executive Officer

About Terri

Terri has 31 years in child and family development experience. Before founding Essential Families, Terri spent 24 rewarding years with the Family Conservancy, a respected nonprofit that has served young children and families from its base in Kansas City, Kansas, for nearly 150 years.

At the Family Conservancy, Terri served as the Program Manager of the Head Start Home-Based program. She oversaw a 12-person staff.

Terri holds an undergraduate degree in child and family development from Southwest Missouri State University (now known as Missouri State University).

Terri also holds two (2) master's degrees from the University of Missouri - Kansas City (in curriculum and instruction) and from Webster University (in management and leadership).

A little bit about me, I have 31 years of experience in the early childhood field. I know I may not look like it but I am. Again, I worked at the Family Conservancy for over 24 years. I had a staff of 12. I was in the Head Start department and everything that I wanted to do I couldn't do at the Family Conservancy, I brought over to Essential Families to start.



About Essential Families

Essential Families, a state of Missouri registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit, provides crucial children and family development services, virtually, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from anywhere. Our service delivery model is like how you order products and services from AMAZON, that are delivered to your front door!

Our **Essential Broadband Program** is a Digital Divide solution, which means it also satisfies NTIA Digital Equity, Inclusion, and Digital Economic Development goals and objectives.

Please, don't take our word for it, ask the City of Kansas City, who recently issued **Resolution #230229** that proclaims our **Essential Broadband Program** closes the Digital Divide in the greater Kansas City area, and beyond. Please click this <https://url.targettext.io/kcmo-resolution>

Our list of services are provided over affordable and reliable broadband internet, in any state, and rural community, across the United States

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Not realizing I wanted to do home visiting, that's my background doing home visiting, going into the homes with families but prior to the pandemic I wanted to find a unique way, a creative way of doing home visits and I wanted to do that virtually. Well, Essential Families was formed before the pandemic in 2020. We are a State of Missouri 501(c)3 organization. We provide virtual services to families 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our service delivery models like how Amazon brings products to the home, we bring it directly to the family. In November 11, 2022 through February 11, 2023, we did an essential broadband pilot on the Missouri side. We did it in the unserved area of Prospect. We were on Ninth to Prospect to Gregory and Prospect all in the urban core and that pilot was funded by The Kaufman Foundation.

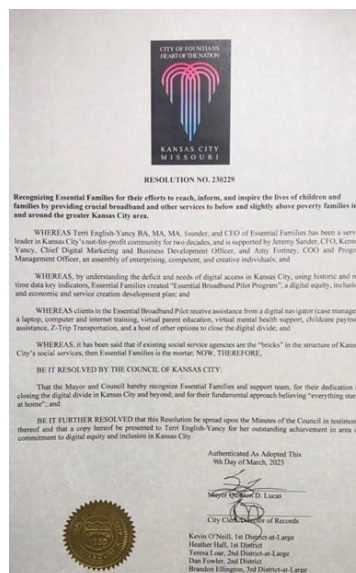


Essential FamiliesSM
 "Everything Starts At Home"

Essential Broadband Program

City of Kansas City Missouri Resolution No. 230229

A Digital Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Development Solution
 (Urban and Rural)



Everything that we did in that pilot and I'll go into a little more detail here. We did not know that the city of Kansas City, Missouri was watching us and so they gave us a resolution in March of this year saying that Essential Family has solved the digital divide in our community with our Essential Broadband Program. Recently we have a contract with the city of Kansas City Neighborhood and Housing Service Department. Our contract starts July 1st and ends in September and I'll go into detail what that contract consists of here in a minute. Our target population is for the low-income households, the aging population, our incarcerated clients, veterans, people with disabilities, people with language barriers, racial and ethnic minorities, and rural incompetence.

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Our list of services and it looks like a lot but I'm going to go in detail what we're what we're doing here at Essential Family. it all starts with our program but digital navigators and I have two navigators that are here with us tonight. they both are bilingual, we have bilingual digital navigators. So, what a digital navigator does, when our clients come to our trainings they're assigned a navigator and that navigator helps them get access to the computer. They help them enroll in that Affordable Connectivity Program. They make sure their video platform is working. We have our own video platform called Now Video. When our families come to our trainings we offer them a laptop no cost. All our services are no cost to them. They get training on their computer.



List of Services

1. Digital Navigator
2. ACP Internet Access Assistance
3. Laptop computer
4. Computer and Internet Training
5. Virtual Parental Education
6. Virtual Mental Healthcare
7. EveryThing - Essential Local "Basic Need" Resources, at your fingertips!
8. NoW Video Conference
9. Z Trip (transportation)
10. Child Care Payment Assistant
11. Digital Workforce Development (which includes, Digital Navigator, AWS Jobs in the Cloud, Linux Admin/Software Developer, Remote Digital Marketing Specialist, and Virtual Parental Education).

We also provide a service called Virtual Parental Education. Where they get 15 virtual education support for families, it all has to start with the laptop. We also—I heard people in here say that the mental health crisis is big and so we have a solution for that. We offer six free Mental Health Services to families no cost. Again, it all starts with getting connected with that laptop.

We have a resource called EveryThing. It's called EveryThing because it looks like Google, if you search on there you can search by the food, need, or whatever your need is by a zip code. Our resource platform called EveryThing you can text that to clients, you can send it on Facebook, Twitter, or email, but it's really available to clients as well. We have a platform called Now Video. I know there's some people here on Zoom but we have a platform called Now. It's much easier than Zoom. I'm not here to promote it but all our virtual service we do virtually on our Now Video

platform. All our clients get access to that. Halfway through our programs if our clients are needing transportation, we offer 30 days of Z-Trip for transportation so they can get to work, school, doctor's appointments, and what have you.

Also, halfway through our Virtual Parental Education and Virtual Mental Health if a parent has a child in childcare, we will pay for two weeks of childcare payment assistance for them as well. We have a very strong Digital Workforce Development, which includes our digital navigators like I mentioned. Our programs always start with our digital navigators. We have AWS jobs through the Cloud, Linux Development, software development, and digital marketing. Our families can get trained in a digital workforce but again it all starts with coming to get that laptop, getting access, getting them connected virtually, and getting into services that we have to offer.



What's Behind Essential Families? What Makes Essential Families Uniquely Positioned, to Close The Digital Divide?

What's behind Essential Families? What makes us uniquely positioned to close the digital divide, because again my background is in early childhood education, I am not a technical person but I do know what is needed in our families. And behind the scenes is my business partner Kenneth Yancey and he'll come up here and share his experience because he is our technical digital marketing and outreach person here at Essential Families.



Kenneth P. Yancy, BBA, AWS CTO Fellow
Chief Digital Marketing, Software, and
Data Officer



Kenneth P. Yancy I, BBA, AWS CTO Fellow is Chief Digital Marketing, Software, and Data Officer for Essential Families.

Kenneth is a serial entrepreneur and visionary, "gifted and talented" in the areas of Digital and Mobile Marketing, Software Development, Telecommunications, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Real Estate Development.

Kenneth's unique expertise and background is a result nearly 40 years of leading successful multi-billion-dollar projects for Big Data, software, marketing, Real Estate Development, and telecommunications powerhouses IBM, Sprint, Cisco Systems, 3rd Wave Marketing, and Faith Properties.

Kenneth's complete background can be found here:

<https://url.targettext.io/kennyancy>

Recent UMKC Innovation Center, KC DIGITAL DRIVE, ComeBack KC Ventures Fellow and AWS CTO Fellow.

NoW (Zoom Alternative) Innovation published 3 times in last 6 months

<https://www.startlandnews.com/2022/08/kenneth-yancy-now-2/>

<https://www.startlandnews.com/2022/05/comeback-kc-ventures-4/>

<http://www.communityvoiceks.com/2022/09/16/%EF%BF%BCTry-now-a-feature-rich-and-black-owned-conferencing-service/>

Kenneth Yancy said I won't be before you long. Believe it or not I've been at this software telecommunications and marketing since 1983. I went to work for IBM at 18. Cisco Systems, IBM, I work for all of them but the last 15 has been working for myself. so that's how when Terri— Terri's also my wife, she came home and said she wanted to do this. I'm thinking do what, she's like we've got to get into the houses. I think well go to the houses, she couldn't offer her services because they didn't have any laptops. They didn't have any internet. So, I put my Cisco hat on. Again, I was building broadband networks when I was 28 years old and they told me then we were going to close the digital divide and that's 30 years ago. We're still at this thing but it's possible.

Terri talked about the video platform I built. I built it, yeah, because we built it at Cisco in 2003 but anyway what I found out was that the language, a lot of different languages. AWS that's Amazon, they made me a fellow, and they gave me access to all of their language translations. Our video platform will translate 47 languages and Terri asked me to do that because when she worked for the Family Conservancy she was spending a \$100K a year for interpreters. Again, we're not trying to take anybody's job but it's just a lot of people that need help and so we're going to do it over that. Why are we here? We're not here to ask for any money, we're not. We're here—we're not even asking for any money but we are here to say okay this pandemic thing right, it really exposed what we already knew.

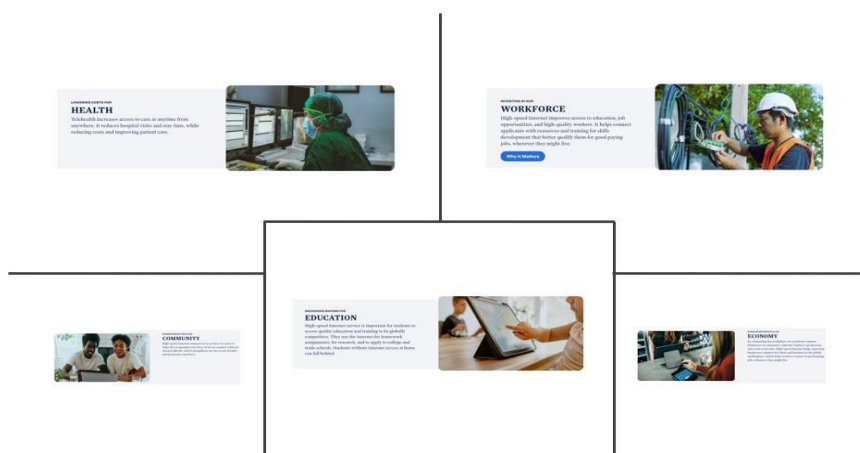
Again, 30 years ago I was I was in a trench cracking open single-mode fiber, terminating fiber mucks. Again, that's broadband but we started in the suburbs and I was told at 28 that the suburbs are going to subsidize the urban core, and that never happened for some reason. We've got

to get to this digital divide because what's at stake here is your health. We've got this save in New Jersey calling us right now because most of the people that died in New Jersey during the pandemic is because they couldn't see their doctor.



Essential Families
"Everything Starts At Home"
Essential Broadband Program
"Closing The Digital Divide"

Why We Must Close the Digital Divide



Okay so you got—they got health, they got workforce development, a lot of jobs online right now. You've got education, big, big, big, I mean a lot of people were—that's coming to our training their kids were hanging out in McDonald's parking lots of the pandemic. When the hot spots ran out of the minutes and it got slow, you know what I'm talking about, and you don't want to use it then right but it's free but it's slow. Anyway, that's another story. We've already identified a hundred households right in Wyandotte County. We already have the data. We have a way of reaching them directly, that's the key. There's several organizations that they've been around for years and they're very good but it's time to go directly to the people.

One of the things I saw in the.com and give me two more minutes—you know the.com is that the people who really made the money doing the.com was the lawyers and the consultants. I'm kind of seeing that going on now. It's a lot of lawyers and I'm not throwing any shade but we have to be able to get right to the people. What we want to do is reach these folks here, right, we want to put together a pilot of 100 individuals. We would like the commissioners to pick these hundred families. You can pick so many per district, however you guys want to do it and we will actually help you write a business case, a proposal, to submit to our friends at the Kansas Broadband Office. They're here, they're not here to necessarily support us, but they're here because

they're always listening. They're a very good group of people and we think that we can put together a business plan like we did for the Kansas City, Missouri side. Like we did Prospect—Ninth to Prospect to Gregory and Prospect, east of Indiana, west of Paseo.

We found 58K, people 38K of them didn't even have a laptop right. We can do so much with these phones. Do you ever try to upload something with these phones, you want to apply for a job or start a business. Try to upload something with this phone. I know how to do it, most people don't know how to do it. You got to have a laptop that's my point. Our approach is again to partner with you guys, we've already identified the people. We will put together the business cases proposal that you can present to the Kansas Broadband Committee and we can see if they'll fund it. Now if they don't fund it, we will. We got the resources to fund this pilot ourselves, but we want to work with the Kansas Broadband Office to do it because they've been chartered to do it. They do a great job at it. They're all over the state of Kansas, but we just want to give them the data to help them justify investing in Wyandotte County.

Mrs. Yancy said I just want to add one more thing. Mr. Freeman here, he spoke earlier, he came to one of our locations on the Missouri side and he asked me why can't you come to Wyandotte County and I said well we want to bring it to Wyandotte County. So, we know that you all, the people here need it and that's what we want to do to, help serve the people.

Mr. Yancy said (inaudible) because Kimberlyn Jones is here if you guys want to ask her any questions? Her program is phenomenal, she's been all over the state of—in the cars. I mean she—they're doing a fantastic job. We just want to partner with them, I'll meet you guys soon, that's it.

Mayor Garner said thank you Ms. Jones, can you come forward and talk about the state and what resources are there. I know that this is a firm not-for-profit and they do their own thing, but what does that look like as far as the funding opportunities and the resources. I know there's been some increases in Broadband from our governor as well as from the national level into states. Just if you can kind of share with this Commission and our staff and the public as to what is—what does Kansas offer in regards and why is it so important.

Kimberlyn Jones said thank you for having me today. I didn't really come to speak, I came to support efforts and organizations that are out here trying to work towards a digital divide. I am the Digital Equity Program Manager for the State of Kansas. The Kansas Office of Broadband under the Department of Commerce and our office was established in 2020 and it was to ensure that all of Kansas get broadband. Of course, as everyone knows that the COVID pandemic brought us woke if you will, got us woke with respect to how important it is to get our education, to eat, to be able to function in this world—in this day-to-day operations, to receive health care and the list goes on and on.

Our office has two pillars, one is infrastructure and the most important thing is we can't do anything else without the infrastructure. Right now, we are currently working on grants and have awarded millions of dollars to our service providers to lay the fiber because of the unique topography terrain geography landscape and go on of the state of Kansas. Fiber may not always be the answer but we are working with all service providers to find out what the answer is to make sure that we get all Kansas internet access and that it is affordable. Once we get the service providers to do what they need to do to lay the fiber, to get the wireless—fixed wireless whatever it takes for people to get the access.

Then my job comes in and we focus on affordability and adoption, getting devices, finding organizations and companies that are given free devices or devices at a discount, and three, getting the digital skills education and utilizing the devices and/or navigating the internet. Some people don't know how to even turn on a device and some people don't know how to upload, download, don't understand that. Most importantly, we're working with the covered populations that are most vulnerable to not having access, not being able to afford it, or having the devices in their homes such as disabled veterans, those justice-involved, aging, low-income, refugees, minority groups, and the like. There are programs out here that we are seeking. We've covered the entire state. We've visited 27 communities over the 105 counties in the state of Kansas, and we continue to visit with librarians, elected officials, service providers, educators, social services that serve these covered populations to see what programs are out there.

We are currently in the weeds of developing a Five-Year Action Plan on the infrastructure side and on the digital equity side. Once we submit those plans, we are anticipating some monies to come down for sub-grantees and that would be open to non-profits, associations, organizations, government agencies, those who are engaged in again affordability. We're promoting the

Affordability Connectivity Program which you might hear of is ACP sometimes. We are one of the least participative states. We're looking for people to help us promote that—those monies because they may not be available and once they're not available, what do we do beyond that for affordability? What companies and what people are donating and refurbishing devices and then we need our librarians. We need our educators and we're going to the elementary schools for kids to help us and I say us because I'm in there too. But help us get this—learn what digital—learn how to operate in this digital world. We are available to speak with you. We have a staff of nine people. We started in October with two, we have nine people. We have infrastructure. We have broadband. We have digital equity. We have mapping specialists to gather data to see exactly where Kansas is and to track where we are.

Please sign up for our newsletter so that you'll know what we're doing. We are very, very active. We're under the direction of Jade Piro de Carvalho. Whatever it is that you're doing, that you need, that you have, what resources are out there, we will serve as a clearinghouse for resources. We're not going to hold any inventory or conduct any classes, but we will definitely connect people throughout the entire state on programs and resources that are available to make sure all Kansans are connected, they can afford it, they have a device in their home and they know how to use it. Again, I'm Kimberlyn Jones, Program Director, and please contact our office, we're all available. Thank you for your time today.

Mayor Garner said thank you so much, we do have a question, Commissioner Stites.

Commissioner Stites said, Mr. Yancy, if you don't mind, when you said that you've identified the people already, but then you showed a list of zip codes. You've identified households within those zip codes that you want—you would like for us—I'm trying to get to what do you need from us as commissioners. I know you said you wanted 100 households, but then you said that you've already identified those households. So, help me out.

Mr. Yancy said okay so, we've identified households that meet that uncovered population requirement. Ms. Kimberlyn had talked about incarcerated, aging, low income. Those zip codes they fit. I don't want to get anybody spooked here but artificial intelligence, I met that in 1994, it was called neural networks. I know how to use it and I used it and I found the people that fit that certain profile. They live in those zip codes, and we didn't do anything illegal to get the data, but

how many of you guys go somewhere and Google asks you how was that restaurant or how was that theater? Did you ever sign up for that, do you remember clicking anything that said send me that information? The genie is out of the bottle, they can't stop it. So that's what I did. We know those zip codes have the people that Timberland's group, the Kansas Broadband will only fund. And we just need you all—to get to your point or your question. We would like for the commissioners to tell us what areas you would want us to focus on. We've got 100 houses, if you give me 5, you give me 20, you give me 15, we're at 100 and we're going to do the same thing we did on the Missouri side.

Commissioner Stites said so if we've got 10 commissioners, do you want 10 from each district? **Mr. Yancy** said that'd be awesome, that's easy math. **Commissioner Stites** said well eight districts and two you know, okay. So that's not too many is what I'm asking. **Mr. Yancy** said no, not at all. **Commissioner Stites** said that doesn't spread you out too much. **Mr. Yancy** said no. **Commissioner Stites** said okay, well I appreciate that. Well so here's something very interesting, our meeting prior to this meeting started at five o'clock. We met with BPU and BPU spoke about how the customer service aspect was going away from maybe walking in and be able to pay your bill. It's more online. It's more digitized. It's all of the computers. I think that this program and getting people—and I made a comment to Commissioner Johnson beside me, I said 10 years from now, you know we won't be walking in. He said you know what probably five or less and he's right—he's probably right. The more that we can get folks that aren't comfortable with a laptop, and don't know how to do it. I'm not going to call out—there's that AI right there. That's how they know we like that cheeseburger with fries or not, right.

Mr. Yancy said well that's a good point because it does listen to you. You ever be talking about something then go online and see it. It's real I mean you can't stop it. I'm sorry go ahead. We would just love to partner with you guys.

Commissioner Stites said okay, I love it and I'm in. Just tell me what we need to do and I'll be there to help. **Mr. Yancy** said okay, thank you for your time.

Commissioner Townsend said my question is very similar to Commissioner Stites in terms of what you need from us but I did notice and I was thinking that these zip codes were in numeric order. I did not see 66101. So, was it there? I know it started off with 102. Could I see that again? **Mr. Yancy** said I'll bring it up. That's it's—if it's going to fit the demographic, it's there. 101?

Commissioner Townsend said let's go back. **Mr. Yancy** said we'll have to go back and if it's not there, I will go back and look directly at that zip code because basically what we're finding on the Missouri side is income-driven. Typically, it's individual. **Commissioner Townsend** said there it is, number six.

Mr. Yancy said okay, it's just not in order. Yeah, because again a lot of—again we found 114K households 30K and below, right. Those are the folks that will automatically, typically qualify for the ACP—the Automatic Affordable Communication Plan which is saving \$30 a month off your internet. But what we found out is that it's going to take more than the internet and just a laptop to really close the digital divide. When we interviewed our customer base on Prospect Corridor they were asking okay I've got this—I got a five-year-old that's running my house right now, I don't know what to do with them. I can't focus on anything until you get me some help over here. We have people dealing with mental things because of COVID. My brother died of COVID. I didn't work for six weeks after that. I didn't want to work, 35 years old dead. Anyway, that's another story, but it's a lot of mental things going on. So, to close the digital divide it is going to take more than the laptop, the internet, and this training. It is going to take these services that Terri has been doing for 31 years, she did it here first in the Wyandotte area. We started on Prospect because her mother, her grandmother, and her great-grandmother grew up on Prospect. She wanted to start there but I'm saying, Terri, you got to go to your own backyard. This is her backyard, everybody knows her.

Commissioner Townsend said well thank you for coming to your backyard. My other question, my follow-up is you made the point it's not just the laptop, it's not just the internet services, but what things flow from there. Since you've identified households in these zip codes, why can't you tell us who those are, and then there's some equitable way for us to say these are the ten. That's going to be a difficult challenge and I'm trying to figure out how. Now that I see 101, 102, who these people are. You know that already if I'm understanding what you're saying. **Mr. Yancy** said yes, we know who they are. We know how to reach them too. **Commissioner Townsend** said yeah and so let's say we have identified the eligible families. Well, let me—let me back up here. Is the issue then since you know the families, we don't. What would prevent you from contacting them directly and saying hey we've got this great service here. **Mr. Yancy** said we'll do whatever you ask us to do. We can do that, we can actually help you all vet or screen the people that we find. Again, we want to help the folks that need it but the individuals that are just

over the borderline. Terri calls it—when she was at the Family Conservancy, there were people that are making like \$5 more than the poverty line that couldn't get help because they made \$5 more. **Commissioner Townsend** said were they included in that? **Mr. Yancy** said oh yes, absolutely.

Commissioner Townsend said okay so again you got them, you got the people who qualify or so close that they should. I would think it might save a lot of time for you to present the list to us or do you even need us to say hey we can help these people. I mean what do you need really from us to do if you've got the information? **Mr. Yancy** said that the takeaway here is to work with us, let us do what you said but let us write you a proposal and that proposal goes to Kansas Broadband because you're going to need somebody on your staff that understands not just technology. They have to understand the psychographics, the demographics, and the societal impact. That's where Terri comes in. I'm the technical guy, she's the—this girl has two master's about it. She knows—she's smarter than me, she really is. I just watched her and what I saw though and you're going to—don't laugh at me now. It was all on paper and sticky notes on spreadsheets. I just turned it into software. That's all I did.

Commissioner Townsend said one last—well maybe not the last question but just trying to follow what you're saying. So, out of this you've got the identity of the households, you know they were qualified but you're saying we would need someone on our staff or a contractor. What are you saying? **Mr. Yancy** said no, we would write that proposal for you based on its—this is how it works it's called a pilot and during that pilot period—but then 40 followed. **Commissioner Townsend** said call it something else. We're overworking that term. **Mr. Yancy** said oh, all right, okay. **Commissioner Townsend** said call it something else. **Mr. Yancy** said Kim give me a name, Kim Kim's good at names. **Commissioner Townsend** said call it something else. **Mr. Yancy** said the demonstration, demonstration yeah. **Commissioner Townsend** said bridge to connectivity, something. **Commissioner Stites** said what about a seed program. **Mr. Yancy** said seed program, okay yeah that will work. We want to be involved in that but we'll do all the writing for you guys that will submit. **Commissioner Townsend** said well here's the other proposal that I would have then. I don't know and I'm looking at my colleagues who are on the Administrative and it almost seems to me like this would be the thing that should appear on a meeting for that standing committee where we really kneel down what is being asked of the city. I think you've got a lot of support here but we're still a little bit unclear about the logistics of it. We shouldn't have to do

something you've already got and it just makes it more streamlined. That would be my offer to have you come to the appropriate standing committee and get that nailed down then come back to us. **Mr. Yancy** said we would love to do that. **Commissioner Townsend** said thank you for your service, no pilot. **Mr. Yancy** said thank you, I've been educated.

Commissioner Davis said thank you so much I'll speak very quickly. Thank you all so much for coming, we really appreciate it. Digital Equity is a huge issue here in Wyandotte County and had plenty of conversations with constituents, and particularly our senior folks who are having a hard time getting access to meetings, or paying bills, or dealing with that tough transition. I would love to assist in any way possible. Would love for us to come up with a process but thank you all for coming. Thank you state of Kansas for coming, you know if there's a lot of money coming from Washington down to our state, we'd love to get that money in the hands and the homes of Wyandotte County.

Mr. Deichler said, Mr. Yancey, please come to the microphone. Let me just say I have to take my Clerk hat off for a minute and give kudos in the technology side here to Mr. Yancey. I've known him for 20-plus decades. We've worked on a lot of tech projects. Right, about 20 years, two decades. We're—I'm not that old. I will tell you this and like I said the Clerk doesn't advocate but here from a technology perspective I will tell you this I was—I didn't know that Mr. Yancey was coming until I saw this was brought forth by the Mayor. I was pleasantly pleased to see his wife's name here. I said Ken Yancey's got to be close by. I will tell you with absolute certainty that Mr. Yancey, if he says that he's done the research, he has been knocking on doors and he does have a plan. He is not only intelligent and very, very passionate about what he does, he actually knows how to get it done. There's people who talk and there's people who also do, he does both. I can say from our relationship and what we've been in the trenches on for a long time that I would trust this man to bring back a plan so everyone here can have an idea what that may look like and try to move this forward because the digital divide has always been here since it's—I mean since he tells you how far it goes back. **Mr. Yancy** said 1994 is when I first heard about it. **Mr. Deichler** said and he's been working to close that. I would say that I'm proud to see him here and I'm proud to see he's still doing good work. Thank you for being here Mr. Yancey and it's good to see you

buddy. **Mr. Yancy** said thank you, thank you so much. Now that was just a chicken dinner for that comment that's all.

Mayor Garner said thank you Mr. Yancey and we want to thank the state of Kansas for coming here tonight as well. I know when Mr. Yancy and his wife they met with me. A lot of people come to the Mayor's Office and usually, I'd say about 90% of them want something. He came in with—and said we've worked with Kansas City, Missouri and we don't want something. We want to give something. We want to give to Wyandotte County because these zip codes they know the need is there. I've talked a lot about east of 55th Street, east of 635, and some of our most distressed zip codes. The resources that are available when you talk about funding from a federal level to our state is there. When he talked about his program, I was impressed. Not just the fact that he didn't want anything other than to help Wyandotte County and more importantly our residents but also he said I'll help. I know that we have a vacuum of grant writers here at the Unified Government and trying to find the personnel to be able to do those types of things he said I got you. He said, Mayor, I got you and so I said well that's good information that I believe that our Commission needs to know.

One of the things that stood out to me, he said whether you use me or you use somebody else. We need to educate the Unified Government and Wyandotte County on the importance of looking forward. Forward thinking on the importance of broadband and making sure that the people, especially poor people, or people dealing and struggling with mental illness. Some of our young folks have access to these types of resources because you're going to need it to survive into the future. I know Commissioner Stites brought up a good point but that was actually brought out by Commissioner Townsend in our last meeting with BPU when she talked about customer service. BPU talked about well we don't have a lobby because we're going—we're digitizing everything but there are people out here, be it elderly, be it people with mental illness, that don't either have the means, the access, the availability, or the training and the education to be able to use those resources to just get basic essential services but that's where our society is going. I thought it of value to bring them here to at least share that and yes Commissioner Townsend I know you mentioned it. The next phase is to work with our staff to see what that looks like, our Legal Department and then get you all before a standing committee to see what type of partnership with

the state of Kansas may be of value and allow our commissioners to weigh in that, in a way that can be constructed for Wyandotte County. So, thank you so much for being here.

Action: **For information only.**

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Action: **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Townsend, to approve.**

Mayor Garner said there is a motion and a second for approval. Is there any further discussion? Seeing none, roll call.

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

Item No. 1 – 212500...ORDINANCE: AUTHORIZING THE UG TO LEVY SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS ON THE URBAN OUTFITTER DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Synopsis: An ordinance authorizing the Unified Government to levy special assessments on the Urban Outfitter Distribution Center, submitted by Patrick Waters, Acting Chief Counsel. On June 5, 2023, the Economic Development and Finance Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Burroughs, voted unanimously to approve and forward to the full Commission.

Action: **ORDINANCE NO. O-78-23, “An ordinance authorizing the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas to levy special assessments on certain property to pay the costs of Community Improvement District improvements, as previously authorized by Ordinance No. O-77-23; and providing for the collection of such special assessments.” Commissioner McKiernan made a motion,**

seconded by Commissioner Townsend, to approve the ordinance. Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Kane, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson.

Item No. 2 – 212523...ORDINANCE: ALLOWING GOOGLE TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN THE RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Synopsis: An ordinance allowing Google to operate and maintain communications services in the rights-of-way, submitted by Dan Kuhn, Assistant Counsel. On June 26, 2023, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve and forward to the full Commission.

Action: **ORDINANCE NO. O-79-23**, “An ordinance granting to Google Fiber Kansas, LLC, a contract franchise to construct, operate, and maintain communications service facilities in the public right-of-way of the city of Kansas City, Kansas and prescribing the terms thereof.” **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Townsend, to approve the ordinance.** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Kane, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson.

Item No. 3 – 212528...GRANT: RESOLUTION DECLAIRING NECESSITY AND AUTHORIZING A SURVEY AND DESCRIPTIONS OF LANDS

Synopsis: A resolution declaring the necessity and authorizing a survey and descriptions of lands to be acquired by the right and power of eminent domain for the location, laying-out, reconstruction, expansion, repair, maintenance, operation, and use of 90th Street and State Avenue in Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas, submitted by Daniel Kuhn, Legal Department. On June 26, 2023, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve and forward to the full Commission.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-45-23**, “A resolution declaring the necessity and authorizing a survey and descriptions of lands to be acquired by the right and power of eminent domain for the location, laying-out, reconstruction, expansion, repair,

maintenance, operation and use of 90th Street in Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas.” **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Townsend, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Kane, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson.

Item No. 4 – 212524...GRANT: VOCA FY2024 APPLICATION FOR VICTIM SERVICES

Synopsis: Approval to apply for the upcoming VOCA grant in federal VOCA funds of \$380,980. There is no match requirement, submitted by Wendy Medina, Program Supervisor, KCKPD. On June 26, 2023, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve and forward to the full Commission.

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

Item No. 5 – 212520...RESOLUTION: COUNTY FUNDED INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (CIFI)

Synopsis: Approval of a resolution committing a mill in the same fashion each year into the future, submitted by Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works. On June 26, 2023, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve and forward to the full Commission.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-46-23**, “A resolution approving the county initiative for funding infrastructure whereby the Unified Government Board of Commissioners is committed to dedicating one county mill to the County Funded Infrastructure Program (CFIP) each year to be allocated each year in the following manner: Kansas City, Kansas shall receive 50%; Bonner Springs, Kansas, shall receive 25%; and Edwardsville, Kansas, shall receive 25%.” **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Townsend, to adopt the resolution.** Roll

call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Kane, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson.

Item No. 6 – 212525...ORDINANCE: AMENDING SECTION 23-13 OF THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT CODE OF ORDINANCES

Synopsis: An ordinance amending Section 23-13 of the Unified Government Code of Ordinances to eliminate some of the court fees and formalize the ability to pay process in order to reduce the impact fines and fees have on our citizens, submitted by Meaghan Shultz, Municipal Court Administrative Judge. On June 26, 2023, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Markley, voted unanimously to approve and forward to the full Commission.

Action: **ORDINANCE NO. O-80-23**, “An ordinance relating to the amendment of Section 23-13 of the Code of Ordinances of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas, City, Kansas, relating to court costs and the requirement of an Ability to Pay hearing.” **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Townsend, to approve the ordinance.** Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Kane, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson.

Item No. 7 – 212519...RESOLUTION: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 2023 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Synopsis: Resolution approving of the 2023 Annual Action Plan for U.S. Department of Urban Development Block Grants, submitted by Stephanie Stauffer, Program Coordinator, Department of Community Development. On June 26, 2023, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Markley, voted unanimously to approve and forward to the full Commission.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-47-23**, “A resolution authorizing the submission of an Annual Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and authorizing the implementation of such plan.” **Commissioner McKiernan**

made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Townsend, to adopt the resolution.

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

Item No. 8 – 212580...MINUTES

Synopsis: Minutes from the Special Session meetings on June 8, 15, and 22, 2023.

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

Item No. 9 – 212581...WEEKLY BUSINESS MATERIAL

Synopsis: Weekly Business material dated June 1, 8, and 15, 2023.

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

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

No items

STANDING COMMITTEES’S AGENDA

No items

ADMINISTRATOR’S AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 212585...MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING: UFCW CONTRACT

Synopsis: Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the Unified Government and the United Food & Commercial Workers District Union Local 2 Police Communications Unit. The terms of the agreement are from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2025, submitted by Angela Lawson, Acting Chief Counsel.

Angela Lawson, Acting Chief Counsel, said this was ratified by union membership on July 6. Some of the highlights are a set three-year term covering '23, '24, and '25. A 9% increase over the course of the three years. changes to allow the division of job duties between dispatchers and 9-1-1 call takers to assist with staffing needs and workflow. provides for appropriate compensation for lateral hires from other agencies to assist with hiring. mutually agreeable changes to overtime assignments and addition of language providing for shift exchange.

Mayor Garner said thank you. Our Acting Administrator has a comment on how it's coming.

Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator, said a quick note that with the approval of this, that all 13 bargaining units within the Unified Government will be under contract. we're pleased and appreciate the work of Human Resources and ACA Cobbins and others who've been involved in this to make sure that we settle all those and are working closely with our bargaining units to get the work of the of the UG done.

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Stites, to approve.**

Mayor Garner said I want to mirror our Acting Administrator and staff. Just coming in when I took office, there were a lot of contracts that were on the table in a short amount of time. Quickly our staff and our Legal Department really brought these unions and their contracts and got things ratified in a way that hopefully what we know will be of value to our employees but more importantly, if our employees—we take care of them, hopefully, that level of commitment that we've had with them will translate to an enhanced level of commitment to our residents. Thank you for everybody involved with these contract negotiations. We have a motion and a second to approve, are there any further comments? Hearing none, Clerk roll call.

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

Item No. 2 – 212567...RESOLUTION: EXCEEDING REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE

Synopsis: A resolution regarding the governing body's intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate and setting the date of a public hearing, submitted by Jeff Conway, Assistant Counsel.

Mayor Garner said that takes us to item number two. This is the last item on the Administrator Agenda. It is the approval of a resolution regarding the governing body's intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate and setting the date for the public hearing. This matter has been continued from our June 29th, 2023, Commission meeting. I'll ask our acting County Administrator, Mr. Alan Howze to open up the conversation.

Mr. Howze said we have a couple of slides from Finance if it pleases the Commission to see those on the discussion for this item. Ms. Jonscher, please.

Debbie Jonscher, Interim Chief Financial Officer, said tonight we're here to talk about the resolution of intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate and set a public hearing.

RNR Requirements:

- Taxing Entities are required to give notice to the County Clerk by July 20th of their intent to either remain revenue neutral or exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR)
- Notice to the Clerk also sets the Maximum Mill Levy Rate
- The County Clerk will then send notice to all taxpayers of the intent of the taxing entities to exceed the RNR
- If exceeding RNR taxing entities are required to hold a Public Hearing between August 20th and September 20th



We talked about this at the last meeting but I just wanted to talk again about the revenue neutral rate requirements. This requires all taxing entities to give notice to the County Clerk by July 20th, which is actually a week from tonight of their intent to either remain revenue neutral or exceed the revenue neutral rate. Notice to the Clerk exceeding the revenue neutral rate also sets the maximum mill levy rate, meaning that the rate can be lowered but it cannot be increased. The County Clerk

will then send notices out to all taxpayers of the taxing entities intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate and if exceeding the revenue neutral rate, taxing entities are required to hold a public hearing between August 20th and September 20th.

Resolution of Intent:

- States the intent to exceed the RNR for the City of Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County
- Sets the Maximum Mill Levy Rates at the current rates
- Rates certified by County Clerk
 - City of Kansas City, Kansas
 - Current Rate: 38.476593 mills
 - RNR: 33.442874
 - Wyandotte County
 - Current Rate: 37.328383 Mills
 - RNR: 32.500869
- Public Hearing Set for August 28, 2023 at 7pm in the Commission Chambers of City Hall



I just want to talk a little bit about the resolution. It does state the intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate for the city of Kansas City, Kansas, and Wyandotte County. It sets the maximum mill levy rate at the current rate. I have listed the rates that have been certified by the Clerk. The current rate for the city of Kansas City, Kansas is 38.476 mills, and the current rate for Wyandotte County is 37.328 mills. I just want to remind everyone that tonight's resolution is to notify the Clerk of the intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate. This is not the final vote on the mill levy, it can be lowered in the future, it just cannot be increased. Then if approving the resolution to exceed the revenue neutral rate, the resolution also calls for setting a public hearing. That date would be August 28th at 7 pm in the Commission Chambers.

Calendar:

Exceeding the RNR:

August 2023	
Thursday, August 10, 2023	County Administrator Presents 2024 Proposed Budget to Commission (No Full Commission Meeting Scheduled)
Monday, August 14, 2023	Present CIP to City Planning Commission
Thursday, August 17, 2023	6th Budget Workshop/Set Maximum Mill Levies (Full Commission Meeting Scheduled)
Thursday, August 17, 2023	Publish Maximum Mill Levy
Thursday, August 24, 2023	7th Budget Workshop (No Full Commission Meeting Scheduled)
Monday, August 28, 2023	Public Hearing on Exceeding the "Revenue Neutral" Mill Rates (Special Session)
Monday, August 28, 2023	Final Public Hearing on Budget (Special Session)
Thursday, August 31, 2023	Budget Adoption (Full Commission Meeting Scheduled)
September 2023	
Friday, September 29, 2023	Deadline for UG to submit the mill rates and budget to UG Clerk

Remain Revenue Neutral:

July 2023	
Thursday, July 27, 2023	County Administrator Presents 2024 Proposed Budget to Commission
August 2023	
Thursday, August 3, 2023	5th Budget Workshop/Set Maximum Mill Levies (No Full Commission Meeting Scheduled)
Friday, August 4, 2023	Publish Maximum Mill Levy
Thursday, August 10, 2023	6th Budget Workshop (No Full Commission Meeting Scheduled)
Monday, August 14, 2023	Final Public Hearing on Budget (Special Session)
Thursday, August 17, 2023	Budget Adoption (Full Commission Meeting Scheduled)
Friday, August 25, 2023	Deadline for UG to submit mill rates and budget to UG Clerk



I also added the calendar for exceeding the revenue neutral rate or remaining neutral. If the Commission approves the resolution and we give our notice of intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate, the budget adoption would occur on August 31st and the deadline to submit the budget to the County Clerk would be September 29th. If we are if the Commission votes to remain revenue neutral, the budget adoption would occur on August 17th, with the deadline to submit to the County Clerk by August 25th. That's all I have and I'll stand for any questions.

Commissioner Bynum said I have a technical question. The document that you put on the screen and gave us a hard copy of, taxing entities are required to give notice to the County Clerk of their intent to either remain revenue neutral or exceed. We may have to have Legal help us. I had asked a couple of the other taxing entities you know if they had already taken this step within their jurisdictions. Two of them that responded back to me, well one of them said we take the approach that the notice sets the ceiling because it cannot be raised after a notice, however, it can come down. My question is technical because that's what we would do here tonight if we said we were going to exceed revenue neutral, as you stated we can always lower the mill levy we just can't raise it.

Ms. Jonscher said right, that would—it would—if you set it at the current rate, that would set the maximum mill levy rate but you could not go higher than that. You could not choose later during the budget workshops to raise it but you could lower it. **Commissioner Bynum** said and that's not different from any previous budget cycle that I've been through. We've always had a

point during the budget cycle at which we have set the maximum mill levy. Again, my questions are technicality because the language says required to give notice of their intent to remain revenue neutral or exceed the revenue neutral rate. The answers that I had received from a couple of the other entities was much more nuanced than yes, we voted to exceed, which is technically what they did. Maybe it's not even within our purview, but I'm just curious what the actual language that would be provided to the Clerk should be.

Ms. Jonscher said there's a form. The form—I don't have that in front of me and I don't know if the Clerk can maybe help, but I believe the form states the rate that you are setting. So, you could either set it at the current rate. You could set it at the revenue neutral rate or somewhere in between and whatever rate you set, that is your maximum. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay thank you.

Brett Deichler, Unified Government Clerk, said Mayor if I may. Let me be clear that when the Clerk sends the evaluations out, they're certified to us. We do what is called an estimate for the June and July estimates, which is sent to the agencies themselves and it becomes simple math at that point. It's based on the value itself and the increase. It looks and says this is what your value would be, this is what your maximum mill levy would be if you left everything this way. But if you have last year's baseline in what was your levy rate that becomes your RNR rate at that point in time like we discussed earlier in one of the meetings here about a month back. That's the difference between where you would be with new valuations and where you would need to be with utilizing last year's rate if you remain revenue neutral, that makes sense. There are numbers that go out to the agencies that let them know what those two numbers might be. It's not just, hey, we're going to increase this, yeah, we just don't know what it is. But they do know what that maximum would be, which Debbie's shown here in that slide to be the successive numbers for the higher end. Then you could come back down. So, it allows you to adjust things inside there to remain in those same levy rates without going over once it's approved. **Ms. Jonscher** said the resolution that's included in your packet does have all of that information. Those rates in there, it shows what the revenue neutral rates are and what the current rates are.

Commissioner Kane said just a couple of weeks ago several of the surrounding cities and counties we're talking about exceeding revenue neutral. Baldwin City yes, Bonner Springs yes, Douglas

County yes, Edwardsville likely, Fairway yes, Johnson County yes, Lansing to be debated, Lawrence yes, Leavenworth to be debated, Leawood yes, Lenexa yes, Louisburg no, Merriam yes, Miami County to be dated, Mission Hills yes, Olathe yes, Osawatomie yes, (Inaudible) Roeland Park yes, Shawnee yes, Tonganoxie yes. UG we've already voted on this before and Westwood yes. This is not something that is taken lightly across just here in Wyandotte County, it's all across. The economy is in trouble. We're in a situation now where we're not the only ones that are struggling making this decision. We have to make a decision that's best and what services are we going to cut out if we go revenue neutral. Who are we going to layoff if this happens and who—two people out of like 20 or two groups—two municipalities out of 20 said you know what we're all going to exceed revenue neutral. This is very, very difficult for all of us and we sit there and we say we want this. What services are we going to cut out, what are we going to do for the community. I struggle with this because I know more wanted to be the lead on this and the man on the move but when I found this out, I said oh my God we're not the only one struggling. I talked to some Mayors. I talked to some councilmen. I talked to multiple people and nobody feels good about this. It's a struggle to be in this position again. We're going to put a lot on that new Administrator, a whole lot. We need to be very, very mindful and careful with what we do with not this budget but the two or three budgets to come. With that being said I make a motion to—you're right I didn't want to be this—make a motion to exceed the revenue neutral rate.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-48-23**, “A resolution of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas regarding the governing body's intent to levy a property tax exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR). Setting a public hearing regarding its intention to exceed the RNR for August 28, 2023. RNR for the City of Kansas City, Kansas, was calculated as 33.442874 mills by the Unified Government Clerk; and the RNR for the County of Wyandotte, Kansas, was calculated as 32.500869 mills by the Unified Government Clerk. The Governing Body of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, expresses its intention to exceed the RNR with a proposed tax rate and maximum mill levy for the City of Kansas City, Kansas, of 38.476593 mills; and its intention to exceed the RNR with a proposed tax rate and maximum mill levy for Wyandotte

County, Kansas, of 37.328383 mills.” **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to adopt the resolution.**

Mayor Garner said any other comments from the Commission?

Commissioner Bynum said I just want to state that as Commissioner Kane said I think we've identified that every taxing entity in Wyandotte County which includes the school district, I can't speak to the drainage districts because I honestly don't know. The county library mill levy, the other two cities, the school district, the community college, and I believe even our own Wyandotte County Library Board, along with possibly USD 500 are not going revenue neutral. The reason I mention that is because number one I want to say that I'm willing to have a conversation about revenue neutral, specifically on the county side of the budget because I believe that we have more room on the county side of the budget to make those cuts that Commissioner Kane is talking about. Unfortunately, on the county side of the budget, the cuts that we would talk about are the Sheriff's Department, the Health Department, and some of our really important resources. I am willing to have the conversation about revenue neutral most specifically on the county side of the budget, and per the worksheet we were given, revenue neutral on the county side of the budget would be 4.828 mills reduction just on the county side of the budget.

I will vote tonight to support the motion that's been made for this reason. We've had budget discussions since May and we have on the surface discussed revenue neutral as an option, but I know I and other commissioners have asked for in-depth conversations, deep dives into the budget line items. Specifically, around making any cuts so that we can understand where the cuts would be and our County Administrator is not here tonight. I have not had any organized conversation with this body about where the cuts will be. I'm not willing to—without that information, I'm not willing to agree to revenue neutral but I am willing to the conversation for the balance of July and into August because I think there is a middle ground here for us that could bring us forward with at least a partial path towards some relief. As you know I'm also trying to lead that effort for some relief from the PILOT on the BPU bill. It has revenue implications if we provide that and we need to factor those in, but like I said, my main objection to the vote tonight simply is because we've not been provided with a shred of information about where those cuts would take place. I really

prefer that conversation be ahead of us than having to make the decision of what we would do. Just wanted to make that point.

Commissioner Stites said it's very unfortunate that we're put in this position to where we have to either put ourselves in this exceeding revenue neutral right now before we've ever really even seen a budget, but I don't know what they're talking about for cuts. What's it look like on the county side, the city side. We don't even know. I don't have any idea. We don't have the County Administrator here tonight to talk about it and it puts us—now I am in favor of revenue neutral for sure on the county side, and that on the revenue neutral on the county side what does that do. That affects every constituent, every single citizen in this county, not one city, not two cities, everybody would see tax relief. I know that we talked about it at a BPU meeting earlier. We talked about a way that we responsibly move forward with the PILOT reduction and you know what ultimately, I'm hoping PILOT elimination right, but we can't do it all in one whack. There's no we can't do it, we just can't get there but I think that it does no good for us to sit up here and quite honestly look like fools. I had so many people contact me after our last meeting and said why do you stay there, it's a joke. I'm tired of coming up here and being put down, belittled like I didn't run a campaign, and I didn't want to win my election. I did and I do have the constituent's best interest at heart. When they talked about having people—the taxes be reduced. I don't go—I don't need to be put down on Facebook, not even 24 hours later by somebody that says once again I'm fighting the resistance of the Commission. Nobody's fighting the resistance of this commissioner. I vote the way I need to vote to make sure that I'm doing it responsibly for my constituents and what I see as a county commissioner, not just my district. My district is all of Wyandotte County and so whenever I vote on the county side revenue neutral that relieves taxes for everybody in this County.

Mayor Garner said well I'll end with saying that I believe that the County Administrator and staff follow the direction from the intent of this Commission. The intent out the gate was to exceed revenue and they work towards that end. No, you're not going to see massive cuts and things of those nature coming from staff when this Commission as a whole, the majority, indicated to staff that they had no interest or desire to hear any talk about revenue neutral. Had you have been open to that, I'm sure staff would have came back with some recommendations that you could have considered. I have gone out in this community and I have listened to people, and it doesn't matter

what race you are all four corners of this community. The biggest issues are taxes, and the fees associated with their BPU bills. It doesn't matter who I talk to and the people I talked to said that they want relief.

I just went to a General Motors meeting the other day and General Motors their executive—some of their executive team made a comment that really was profound and said we are losing businesses to our neighbors in Missouri, in Riverside because of taxes, property taxes. I've heard people say oh sales tax is regressive tax. Well, I don't know how much more regressive you could be with property taxes when people are being taxed into poverty and taxed out of their homes. If they weren't, we wouldn't have an excess of Land Bank properties that we don't want and can't get rid of. I'm going to continue to speak up for the majority of these people and be in our community and be community driven. We've got to put a pressure point on taxes and fees. This is one of the poorest communities anywhere you'd find in the state of Kansas. People cannot afford to continue to carry this burden. We cannot tax, spend, and borrow our way to solvency. It's a model that has not worked and it's not a sustainable model. We've got to hold the line on property tax increases. Yes, hard choices and decisions are going to have to be made by this Commission. I've challenged you from day one be prepared to make those choices. We cannot continue to kick the can down the road any longer on the backs of hard-working people in Wyandotte County. They can't afford it. We've got to identify what essential services is and tell the truth and be real with our public and say it is going to be shared sacrifice. They just want you to be honest but they also wanted you to know how they feel. They don't expect government to solve all their problems but they want you to be truthful, they want you to work with them, and they want you to listen.

I listened last year for about two hours of residence one after one come up here and say don't do this to us. It went on deaf ears and here we are right back again. The solution is we're going to continue to tax you, we're going to continue to spend, and we're going to continue to borrow. We've got to streamline government. If I know that I'm headed towards bankruptcy I'm going to tighten my belt and change how I do business with my personal finances and I would think all of you would do the same. I don't know of any Fortune 500 Company that is successful that operates in the way this Commission has been doing. It's not sustainable if you want to be successful. This isn't my money, it's not your money, it's the money of the people that live here and that want better for themselves, and they should not have to decide between paying their light

bill, putting food on the table, or putting shoes on their kids feet. Not only do we have to streamline, we have to innovate.

I heard BPU talk about some of the sacrifices they made to cut their budget. I haven't heard that from this Commission. All I've heard is you haven't given us anything to consider. I gave this Commission something to consider last year and I got rejected. I didn't even bring it up this year because of the disrespect that was shown to me by this Commission because I'm speaking up for the people of Wyandotte County that said they wanted better. Business as usual at Wyandotte County Unified Government has to stop. I'm unapologetic, I'm unmoved, and I'm unbothered by anybody not liking me and not wanting to work with me but I've asked you to work with me. The majority of you have thumbed your nose. You know why because I'm not part of this establishment that says the status quo is the way we're going to continue to go. I'm going to continue to be community driven and to speak up for the people in Wyandotte County that said they're sick of the shenanigans at City Hall.

We had an opportunity last week and the week before last and Commissioner Stites mentioned something really profound. We were at revenue neutral and I asked our Administrator at that time some of you said well he's not here. Well, he's not here because he doesn't want to be, he's here because he's trying to make a home and build a house here in Wyandotte County and set up residence so he can pay taxes. That was stifled and our Administrator said that he will do whatever this Commission says to do and he will do it responsibly. We've got to expand our tax base. It's hard to expand your tax base and want to anchor people in Wyandotte County when it's too expensive to live here. It's hard to attract businesses that are going to provide jobs when our taxes and our rates are extremely high.

In 1987 I was a Cadet, and I got laid off along with other employees. It's amazing how history repeats itself because this was the picture. The solution wasn't finding solutions, the solution was to continue to tax people out of our County and to tax people into poverty and as a result the tax base dried up. I don't know if any of you have heard of Detroit or East St. Louis. At some point even if you can't lower taxes, putting a pressure point on it and saying let's not raise it any further should at least be the goal to allow—offer some level of relief to our residents. To allow them to have faith in our government that we are working in a way that reflects what they said they want. I wouldn't be here talking and saying these things if everywhere I go, I don't hear the same thing in all four corners of Wyandotte County, to include Bonner Springs and

Edwardsville. There's a better way of doing business. You can do it responsibly, but yes, you took this job to make hard decisions. I'm willing to work with you to make those hard decisions. I've asked you all to come to the table and work with me. Those of you who don't, and you know who you are, my door is open, my phone works, I make time for this community. I'll make time for you to make hard decisions to best decide how to provide the level of services that our citizens come to expect. As a matter of fact when they elected us all that's what they expected. It's supposed to be a Unified Government and I heard a commissioner say tonight people are sick of the circus. They want us to work together and get things done on their behalf. We're professionals, we're adults, we can get it done. It can be done responsibly but we cannot keep burdening our hard-working residents with more taxes and I don't care what any other tax entities—we're almost half. We should be leading the way and saying let's start here.

I'm not here to point fingers at any other taxing entities, I'm the Mayor of the Unified Government, that's what I ran for. I don't vote but I'm going to continue to advocate that we at least remain revenue neutral and that we work with our staff, and my willingness to work with you all to find cuts and to find real solutions to problems, like I said, that we know impact the lives of real people every single day. People are struggling to make it, and it hurts me that I'm powerless and helpless to help these folks. I don't hear solutions coming from this Commission. All I hear is we've got to do it because somebody in staff said so. Leadership requires you to make hard decisions and hard choices and I challenge this Commission, no matter the vote tonight, step up, work with me. Let's do our job on behalf of the great people that call Wyandotte County home and those that may want to live here, so we can keep people here and we could make it a great and safe place to live, work, and raise a family, and at least bring some relief of these tax burdens and these fee burdens.

It hurts me to even have this conversation because I've seen the tears in people's eyes. It hurts me when people say I'm going to lose my house or I'm moving out of your county Mayor, and they've lost confidence in this Unified Government to do anything because they've lost hope because they don't hear or see anybody that's even listening to them. I've gone to DOT Talks. I've been to community meetings and outside of elections I would hope that you would join me in these meetings. Not when you're running for office but every day, because I'm out there every day. I come to work and I'm out in this community. Why, because I care and I take my commitment to this community seriously and I'm not saying anybody here doesn't. I'm saying join me, but we

can't keep ignoring our people. If they say they want the cuts, my call to action from this Commission is let's find a way to get the people what they say they want. I'm done. We have a motion and a second, Clerk roll call.

Mr. Deichler said sir, just to clarify that Commissioners Kane and McKiernan motions were to approve the resolution to exceed as written. **Mayor Garner** said that is correct.

Commissioner Stites said I just have one last clarification. So the vote tonight, if we vote to with the expectation to exceed revenue neutral, doesn't prohibit us from being revenue neutral on either the city or the county, correct? **Ms. Jonscher** said that's correct, you can make that decision. **Commissioner Stites** said thank you, that's what I need to know.

Mayor Garner said all right just for those of you watching, if this does pass there will be a public hearing on I believe August 28th. **Ms. Jonscher** said that's correct at 7pm. **Mayor Garner** said so just take notice of that and that's an opportunity for you to make your voice heard.

Commissioner. Burroughs said colleagues, I know we're about to pass a tough vote, but I have been consistent in my position from the day I got elected here because I ran on bringing the mill levy and our tax burden into equalization. And we see where we are tonight, once again, dealing with an issue that is really a difficult issue for all of us at one time or another but I will be making my vote. I do want the public to know that I've heard you. I ran on it five years ago. I'm not changing my position today because it's not a favorite position, but I heard you and I'll make my vote accordingly.

Mayor Garner said Clerk, roll call.

Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Kane, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, and one "No", Burroughs.

Mayor Garner said for the record Clerk, veto by the Mayor.

Action: Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to override the Mayor's veto.

Mayor Garner said there's a motion and a second, any discussion? Seeing none. Clerk, roll call.

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

COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA

No items

LAND BANK BOARD OF TRUSTEES' CONSENT AGENDA

No items

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

No items

ADJOURN

Mayor Garner said there's no further business before the governing body, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

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

**MAYOR GARNER
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:45 P.M.
July 13, 2023**

Brett Deichler
Unified Government Clerk

BM

July 13, 2023