

**PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, May 20, 2024**

The meeting of the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee was held on Monday, May 20, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. The following members were present: Commissioner Burroughs, Chairman, Commissioners Kane, Burns, Stites. Commissioner Lopez and BPU Board Member Henry were absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Karl Oakman, Chief of Police; Richard Harris, KCK Police Department; Brittnie MacDonald, UG Clerk's Office, and Jessica Gabaree, UG Clerk's Office.

Chairman Burroughs said before I call the meeting to order, I want to announce that some committee members, staff, and the public are attending remotely as well as on site. All participants joining remotely should please mute phones and devices when you're not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, make sure you announce yourself by name and title when you speak, so that the public knows who's speaking and we have an accurate record. This is critical given the number of remote participants, it's also guidance from the Kansas Attorney General's Office.

The public is allowed to participate by Zoom or submit comments by email prior to the meeting and those comments are included in the record of our meeting. The public can also indicate their intent to provide public comment by contacting our Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. the Thursday prior to meetings. The public also has an opportunity to provide comments, either by telephone, Zoom, or here in person in the 5th floor conference room tonight, the night of the meeting. Please be advised that public comments shall be allowed during each agenda item. Comments should be limited to the item at hand and per the Commission Rules of Procedure should not include any rude or derogatory remarks, reflections as to the integrity abusive comments and statements as to the motives and personalities.

Chairman Burroughs called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken and all members were present as shown above.

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Chairman Burroughs said I will now ask the Clerk is there any revisions to our agenda tonight. **Brittnie MacDonald, Clerk's Office**, said there are no revisions to the agenda.

No minutes were available for approval.

COMMITTEE AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 2190...RESOLUTION: FISCAL YEAR 2024 KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ALL HANDS ON DECK GRANT

Synopsis: A resolution adopting acceptance of a grant to improve identification of and response to drug-endangered children in Kansas for an amount up to \$100,000.00, submitted by Laura Cromwell, Management Analyst, Kansas City Kansas Police Department. No matching funds are required.

Major Richard Harris, KCK Police Department, said I work under Deputy Chief Ray Nunez and Chief Oakman and I'm in charge of the Special Investigations Division to include the narcotics. Deputy Chief Nunez sends his regrets where he is at home taking care of a sick child. I'm here in his place because the Police Department is seeking approval to apply for and accept funding under the FY24 KDHE All Hands On Deck Grant Program. The DECK Program, which stands for Drug Endangered Children In Kansas aims to improve identification and awareness as well as the response to drug endangered children in our community, specifically those found in environments where drugs are present.

The Police Department will be requesting \$100,000.00 to support additional youth programs at the Police Athletic League as well as supplies to support these youths to include care bags for identified children. In addition, the Police Department will be creating a Fentanyl awareness and educational video that we will be advertising on social media platforms.

Lastly, funds will be used to send officers involved in the project to DECK trainings. The project period will extend from July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. There is no match requirement for this grant program. That's all that I have for the presentation.

Chairman Burroughs said wonderful. The grant that will be brought in for the kids as we all know the Fentanyl is a scourge right now and I don't need to tell anybody in the department.

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Chief Karl Oakman said I think Harris has probably summed it up for you, but one of the things we really want to work on after the care part of this with the children and you know we have a lot of resources such as PAL and some other things, but we just want to do more. I know that's something that we're really focusing on in the future with the Health Department is the after care part because I think we really got the education, prevention and enforcement down. Now we need to make sure we're having resources for that after care.

Chairman Burroughs said I know that there's a lot of concerns throughout the community in reference to our youth and the access that has occurred with Fentanyl. There are a couple of groups that are presently working out in the community to try to educate the youth as much as possible. I do want to share with them what you shared, Mr. Harris, in reference to the July 24th through September 25th video that you're going to produce that will go out. Will that be to the school districts, how will that go out? **Major Harris** said we will put that out to anybody that wants it, but Facebook, social media I believe is putting it out to regular media outlets as well. **Chairman Burroughs** said wonderful that the educational process and it's important that we address that. Committee, are there any questions? Anyone online?

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

Commissioner Stites said I have a quick comment. Chief and Harris, sorry I can't be there in person tonight, but thank you for all you're doing to continue the education for the drug problems that we do have in our community. I think getting started with the youth is where it's got to—we got to make that change. Again, thank you for your continued work on this issue.

Chairman Burroughs said before we go any further and accept the motion and the second, I do need to ask if there's anyone appearing in person that would like to address this item. Is there anyone online? **Ms. MacDonald** said no hands raised. **Chairman Burroughs** said has anyone communicated via letter? **Ms. MacDonald** said no. **Chairman Burroughs** said with that, I'll accept the motion. We do have a motion and second to accept the grant.

Roll call was taken and there were four "Ayes," Burns, Stites, Kane, Burroughs.

Chairman Burroughs said gentlemen, thank you and I do want to echo the comments that were made by the committee members. I appreciate all you do in our community watching over us and our children.

Public Agenda

Item No. 1 – 21107...APPEARANCE - THOMAS BARNES

Synopsis: Appearance of Thomas Barnes requesting to speak regarding the Kansas City Kansas Police Department and Animal Control.

Chairman Burroughs said at this time I will recognize Mr. Barnes to present his comments and you will have five minutes to address the committee.

Thomas Barnes said I submitted some information about what I'm going to talk about tonight. I hope you already have it and I did say I'd give you a minute to take a look at it, but if I can go forward now—did you all take a look at it? I sent it to the Clerk. Anyway, if you're ready, I'm going to tersely identify myself and my complaint also as my outcry of the community. Many people talk to me about the same problem. Many of them are afraid to come before you and talk about it. I'm an Army PFC service veteran who served on standby in the state of—to protect this country which consisted of three factions, Vietnam crisis for their coastal crisis, Cuban crisis and the George Wallace, can't forget that, the bigot crisis in Alabama over which he put biting dogs on Black men, women and children. He put fireman with water hoses that spit out water like fire. He put policemen on horses that whip Black men, women and children until some unconsciously with pleasure.

My complaint of vicious dogs attacks on false addresses and statements is only one urgent problem we have in this community. My complaint about police receiving false promises at my address is another serious problem among several others. I could have been killed.

Remember, July 28, 2006 a 71-year old woman was bitten and killed by dogs. Remember me being attacked by drunken policemen created a disparity thereafter and destroyed my family. You read about it in the comments. I was beaten unconscious continually. When I awakened, they beat me again. I'm very fortunate to have feelings on my left side of my body. Now, I know all police aren't that way but we need to take those people out that are destructive. More

interrogation, incarceration and denial of all men's constitutional right is not the urgent problem, it is not the answer.

I'm requesting that you, the servants of the people, respond appropriately for the people according to their outcry of which is also found in the Bible in Nehemiah 5, Genesis 18:22-33. I thank you for letting me speak to you. Hopefully, you will hear this. I'm also a minister of the gospel. Thank you.

Chairman Burroughs said thank you Mr. Barnes. Any questions or comments from the committee? Seeing none, Mr. Barnes, thank you. Your letter has been made a matter of record and I appreciate you being here this evening. Thank you for bringing this to our attention once again.

Action: For information only. **Commissioner Burroughs** said it has been advanced to those that need to see the letter.

Commissioner Burroughs said with that, that concludes our meeting this evening. I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Adjourn

Action: **Commissioner Burns made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to adjourn.** Roll call was taken and there were four "Ayes" Burns, Stites, Kane, Burroughs.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

dt/bs