

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. _____

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

REGULAR SESSION
November 16, 2023

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Regular Session Thursday, November 16, 2023, with seven members present via Zoom and on-site; Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; Garner, Mayor/CEO, presiding. Townsend, Commissioner First District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; and Kane, Commissioner Fifth District, were absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Angela Lawson, Acting Chief Counsel; Wendy Green, Assistant Counsel; Debbie Jonscher, Interim Chief Financial Officer; Reginald Lindsey, Budget Director; Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works; Sarah Shafer, Public Works CMIP Program Manager; Dennis Rubin, Interim Fire Chief; LaVert Murray, Economic Development Advisor to the Mayor, Monica Sparks, Acting UG Clerk, and Brittnie MacDonald, UG Clerk's Office.

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

During the meeting, please make sure that you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so the public that is observing knows who is speaking. Please be sure to speak directly into the microphone when speaking so the public can hear your comments and there's an accurate recording of the meeting for the minutes. 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: Bynum, Burroughs, McKiernan, Markley, Stites, Davis, Garner.

November 16, 2023

Mayor Garner said we have an invocation, given by Annie Erickson, Grandview Park Presbyterian Church to lead us in an opening prayer, after which we will have our pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Garner said Clerk, are there revisions to the agenda tonight?

Monica Sparks, Acting UG Clerk, said there are two revisions. Item number one under the Standing Committee, the Kansas Speedway item is being removed at the request of the applicant, and we are adding a new item to the Mayor's Agenda, item number eight which is a resolution and ordinance for debt project authorization.

VI. MAYOR'S AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 212853...RECOGNITION: GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD

Synopsis: Recognition for the Finance Department, which was awarded with GFOA's Distinguished Budget Award. This award represents a significant achievement by the entity, submitted by Mayor Garner.

Mayor Garner said that takes us to the Mayor's Agenda. Item number one is a recognition of our Budget Department as a recipient of the Governance Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. This award reflects the hard work and long hours our budget staff puts in every year to provide comprehensive information to the Commission and public regarding the Unified Government's financial outlook. I believe that this is the 10th year that the department has received this award based on their outstanding work and in providing information that is understandable for everyone. Please join me, I don't know if anyone would like to come forward from the Budget Department. We've got Reggie Lindsey you want to come and give some remarks. (Inaudible) Thank you everyone. Does anyone on the team want—have some remarks if you'd like, don't be shy. Okay, well thank you all so much, we appreciate your work. I think what this really signifies is that your hard work has not gone unnoticed and is very valued and appreciated, not just by this Commission and the Administrator and everybody that works here but by the people

that call Kansas City Kansas and Wyandotte County home. So, thank you so much for your hard work, it's greatly appreciated.

Action: **Recognitions were heard.** For information only.

Item No. 2 – 212861... PRESENTATION: LEGENDS OUTLET DEVELOPMENT

Synopsis: A presentation on current development and security at the Legends Outlet by Stacy Scheelk, Senior Director of Operations and Business Development, Legacy Development for Legends, submitted by Mayor Garner.

Stacy Scheelk, Legends Outlet Director of Operations and Business Development, said thanks for having me. I'm Stacy Scheelk with Legend Outlets and when Mayor Garner asked me to come and speak to—sorry is that better. Okay, when he asked me to come and speak about developments, construction, what's going on in Village West and within Legends proper, he asked me to touch on security as well as the growth and the sales and the occupancy. It's all good news. I love to talk about this, so I will just kick it off with some of the really good news. Legends Outlets right now has the highest occupancy in terms of full-time leases in 360 miles, all the way to St Louis and to Omaha. We have sales that are over \$400 per square foot, which is higher than the ICSC normal. We only have five vacant spaces out at the Legends. I'll outline them for you, one is the old Stanford's Comedy House. We do have plans for redevelopment that would include a high-end food court and pickle ball courts. Currently it's being used by the local Police Department agencies for K9 Officer training and drills. The old Hash House A Go-Go is on the far west side. When they vacated, they actually took all the utilities with them so there are no utilities in that space so it's very hard, very large space to lease. We have shown it to several national breakfasts and brunch restaurants, and we do think that that will come to fruition once the apartments open. The old Christopher and Banks they filed for bankruptcy, it is vacant. There is remnant space in the back of the Charming Charlie space. We resinized that and opened Rally House. It is the second largest Rally House in Kansas City and exceeds \$1,000 per square foot. It's really doing great at Legends. In the old Hagar space, it's currently leased with some breakout cages for storage because of our occupancy levels the stores don't have enough space for storage in their backrooms.

Openings that we've done in the last 24 months, Dutch Brothers opened their first store in Wyandotte County and western Johnson County at the Legends. We relocated Tory Birch Outlet popup into a permanent location paying triple net rents in a double square foot size. BOSS Outlet is opening on December 1st. It is the first in the market. It's an outlet, it has an NFL partnership and Patrick Mahomes is their spokesperson so be watching for a visit. World of Wonder is opening in January, it's an educational toy store. The closest one is in Omaha, it is a franchise. KPOT is opening a Korean barbecue restaurant. It's a in the table grill concept where you grill your own food at your table, there is one in Leawood. It's opening in the old Fuddruckers store. La Fuente Street Food opened, they have three locations in Kansas City in the old Taco Bueno store. Love Bubble Tea and QZ Ramen opened last year. Lee Wrangler Outlet opened in August just in time for back to school and Tropical Smoothie Cafe plans a February opening in the old sonic building. You've probably seen that construction happening. Deposit The Work opened in October, it's a cross-fit gym and a personal training center on the west side. Legends 267 are the luxury apartments that we're building. They're nearing completion. They're pre-leasing right now and they plan to move tenants in this winter. There's 267 units ranging from studios to two bedrooms, they're very high-end. There's a three-level parking garage with controlled access and they're about half least right now.

I am also the president of the Village West Association and there's a lot of good news going on outside of the Legends as well. We successfully converted Cabela's to Bass Pro Shop in time for the NASCAR race at Kansas Speedway. HomeField and Camping World and Frontier Justice while outside of the boundaries of Village West, we have become very close partners because as we continue to grow we don't want the community to see the boundaries of the tourism dollars. The addition of Margaritaville, Compass Minerals expansion, HomeField Village and the new west patrol base for KCKPD is unprecedented growth in this economic climate. Monarchs won their second championship in three years. They have completely redefined the stadium. The inclusion of the play areas for special need kids, evenings fully dedicated to the Kansas City, Kansas Community making sure that anyone who wants to see a game can. The Savannah Banana set Wyandotte County records two years in a row. Tacos and Tequila, The Latina Festival, Country Roots Festival, and many more all pouring sales and hotel room tax dollars into Kansas City, Kansas. Enchant is opening on Black Friday at Legends Field. They are producing this magical walk, skate through, LED maze in seven stadiums this year across the country. Kansas City is out

selling all of them in pre-ticket sales. The goal was to host 260K people and they are now estimating that we will host over 300K guests at Enchant. It's opening November 24th, and it will be inside of the stadium through December 31st. American Royal continues to develop. Kansas Speedway and ISC have a huge development that will change the landscape of I-70 and 435 quadrants. Legends Outlets least to near capacity, pulling unleased parcels out of the ground with a you build it they will come mindset, as leasing continues to turn away retailers and demise space to add and maintain sales levels with our appropriate square footage. We have a two bedroom—or two parcel building that is nearing completion outside of Stix with no tenants. That's how confident we are in the tenants that are knocking on our door.

Legends Village West is the number one tour destination in the state of Kansas. Legends Outlets host 3M visitors annually and the brunt of those shoppers are about to come from Black Friday to December 24th. Last Saturday, we kicked off our holiday shopping season with our 16th annual tree lighting ceremony. We hosted over 4,000 shoppers and we had one incident that resulted in one police report. A child was separated from his parents in the crowd and the police on property reunited the family in under 15 minutes. It's pretty great for 4,000 people. We have always provided 24/7 private security on our property with fully accessible dispatch in the parking garage. Rockwell Security has been our partner for many years, and we run two people midnight to noon, three people noon to 8 and two people 8 to midnight. Fridays and Saturdays there's an extra person from 8 to 8. It is 24/7 surveilled. We have a total of 10 officers including a security director. The working relationship between KCKPD and Rockwell Security is solid with Village West officer added by Major Joyce. the daily partnership of Officer Evans and Officer Abbott in Community Policing, and the support of West Patrol that we get from Captain Holloway and Captain Moses, along with any units that are always patrolling unable to stop into dispatch. I feel very proud of the working relationship and the minimal threats that we have at Legends Outlets. We always have and we always will be a partner of the KCKPD as the largest asset in Wyandotte County to protect, to grow tourism, and to make sure that we debunk all of the stereotypes that we have heard about Wyandotte County for so many years. A collaboration between Rockwell Security and Kansas City, Kansas Police Department has proven itself in its growth, in its hotel and tourism taxes, in heads and beds, in new construction market exclusive retailers entering the Kansas City market in Wyandotte County.

I sat down and pulled some numbers for calls for service that are pretty astounding that I would love to share with you. In 2022, we compared 2022 to 2023 year-to-date. Armed disturbances in '22 we had eight this year, year-to-date in 11 months we've had one. Robberies in 2022 we had one, this year we've had zero. Sex offenses, three in each year. Stolen Autos, this is a good one. In 2022 we had 25 stolen autos and in 2023 year-to-date which is 11 months, we've had 30. 22 of which are Kia and Hyundai's.

There are several cities in the United States right now that have filed suit against Kia and Hyundai. They include New York, Cleveland, San Diego, Milwaukee, Columbus, and Seattle. These lawsuits come after thousands of Hyundai and Kia thefts that use a method popularized on Tik Tok and other social media channels. to aim and address this surge in thefts and related crimes stating that it's not fair for taxpayers to have to bear the burden of the cost of the problem that Hyundai and Kia have created and have made no effort to correct. Total calls for 227, which is the Village West area, compasses a little bit more than Village West, 97th Street to 118th, and I-70 to Parallel Parkway, 8,718 calls year-to-date November 10th is when I sat down with Chief. Legends had 1,964 of those calls, that's 23%. Walmart had 776 which is 8%. All the commercial north of Parallel Walmart, KOHL'S, Sams, the restaurants, the liquor stores 23% and all commercial south of Parallel take them all out of it had 13%. And outside of Village West specific addresses which include Speedway, Sporting, Village West apartments, and hotels had the most with 33%. Chief Oakman, Overman, and Captain Fidian pulled some actual numbers from the real-time crime center for me to share tonight. Keeping in mind that there have been zero robberies and zero shootings year-to-date in 11 months. There have been 419 calls to the Kansas Speedway, 210 to Bass Pro Shop, 151 to Great Wolf Lodge, 196 to Target, and 69 to McDonald's. 656 of those calls have come in and out of Legends Kansas City dispatch office. These can range from business checks, foot and bike patrol, meetings, follow-up investigations, etc, that all use that office address as dispatch. 60 calls per month. There is nothing alarming going on at the Legends Outlets, based on the sheer volume of people in a confined area with these numbers. The alarming issue at Legends Outlets is the amount of national retailers that refuse to stop shoplifters. Refuse to call security, refuse to utilize our Police Department, and prosecute criminals, repeat offenders, and known traveling theft rings. Of 66 of our soft good retailers, 39 of them will prosecute shoplifters but more shocking is 21 national brand retailers refuse to stop, call police, or prosecute criminals. six retailers decide on a case-by-case basis, whatever that means. This is how theft rings and

boosting thrive. How reputations and stereotypes are backed up, this isn't a secret. High shrink and welcome theft is a recipe for higher cost of goods, an invitation to criminal activity, loss of tourism, a huge waste of our Kansas City, Kansas Police Department's resources and putting my private security at risk. Plus, it's our shoppers, it's our Community Police, it's thousands of employees that we're putting at risk. I am pleading with brokers as we are working on our new leases to proactively work with loss prevention, our local agencies, and set a standard of what we are not willing to accept in Kansas City, Kansas. The plan is in motion, and it will be promoted as a center-wide initiative with Rockwell Security and Kansas City, Kansas Police Department and I beg for your support.

Mayor Garner said thank you for that information. Don't go anywhere, if you come on back. That's good information. It's good information to know all the development going out there as we continue to expand on the number one tourist attraction in the state of Kansas. That's really good information to know that the Legends continues to thrive in the Kansas City metro where I'm watching just a lot of news reports where other retailers are being challenged and so I'll open it up, any questions from our commissioners.

Commissioner Bynum said I just was curious, just thought of this in the last couple days so I'm happy to see you. Thanks for the fantastic report. In your openings comments you had mentioned, for example, Tropical Smoothie Café, so you're making me think. Also, you mentioned La Fuente, you're making me think that Legends encompasses parcels outside of what we think of as the shopping center, correct? Not necessarily Target but La Fuente is in that parking lot. **Ms. Scheelk** said that's correct and that is Legends. **Commissioner Bynum** said what about the Applebee's, the Longhorn, the Bob Evans, are those considered Legends? **Ms. Scheelk** said yes ma'am.

Commissioner Bynum said those spots, Culver's and all of those restaurants on the west side of Village West Parkway, do they share with you like a common maintenance agreement? **Ms. Scheelk** said yes, it's an ECR. **Commissioner Bynum** said just purely out of curiosity, just thought of the question the other day and here you are. That's really all I wanted to know but they're in an agreement with Legends. **Ms. Scheelk** said they are, it's actually within Village West. There's a Master Declaration that has an easement agreement with all of the parcels. There are four owned tracks that make it up and then everything else is a parcel. Some are landowners and

some are leases, but all of them are in an ECR which we maintain, and they pay a pro-rata. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay, thank you very much.

Commissioner Burroughs said thank you Stacy for that overview. It's always exciting when we hear such good news and maybe push back against the misinformation that may be going around about our community and as I stated clearly to my colleagues, we need to be ambassadors for our community, and I appreciate you making that statement. I just recently toured the 267 and excited about the opening and the density that will occur out there that will also enhance the shopping and security out there at the Legends. So, I wonder how you feel about and excitement about that. All the times I've been out there I didn't realize they had a cut out onto Parallel out of the parking lot.

Ms. Scheelk said well that's new. We're so excited about it because it doesn't end the traffic when the mall closes, and the restaurants will really thrive being able to serve 267 apartments past shopping center hours. I think with everything that is around there, I think everything will get a little bit better. The bus system has to get better for the people to walk. I don't know if you've seen the bus huts in the sidewalks of between Monarchs and Legends, between Sporting and Nebraska Furniture Mart and that is really the biggest concern that Luke Draily, the construction company has talked to us about that's their biggest concern. The construction of the three-story garage connects with a pedestrian walkway straight into our shopping center. They are also going to be part of an ECR. It's a separate ECR, so we will manage it the exact same way. You won't be able to see any difference in pushing snow and picking up trash and in-house security. All of our partners are very excited for these tenants to move in.

Commissioner Burroughs said well I know the growth out there has been phenomenal. I was out there just the other day and for the first time I had to park clear up at the very top of the parking garage because there was no spots available in the parking lots. I drove around for a little bit and I kind of smiled because I can remember when we didn't have that kind of out migration into Wyandotte County spending tax dollars. I'm excited to see the continued growth out there and the continued support that it provides for our budget through sales tax. Thank you for all your work.

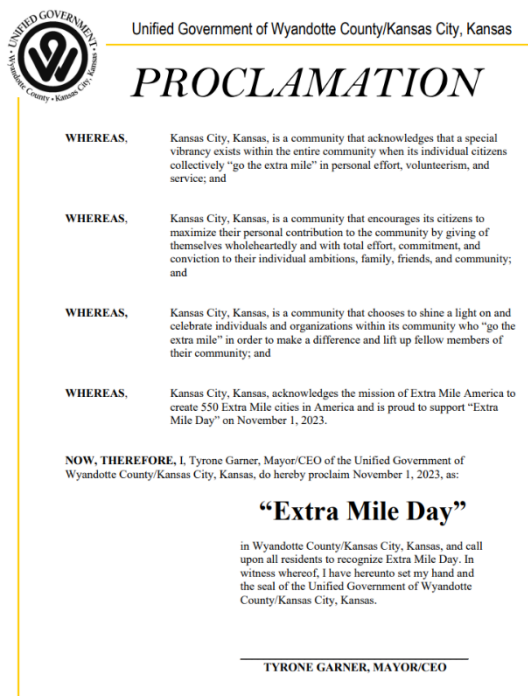
Mayor Garner said thank you so much appreciate your time.

Action: For information only.

Item No. 3 – 212860... PROCLAMATION: EXTRA MILE DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming November 1, 2023, as Extra Mile Day, submitted by Mayor Garner.

Monica Sparks, Interim UG Clerk, read the following proclamation.



Action: The proclamation was read.

Item No. 4 – 212858... PROCLAMATION: NATIONAL WOMEN IN APPRENTICESHIP DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming November 16, 2023, as National Women In Apprenticeship Day, submitted by Mayor Garner.

Monica Sparks, Interim UG Clerk, read the following proclamation.



Action: The proclamation was read.

Item No. 5 – 212859... PROCLAMATION: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AND FIRST A.M.E. CHURCH DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming November 19, 2023, as First Baptist Church and First A.M.E. Church Day, submitted by Mayor Garner.

Monica Sparks, Interim UG Clerk, read the following proclamation.



Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the significant location of First Baptist Church, at Fifth Street and Nebraska Avenue, just two blocks from downtown and a main east-west interstate highway, is part of the early history of Kansas City, Kansas, and is therefore a landmark; and

WHEREAS, in 1859 a small prayer band of escaped slaves, met on the edge of Wyandotte Village, now known as Fifth Street and State Avenue, led by a Baptist and a Methodist minister marked the beginning of First Baptist Church and First A.M.E. Church—before Kansas; and

WHEREAS, this Church has preached and advocated a type of faith which has, for 164 years helped men and women of the community to gather up their life, and give it direction; and

WHEREAS, the leaders of First Baptist have helped in a variety of ways to influence decisions regarding the welfare of the citizens; and

WHEREAS, many have fortified the church with their blood, their sacrifices, their prayers, and their tears; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church at Fifth and Nebraska Avenue continues to be a highly regarded partner in making our community a wholesome place to live.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tyrone Garner, Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, do hereby proclaim November 19, 2023, as:

“First Baptist Church and First A.M.E. Church Day”

in Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, and encourage all citizens to recognize First Baptist Church and First A.M.E. Church. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.

TYRONE GARNER, MAYOR/CEO

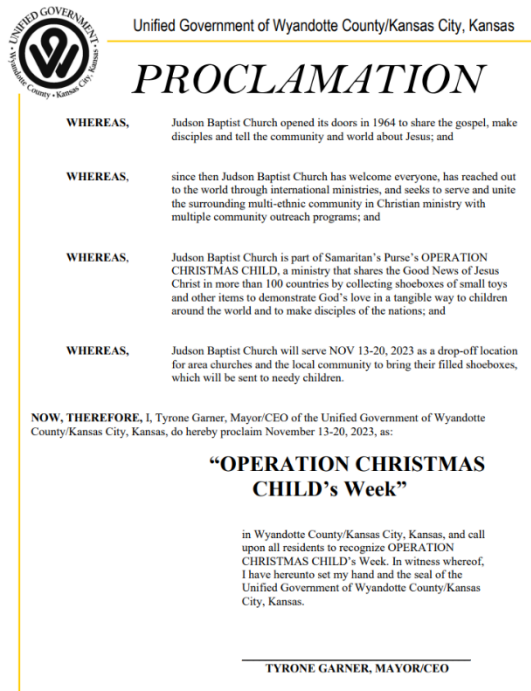
Action: **The proclamation was read.**

Item No. 6 – 212857... PROCLAMATION: OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD'S WEEK

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming November 13-20, 2023, as Operation Christmas Child's Week, submitted by Mayor Garner.

Monica Sparks, Interim UG Clerk, read the following proclamation.

November 16, 2023



Action: The proclamation was read.

Item No. 7 – 212769... VETO - RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE: DEBT PROJECT AUTHORIZATIONS

Synopsis: Veto of Mayor/Chief Executive Officer Tyrone A. Garner to Resolution R-62-23 and Ordinance O-130-23 relating to debt project authorizations, submitted by Mayor Garner.

Item No. 8 – 212874... RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE: DEBT PROJECT AUTHORIZATIONS (ADDED PER BLUE SHEET)

Synopsis: A resolution and ordinance authorizing debt projects, submitted by Debbie Jonscher, Interim Chief Financial Officer.

Mayor Garner said Clerk this takes us to item number seven. It's a Mayor veto. It's the last item on my agenda, well next to last. It's a resolution and ordinances previously past by the governing body related to debt project authorizations. This is more for the Commission. LaVert Murray and myself and some of my team members, JD Rios. We looked at things that were on the Consent Agenda that we approved last and I'd like to first of all apologize to the public. Part of my

responsibility as Mayor is to make sure that this Commission has all the information they need to make an informed decision on items that ultimately the Mayor authorizes to go before them. Some things weren't caught on the front end and on the tail end and so here we are. A lot of those things involved projects I believe totaling, if I'm correct, about \$200M worth of projects and after we vetted him talking to our County Administrator, we sought to do line item veto's. That wasn't an option based on the totality of everything that was there. My veto encompassed the entire Consent Agenda at that time. After further discussions with both Finance, Budget, our Administrator, and Legal, it was determined that a lot of these projects were pretty much already far along to the point of just to make it simple the train has left the station. There's no way to undo a lot of the projects that are there. Yeah, you can pump the brakes and slow them down but nevertheless over the course of several years these projects have culminated into what we saw packaged in the Consent Agenda. It's a combination, really an ecosystem of different grants, fundings, authorizations, passed incrementally by the Commission for several projects, and so here we are.

The takeaway from this was that I talked to the Administrator about is, not just staff but myself and my team, believe engaging with the Commission more as well as with the Administrator more to really look at these items to make sure that these items not only reflect the will and the values of our residents and is working in the best interest of our residents based on what they have told myself and our Commission what they want. But also items that reflect the will of this Commission and the things that they've approved, passed or the things that they're expected to approve moving forward based on where they stand on a lot of these items. What will be coming before you today is a veto of the package, that is the process that I have to take to get to where I'm trying to go with only two items that we'll be looking at. At this time before I actually get into the vote, I believe I have Ms. Jefferson, if you want to come forward and talk about some of those items that you had concern with.

Elnora Jefferson said I'm a resident of Kansas City, Kansas and I'm here today because I've had several discussions during the day about the two items that Mayor Garner is referencing. One is definitely the Jersey Creek project and the other has a concern about the sewer improvement plan that's coming out of Waterway. I'm going to speak from two points of view. From Elnora Jefferson's point of view, I've done some research and deep discussions with Groundwork NRG, which is one of the organizations that I have co-found. I believe I have a very good knowledge of

those projects. I believe those projects will help to improve or turn convert that term about doing development in the older part of town versus development on green infrastructure out west. I attended some Brownfield conferences, so I feel confident about that and have a good working relationship and talk relationship with Jeff Fisher and with Gunner Hand. That's from Elnora Jefferson's point of view.

Now from Elnora Jefferson's point of view as being co-founder of the MBR. The MBR represents all points of view within that community, the northeast community, and I have to be honest to say that everyone in the northeast community does not believe as I do. I had an opportunity of talking to someone before that said, I really don't know what it's all about. Even though we've had sporadic types of community engagements. We've had signs done and images on the walls and so forth. We've had an opportunity of looking at the northeast Kansas City, Kansas Heritage Trail and other types of projects. At large the community does not have a good idea, a talking point idea of what it means for the Jersey Creek overflow, the Consent Decree, the Green Infrastructure and the benefit of that. I am here therefore to support Mayor Garner's thinking and his desire to veto those two items, with the ask that they be considered for further and entrenched and deliberate intense community education and knowledge. Now I recognize as I spoke with Mayor Garner earlier that, that is the responsibility not only of our local government but that's also the responsibility of the people who voice their thinking that they don't know anything because you can put the very best community engagement plan out there. But if for some reason someone does not attend or for some reason unknown, they don't like the color paper that the plan was put on or whatever it is. **Ms. Sparks** said you have one minute remaining. **Ms. Jefferson** said then spend a lot of time and you're right back in the same point. Though I am not a community engagement scientist, I don't even know if it is science, but I would think that if I were going to manufacture something and I would ask you, say okay would you like to have these widgets, and you say, yes, I love to have these widgets and I go to work and making these widgets in these projects and so forth and I come back and say okay here your widgets and I'd like to get a check. You would simply say to me maybe, I don't like that, I'm not going to buy and I say well why. Well, I'm not going to buy because they're in the color purple. So, I forgot as the person who's selling the plan, as a person who's looking to have the city match, to ask you what it is that you need in order to vote yes or to vote no for the project. That's what I have to say. I hope that that's the element of that and I thank you very much for your time.

Mayor Garner said Ms. Lawson, if you'd like to just give an overview of the recommendations and ask and obligations pertaining to the veto tonight to the Commission, that would be great.

Angela Lawson, Acting Chief Counsel said yes, as contained in the packet, the Mayor and as he stated vetoed this action. The options now for the Commission are if—well if no is taken the veto stands. There could be a motion to override the veto, that requires seven votes and given the number of attendees this evening the Mayor would vote in that. If that did not pass, then the veto would stand. Next up on the agenda is a resolution and ordinance quite similar to the one that was vetoed, it has two items that were removed for funding, and I would call Debbie Jonscher to go into more information on those two items, but it does have those two items that the Mayor was concerned with and removed from that ordinance and resolution.

Debbie Jonscher, Interim Chief Financial Officer, said the two items that were removed were the Jersey Creek Naturalization project and the Green Infrastructure Improvements project. All of the other items that were included are still in the new ordinance/resolution. **Mayor Garner** said what's the second item? **Ms. Jonscher** said the Green Infrastructure Improvements. **Mayor Garner** said Commissioner Markley has a question.

Commissioner Markley said I'm just—I'm very confused. So, on this it shows the Jersey Creek project on the newest blue sheet. Am I crazy people. Is anybody else seeing this, did I get the wrong version. **Ms. Lawson** said no that confused us as well. It is a separate Jersey Creek project. **Commissioner Markley** said okay, then I'm comparing this list to the list that was in Debbie's memo, which maybe I shouldn't be doing and maybe I'm not understanding how those two relate. But of the items that were listed in Debbie's memo from I don't know yesterday or something like that where she noted the items that were going to be removed from the ordinance, there are four items that are on that list that are not in here. The Plant 20 Biosolids, the Green Infrastructure which we discussed, the PBC Courtroom, and the PBC Community Care Center. I don't see them anywhere in the new ordinance, but they were noted in Debbie's memo as having been removed.

Mayor Garner said let me simplify this for you and Counsel you can weigh in at any time. The only items—if the veto stands what is being asked is that everything you all voted on in the

complete pasture the Consent Agenda will move forward. The only things that won't are the things that Miss Jefferson talked about, which is the Jersey Creek and the Green Initiative that involves Waterway and Big 11 Way. Those things would stand for further discussion based on the request of some of the folks that live in the Northeast. Everything else that you voted on, this Commission voted to approve with the Consent Agenda will move forward as approved by this Commission, other than those two items. **Commissioner Markley** said I appreciate that clarity. I'm just trying to figure out how that's what this says.

Ms. Jonscher said I think I can answer that. On the list that I sent on Tuesday it listed you're noticing the Jersey Creek Basin Storm Water Improvements and then there was Jersey Creek Naturalization. The Jersey Creek Naturalization project is the one that was removed. Jersey Creek Basin Storm Water Improvement was one of the WIFIA projects and that one remains, and I believe that you're looking at page three of the resolution, those projects there are only the WIFIA projects. This section of the resolution talks about the Utility Revenue Bonds which is if we issue the WIFIA projects they would be issued as utility revenue. So that's why they're listed in this section. The other General Obligation section was the larger packet and I apologize for this meeting we did not have a new packet, but we will get that provided. We did not print a new packet, but we did remove the two projects, the Green Infrastructure and the Jersey Creek Naturalization from this packet.

Commissioner Markley said so the full list would be the separate Exhibit A that isn't there. **Ms. Jonscher** said that's correct. **Commissioner Markley** said perfect, that's what I needed, thank you.

Commissioner Bynum said could I just have please perhaps someone from Public Works. The two items removed from the new resolution, Jersey Creek Naturalization and Green Infrastructure Improvements, if I could just have someone from Public Works just give us a brief rundown of what those are. Mayor, I believe our conversation prior to the meeting was we're just going to look at those separately at a later date possibly to bring them back? Okay, thank you very much but if I could just maybe for the public's benefit, what are these projects. What were they intended to do for the community.

Sarah Schaefer, Public Works CMIP Program Manager, said the Jersey Creek Naturalization project is a partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers for the Naturalization of Jersey Creek through a corridor of the Jersey Creek space. We will be bringing it back to you all in order to have that as a separate resolution as we develop the project further for the request of the community. **Commissioner Bynum** said just to interject there, it's a naturalization project. So that tells me that it's going to return it to more of a natural environment. I don't want to misspeak I want to understand. **Ms. Schaefer** said yes, basically it is a restoration, an ecosystem restoration project. In our budget is \$1.5M over the course of a few years. **Commissioner Bynum** said that one was \$1.5M? **Ms. Schaefer** said yes. **Commissioner Bynum** said and the Green Infrastructure, please. **Ms. Schaefer** said yes, our Green Infrastructure Improvements, those are in support of our storm water and CSO projects. It's approximately \$7M across Jersey Creek and with that being removed we'll bring those back for consideration as well as they are fully developed.

Commissioner Bynum said okay thanks and that was kind of multiple things? **Ms. Schaefer** said correct, and we started an investigation on it in 2019 and 2020. We approximately have 6.9, 7M we'll call it for good favor, remaining in that budget that will be returned and will no longer be eligible for use with the veto.

Mayor Garner said if I can just weigh in. On part of that some of the folks that I talked to, especially with Jersey Creek, they had concerns. I'm not sure, maybe Mr. Fisher you can tell, I don't know but I know a lot of work, engineering thought went into the building of Jersey Creek to basically take it from a swamp. They were mosquitoes, settling water, there was stench coming from the creek at one time. There was a lot of engineering that went in it, it concreted, it floated and from my understanding into the river, I believe that's where it goes or to some basin. The concern was the amount of money, time and energy, and thought that went into this in previous years and to tear it up and return it back to its natural state of what was filled in to make it a creek. I believe there's pathways, and walkways and other things that are attached to that. That was concern to some of the public as to why and what would be the benefit and some view it as a dismantling of needed infrastructure during that time before all of us were here. That era of leaders thought that it had some value, and I think along with Ms. Jefferson's and the group she talked to today, the concern was—is why now and as opposed to upgrading Jersey Creek and providing beautification and of those sorts, why return it to a natural state that was decided years ago that

needed to be corrected with creating a more solidified Jersey Creek to channel the water to a certain point of exit.

Jeff Fisher, Director of Public Works, said yeah, I understand Mayor. It does happen on occasion where you use engineering principles of the past you know 20, 30, 40, 50 years ago and you find out over time that those don't work as well as just letting mother nature do its thing. I understand the concern and if Ms. Jefferson has concerns with people's understanding of the project, then I'm concerned. We have a great relationship, and we'll do the work to figure out what the community desires and then we'll make things happen.

Commissioner McKiernan said I know this has been said out loud but I'm a really simple man, so let me just make sure I understand this. Approving item number seven will veto all of the debt project authorizations previously approved in the Consent Agenda, and then approving item number eight will re-approve all of those debt project authorizations except the two that we have broken out and have identified to be considered at a later date, is that correct?

Ms. Lawson said almost, item seven is the veto which has already occurred, so right now those items have been vetoed. The Commission will need to decide if they wish to make a motion to override the veto. If no motion is made, then the veto will stand. If the motion is made and it fails, then the veto stands. Only if it's overridden will all those items come back. If that does not happen then we move on to item eight, which is as you described the two items have been removed, and the Commission will have the opportunity to vote on the new ordinance and resolution of the authorization with all the projects except for the two that were mentioned. **Commissioner McKiernan** said thank you Ms. Lawson, I was assuming that item seven would stand.

Commissioner Burroughs said with that in mind the original resolution has a price tag in it, is there the total amount of dollars mentioned in that resolution, counsel? The reason why I ask is because if we go into item number eight, then we're talking about removing close to 10 million out of that and I would hate to—I just want to know if we're going to go ahead and bond it and fund it and then go back and review it and implement it, but if we don't bond it, then we need to review it then pass another resolution to put the money in. I'm just kind of curious that's what I'm trying to

ensure that whatever we do, we do it correctly. If I'm hearing correctly, we need to pull those two items out, financial support for those two items, and put that new total in with the new two items should they come forward at a later date with a new resolution.

Ms. Schaefer said to my understanding and this is great clarification. My understanding is once it's vetoed then we will have to come back to the Commission for those two projects. We will then request approval of those two projects and it will be budgeted in a later year. So, it would have to go through the process of being approved and put into a budget at a later time. We would not be eligible to pull funding or consider funding for these two items utilizing debt during this particular budget year.

Ms. Lawson said yes, the amount in Section 3 has been amended to reflect a lower amount. It was about 107 and now it is 106. Those have been removed, they would as stated have to be brought back for reauthorization. **Commissioner Burroughs** said okay, great thank you. I just wanted that as a point of clarity. I hate to beat a poor dead horse but the question I have, if we choose to take action and override this veto, then the entire pro—all the bonding, resolution stands. If we sustain his veto, then we come back with the new resolution, number eight, and that will include minus the two projects to be considered at a later date. Great thank you. Yeah, that's a difficult one to understand committee. I just want to make sure that we're on it. Thank you, counsel.

Mayor Garner said we have Ms. Wyatt, I didn't see you. I know you were part of the comments if you wanted to make comments, you're more than welcome.

Carolyn Wyatt, 359 Troup, said I have lived in this area all my life when the old Jersey Creek was there, when they had the Princess Theater on Fifth Street. You had to walk across that bridge to the theater and it smelled so bad that you had to walk on the other side of the street. Once it was concreted and fixed you didn't smell that stench anymore. The whole area was smelling, and you know, being young you're not knowing what it was all about but as you got older you know that was Jersey Creek that was smelling, all the sewer and all the bad stuff in there. Now it looks nice. They have lights down there, you can walk through there, you can walk next to it, and it was a good thing. That'd be a lot of money that was wasted if they tear it up and a lot of people kind of like what it looks like. They have an area where you can play basketball up there and you have houses around. Like you say it was improvement, so you don't really want to go backwards, you

always want to go forward. As I said, I always lived in the area, and I still live in the area and just saying that it was a real improvement. I don't think that it needs to be torn up and spend a whole lot more money that we don't have. I just want to say that, that I agree with the Mayor and the neighborhoods that they—like what going on also at Big 11 Lake. Also, I've been around there all my life. It was a beautiful place and it's right there next to Beatrice Lee. It's been there for a long time, and they had pastors that always took care of it making sure that the lake stayed nice, mowed and everything, greenery. Just my comments about it that I think everything should stay right now as it is and to future we do have money that you can do something or more investigation because everybody don't really understand everything about what's going on. We just need more information about things before we get into it, thank you.

Commissioner Davis said Ms. Jonscher, I just have a few questions for you. What is the relationship between these bonded packages and then kind of this CMIP in the budget that we adopted about six weeks ago.

Ms. Jonscher said the CMIP all the projects listed in the Capital section, when the budget is approved that gives us budget authority to proceed with the projects. We list them out by both cash and debt. The debt project are the ones that are in this authorization that when we approve them we say that we intend to issue debt to pay for those projects. Then the next step is getting the project, the project authorizations needed for debt issuance. That's the step that we're doing tonight. Previously this had been included in the budget document and it was approved. The resolution was included with all the other approvals that were done with the budget. This authorizes the projects to be paid for with debt. **Commissioner Davis** said and you said previously it all had been done together meaning when we adopted the budget we would also... **Ms. Jonscher** said right for the last several years we've done it that way.

Commissioner Davis said okay, but this year we've done it differently. **Ms. Jonscher** said this year with our staffing capacity, my office just didn't have time to get the resolution and all of the authorizations in place to get them into the budget document, so we had to come back after the budget. **Commissioner Davis** said our budget calendar, remind me, what's our fiscal calendar, is it October to October? **Ms. Jonscher** said it's January through December. **Commissioner Davis** said it's January through December. So, if we were let's say it takes a little bit more time to go

ahead and kind of work with the community for these projects would these projects that the Mayor is wanting us to take out, how would that impact the budget that we adopted?

Ms. Jonscher said there those projects are still in the budget, so they have budget authority. When we pull those two projects out we no longer—and we don't approve the authorization, we don't have the ability to finance them with debt. **Commissioner Davis** said so, we would have to use cash or? **Ms. Jonscher** said we have to use cash or not do the project. **Commissioner Davis** said can you remind me, last question and let's just say we go ahead we adopt this, what is the next step to getting these projects bonded. What's the rest of the process after we vote on this particular item. **Ms. Jonscher** said for the rest of the projects or the two that were? **Commissioner Davis** said yes. **Ms. Jonscher** said for the rest of the projects what we would then do in December is bring a sale resolution showing the projects that we intend to finance in the next debt issuance which occurs—will need to occur in February. We have a one-year temp note that's about \$50M. It's scheduled to be maturing April 1. We need to be able to issue financing to cover the projects that have been spent within that temp note.

David Johnston, County Administrator, said Debbie if you could add a clarification. We have in the past had more than one debt issued during a fiscal year, correct? **Ms. Jonscher** said yes, we have. Previously we used to probably about 10 years ago, we used to issue—we used to do one issuance in the spring and then we do another issuance in the fall but mostly we've been doing one issue. Then if something—if a special situation comes up, we've been known to issue them in the fall also. **Mr. Johnston** said so if after we have a good community engagement with the folks in and around this service area and we come back to the Commission, they can provide more authorization for debt financing to cover these two projects. **Ms. Jonscher** said right, we would just simply need to authorize the—approve the project authorization and sale resolution to be able to issue another temp note.

Commission Burroughs said in light of the request by the public to review the two other items, I'll make—and it saves our budget money at this particular time and it allows us to go back and review the budget situation later on in the year. In light of that, I'd make a motion that we adopt item number eight.

Action: **Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to adopt item #8.**

Mayor Garner said is there a motion on seven before we get to that?

Commissioner Burroughs said Mayor if I may, then I'll remove my motion and I'll renew a motion if provided my second allows me to do. **Ms. Lawson** said to be clear there does not have to be a motion on seven. There can be but there needs to be an opportunity. **Commissioner Burroughs** said okay, go ahead Mayor.

Mayor Garner said is there a motion on number seven? Seeing none.

Action: **No motion made. Veto stands.**

Commissioner Burroughs said I'll repeat my motion to adopt resolution number eight ordinance debt project authorizations.

Mayor Garner said there any further discussion? Seeing none, Clerk roll call.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-65-23/ORDINANCE NO. O-133-23** "A Resolution and Ordinance authorizing issuance of General Obligation Bonds and/or Temporary Notes to finance portion of Utility System Revenue Bonds to finance portion of cost of improvements and request PBC to issue its Leasehold Revenue Bonds." **Commissioner Burroughs made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Stites, to adopt the resolution and approve the ordinance.** Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes," Bynum, Burroughs, McKiernan, Markley, Stites, Davis.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Garner said we are at the Consent Agenda. 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 Davis, to approve all as submitted.**

Mayor Garner said I'll accept those motions and the second, any further discussion.

Commissioner Stites said and I mean this kind of tongue and cheek here but has it been fully vetted, so we don't have a veto a while later? **Mayor Garner** said yes, it has. Lesson learned, it's been vetted. Yes, you all can make an informed decision with this one. There's a motion and second, Clerk roll call.

Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes," Bynum, Burroughs, McKiernan, Markley, Stites, Davis.

Item No. 1 - 212817... RESOLUTION: INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

Synopsis: Adoption of a resolution recognizing the growing problem of antisemitism in the United States and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, as an important tool to address the problem, submitted by Irene Caudillo, Chief of Staff, Office of Mayor/CEO.

On October 23, 2023, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Markley, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-66-23**, "A resolution recognizing the growing problem of antisemitism in the United States and calling for the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism as an important tool to address the problem." **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes," Bynum, Burroughs, McKiernan, Markley, Stites, Davis.

Item No. 2 – 212813... RESOLUTION: TRANSIT GRANT FOR EDWARDSVILLE MICROTRANSIT UTILIZING ARPA FUNDS AS MATCH

Synopsis: Microtransit is an on-demand shared ride transit service that operates in a specific radius, connecting riders to in-zone transit hubs for fixed route access, a match requirement in the amount of \$43,800, Edwardsville Microtransit Expansion (KDOT Funded), submitted by Deasiray Bush, Director of Public Transportation.

On October 23, 2023, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Markley, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-67-23**, “A resolution for the approval of local set aside ARPA funds to be used as matching funding to secure grants to support the Edwardsville Microtransit Expansion improvement project.” **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were six “Ayes,” Bynum, Burroughs, McKiernan, Markley, Stites, Davis.

Item No. 3 - 212819... RESOLUTION: TRANSIT GRANT FOR 7TH STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS UTILIZING ARPA FUNDS AS MATCH

Synopsis: KCATA will manage the 7th Street Corridor transit project on behalf of UG. KCATA will procure and award all third-party contracts, including those for design and construction, oversee project implementation, and ensure all federal and local requirements are met. Implementation will be done in close cooperation with the UG Transit and UG Public Works staff, a match is required of \$227,200, Deasiray Bush, Director of Public Transportation.

On October 23, 2023, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Markley, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-68-23** “A resolution for the approval of local set aside ARPA funds to be used as matching funding to secure grants to support the Regional Transit Corridor improvements, 7th Street Corridor project.” **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were six “Ayes,” Bynum, Burroughs, McKiernan, Markley, Stites, Davis.

Item No. 4 – 212773... RESOLUTION: STATE AVENUE TRANSIT ENHANCEMENTS UTILIZING ARPA FUNDS

Synopsis: Unified Government has received a \$1 million grant for State Avenue Transit Enhancements from the Federal Surface Transportation Program Grant. The enhancements include bus shelters, trashcans and landscaping improvements. This request is for \$200,000 for the 20% local match from ARPA set-aside funds, submitted by Deasiray Bush, Director of Public Transportation.

On October 23, 2023, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Markley, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-69-23** “A resolution for the approval of local set aside ARPA funds to be used as matching funding to secure a grant from the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority’s Regional Surface Transportation program to fund State Avenue Transit Enhancements.” **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were six “Ayes,” Bynum, Burroughs, McKiernan, Markley, Stites, Davis.

Item No. 5 – 212790... GRANTS: 2023-2024 CHILD DEATH REVIEW AND FETAL INFANT MORTALITY REVIEW TEAMS

Synopsis: Request to apply for the grant “2023-2024 grants to address: Building Capacity for Local, State, and Tribal Child Death Review and Fetal-Infant Mortality Review Teams” through the National Center of Fatality Review and Prevention. The Health Department requesting \$72,000, no matching funds are required, submitted by Hannah Lang and Christina VanCleave, Wyandotte County Health Department.

On October 23, 2023, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Markley, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

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

Item No. 6 - 212814... GRANT: LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAM

Synopsis: Request to apply for the Wyandotte County LEPP grant, to address repair/replacement of failing onsite wastewater systems and private water well testing in the amount of \$50,000 for a period beginning 11/1/2023 and ending 6/30/2024. No matching funds are required, submitted by Amanda Harrop and Jennifer Stewart, Wyandotte County Health Department.

On October 23, 2023, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Markley, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

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

Item No. 7 - MINUTES

Synopsis: Minutes from the Regular Session meeting on October 27, 2022, and the Special Session meeting on September 28, 2023.

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

Item No. 8 - WEEKLY BUSINESS

Synopsis: Weekly business materials dated October 19th, 2023.

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

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

No items

IX. STANDING COMMITTEE'S AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 212843...ORDINANCE: AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF PROPERTY FROM PROJECT AREA A IN THE KANSAS SPEEDWAY REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Synopsis: Adopt an ordinance authorizing the removal of property from Project Area A in the Kansas Speedway Redevelopment District for the purpose of other development, submitted by Jeff Conway, Assistant Counsel.

*On November 13, 2023, the **Economic Development and Finance Standing Committee**, chaired by Commissioner Burroughs, voted 4/2 to approve and fast-track to the full commission on November 16, 2023.*

Action: **Item was removed at the request of the applicant.**

X. ADMINISTRATOR'S AGENDA

Item No. 1 - 212816... APPOINTMENT: VOTING DELEGATE FOR KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Synopsis: Appoint David Johnston, as voting delegate, Dr. Elisha Caldwell as first alternate, and Bridgette Cobbins as second alternate, for the Kansas Association of Counties 48th Annual Conference & Exhibition submitted by Bridgette Cobbins, Assistant County Administrator.

Mr. Johnston said the Kansas Association of Counties is the member group that represents county interests on many different fronts. They are paying attention to legislation before the state legislature, often testifying on the county's behalf on impacts of state potential laws on counties. They also provide significant training opportunities for elected officials and staff. There's a few other important services that they provide. Each year they have an annual conference and at that annual conference the members do get to vote on various agenda items that are proffered by the Executive Committee of the Kansas Association of Counties. It's one way that the wider membership throughout the state gets to put their imprint on the business of the association. We were given the opportunity to provide three delegates, one voting delegate and two alternative delegates. Since we were having three people attending, myself and Bridgette Cobbins, our Assistant County Administrator, and our new Director of Public Health, Dr. Elisha Caldwell. We

will be attending. What we're asking the Commission to do is to approve me as the voting delegate, Dr. Caldwell is the first alternate and Ms. Cobbins serving as second alternate.

Action: **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Davis, to approve as submitted.**

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

Roll call was taken and there were six “Ayes,” Bynum, Burroughs, McKiernan, Markley, Stites, Davis.

Mayor Garner said Administrator, you have one more announcement.

Mr. Johnston said yeah one more announcement. I am pleased and privileged to let you Commission and the public know that I have hired our Interim Fire Chief, Dennis Rubin, to serve as the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department's full-time Fire Chief starting January 1, 2024. I do want to add that part of this process we have had meetings with the with the Fire Union and I've had considerable conversations with a few of the men and women of the Fire Department. They are impressed with the leadership and the opportunity to really build the Fire Department into a 21st century Fire Department. We are fortunate that when Chief Rubin was asked, well do you want the job, he said give me a day. Came back another day and said I'll take it. I like what I do here. I like the men and women who are in the department, and we are having an effective working relationship in the Fire Department. How could I say no. He's accepted, welcome aboard Chief. **Mayor Garner** said Chief, come on up.

Dennis Rubin, Interim Fire Chief said Mr. Mayor and commission members, along with our County Administrator and of course our public, thank you for what a great opportunity. When I arrived on June 1st, one of the very first things was to spend about an hour or two with the County Administrator and of course with my new boss, the Assistant County Administrator. What was mentioned that day is that if you'll love Kansas City, Kansas, it'll love you more back. That was a

pretty powerful statement that the bosses made and, you know, they were right. What a great community this is, what an honor it is here to be the 18th Fire Chief of simply a great organization of men and women that go out every day to help this community. I pledge that I'll do my very best to continue the direction that we're going in to serve folks with dignity and pride. We have a very simple mission statement and that is to "prevent harm in the community, for us to be able to survive and thrive as a community, and then finally to be nice and be kind." I pledge that we'll continue on that path and again thank you for the confidence.

Mayor Garner said thank you Chief. I can say Chief, Administrator, and Commission, before I became Mayor there were a lot of challenges that the Fire Department was facing. I can say that this Commission has really took unprecedented actions to make sure that the morale of the Fire Department was brought up. That started with really directing the Interim Administrator at that time to get the men and women of our Fire Department a contract that not only they wanted but they deserved after five years, that happened. Next, what has happened under the leadership of our new permanent Administrator, is leadership at the helm that just my dealings with the men and women of the Fire Department that I've talked to, they respect, they value, and they really appreciate the leadership and the new type of vision and eyes that you bring to the Fire Department. The people I've talked to said you have their utmost respect and confidence. I wanted to share that with you.

The third note I should say is and I don't know if I can say this or not, but I'll put it out here anyway. This Commission took the precedent, another unprecedented act to open the fire station in Fairfax. As a result, I can tell you that there is a major, and just use your imagination, there is a major taxpayer in Fairfax that is looking at next year of upwards of a half billion-dollar investment in the Fairfax area. I can tell you the feedback that is coming to me, believe it or not, is because of the result of this Commission's resolve to say let's open that fire station. That showed a commitment to Fairfax and those businesses and the Fire Department and that was based off the recommendations of the men and women of the Fire Department. We are seeing a 1000% potential return on that investment. Thank you for your leadership and thank to all our public safety servants out here that are working hard to keep our community safe. **Chief Rubin** said Mayor, my team, we won't let you down.

XI. COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA

No items

XII. LAND BANK BOARD OF TRUSTEES' CONSENT AGENDA

No items

XIII. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

No items

Mayor Garner said with no further business before this governing body I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

XIV. ADJOURN

Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to adjourn.

Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes," Bynum, Burroughs, McKiernan, Markley, Stites, Davis.

Mayor Garner said I can say with adjournment, tomorrow is the Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting at Memorial Hall from 4 o'clock to 9. Everyone is welcome, please invite your family and friends.

**MAYOR GARNER
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:10 P.M.**

Monica Sparks
Acting Unified Government Clerk

BM

November 16, 2023