

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

SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2025

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Meeting, Thursday, July 31, 2025, with ten members present: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Burns, Commissioner Second District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Hill, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Lopez, Commissioner Sixth District (online at 5:11 p.m.); Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO presiding. Townsend, Commissioner First District; was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: David Johnston, County Administrator; Wendy Green, Deputy Chief Counsel; and Monica L. Sparks, Unified Government Clerk.

Mayor Garner said before I call the meeting to order I want to announce that we have individuals attending remotely as well as on-site. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, please make sure you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so the public that is participating knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and is current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General Office. Please be sure to speak directly into the microphone to ensure your comments are heard and an accurate record can be made of this meeting.

Mayor Garner called the meeting to order.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, is scheduled to be conducted in a hybrid format on Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of the Municipal Office Building for a presentation from the World Cup Readiness Task Force. Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Bynum, Burroughs, Burns, Ramirez, Hill, Kane, Stites, Davis, Garner.

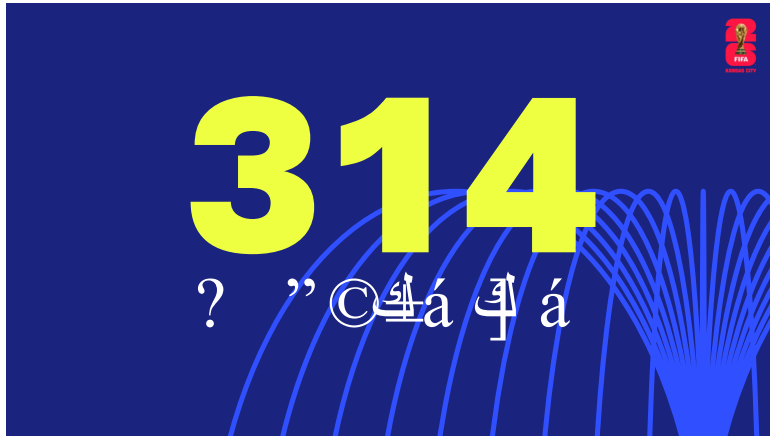
CONSENT TO MEETING of the governing body of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, accepting service of the foregoing notice, waiving all and any irregularities in such service and in

such notice, and consent and agree that we, the governing body, shall meet at the time and place therein specified and for the purpose therein stated.

Mayor Garner said as you can see on the screen, and I don't know if those that may be watching, 314 days. We have got the World Cup coming to the Kansas City metro region and we're excited that Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County is a part of being something phenomenal, historic when you talk about the World Cup coming in this fashion to our great nation and Kansas City is a host location for the World Cup. We're excited about that. For those of you who've been following the announcement, the greater Chamber went around to various communities and they gave the various communities information as well as a call to action that we need to start preparing as quick as we can to get our communities in order as far as resources, information to our constituents to create strategic plans and actions that can accommodate what we don't know, but what we believe based on what we've seen in other locations, an influx of individuals that may come from all over the world, and I took that call to action as Mayor and I convened a World Cup Readiness Task Force. Alan Carr graciously stepped up for that call to action and he agreed to Chair the Mayor's World Cup Readiness Task Force here in Kansas City, Kansas, that also represents Wyandotte County with the Co-Chair who is our County Administrator, David Johnston. So, it's a great honor to welcome members of the World Cup Readiness Task Force that are with us here today. I will now turn it over to the Chair of the Task Force, Alan Carr.

Alan Carr, Chair of the Mayor's World Cup Readiness Task Force, said thank you for giving us the time today to talk about our report from the Mayor's Wyandotte County World Cup Readiness Task Force. We have a few members of our task force here today that will be presenting our report and recommendations on how we believe Wyandotte County can best prepare for this fantastically magnificent giant event that's going to come here next year.

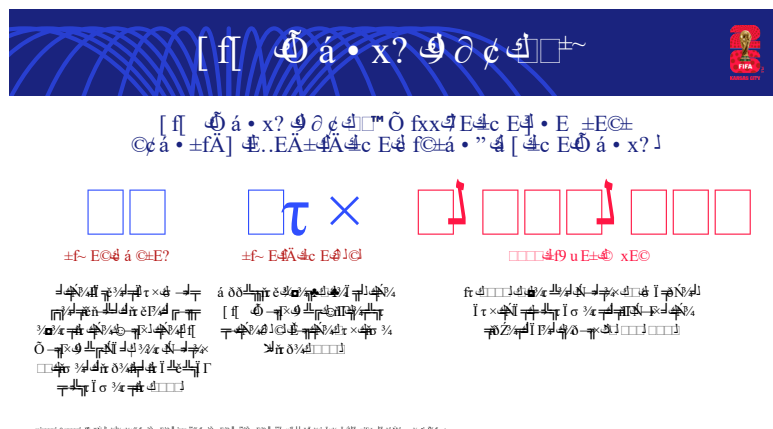
Before we get to our report and recommendations, we thought it would be good if you could hear from the organizers of this event. We have Lindsey Douglas who is the Chief Operating Officer of KC2026. They're organizing all of these activities, so she's going to give you a presentation from what they're working on and can answer a few questions and then we'll go into our task force report.



Lindsey Douglas, Chief Operating Officer of KC2026, said thank you for having me. 314 days, this is a slide we use often in our presentations from KC2026. It really drives home the sense of urgency we have in our planning and getting things prepared for the World Cup next year.



The World Cup is the largest sporting event in the world. I think we as Americans, we think about the Super Bowl, we think about the Olympics, but when you compare that to the World Cup, there really is no comparison of the number of people that are fans of soccer and the number of people that tune in to watch the World Cup worldwide. So, more than half of the world's population will tune in for a match and I pause in that because when we think about the world, it's really an enormous sense of responsibility when we think about this tournament and specifically for this tournament next year.



It's going to be the largest version of the largest tournament in the world. The last time that it was hosted in the United States was 1994. At that time we set the still holding ticket sales record of almost 3.6M tickets sold. That was with nine venues and 52 matches. This next year we will have 16 venues, 16 different host cities, 3 different countries and 108 matches, so we know we're going to exceed the ticket sales record for this next version.



These are all the host cities that will be hosting matches next year, two in Canada, three in Mexico, and then 11 US host cities. The thing I love about this map is that we are right in the middle. It's really a geographic advantage for us when we think about base camps that I'll talk about here in a minute, as well as just travel distances. If you're a fan of the World Cup and you want to come, you don't know where your team's going to play, you may be starting to book your travel kind of in the middle so that you can easily travel to any of the host cities.



FIFA

KANSAS CITY

MATCH SCHEDULE

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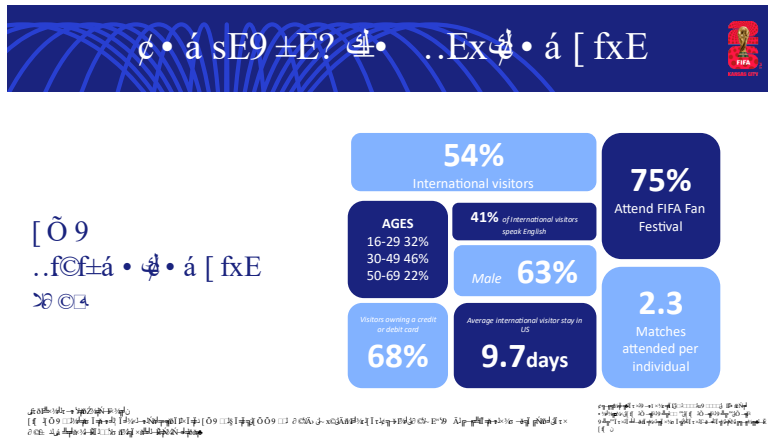
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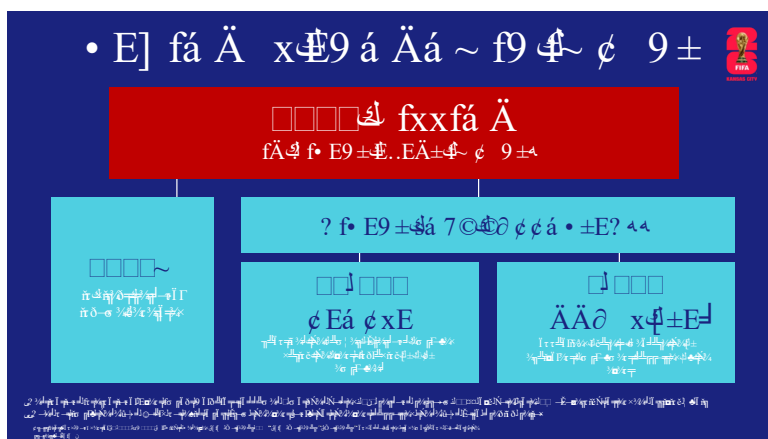


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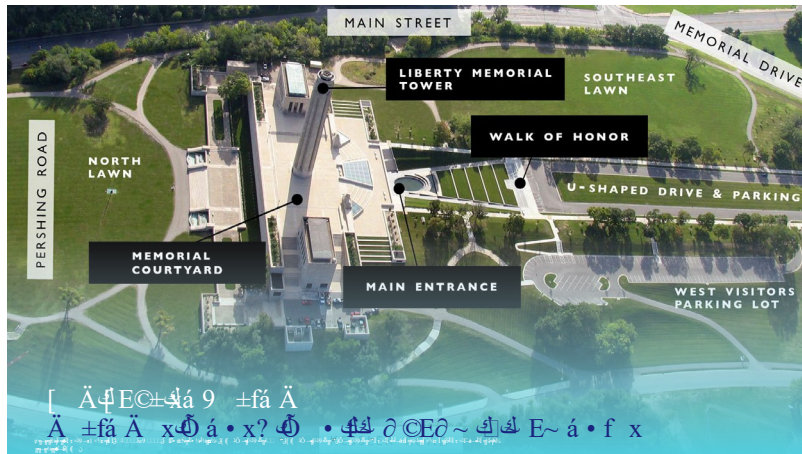


This is what the average profile looks like for a US visitor. We expect for folks that are traveling in the US for World Cup about 54% of those will be international. They will stay close to 10 days and you see some additional splits there. We expect about 75% of them will attend the Fan Festival. That will be held at the World War I Museum and I'll show you where that will be located on the grounds in a slide coming up and then that average visitor also will attend 2.3 matches. Again, that's an average, but those international visitors that are coming, we've heard from FIFA, it's kind of a staggering thing that people will sell vehicles or sell homes to be able to come and attend World Cup. So, they make a huge sacrifice to come over. They stay here for a long time and this gives you a little bit of a profile what that looks like.



With all of these visitors, we're expecting about 650,000 people will come to the Kansas City region during World Cup. We anticipate that will be about a \$653M impact to the region and that is direct. I know in a lot of economic studies you'll have direct impacts and then you'll have secondary impacts with suppliers, things like that. This is just that direct spend. So, we looked at

a visitor traveling here. They're staying a night in a hotel and they're buying meals, and things like that, so that's that direct spend that we've captured. You can see some of the other impacts to that, how many jobs that's supporting, and what direct personal income that could generate.



This is the World War I site. The NFL draft was on the north lawn. We will have Fan Fest on the southeast lawn and in the U-shaped drive. We're going to be back on the other side. We want to make sure that people can continue to move and Union Station stays active and that site will also help us manage the crowd. We want to make sure that people are—not everybody can get into Fan Fest. It's going to be capped at about 25,000 at one time, so we know that people are going to be looking for other things to do in the region.



Then the Base Camps. I want to spend just a minute talking about this because this is a particular interest, I think, to your community. The teams that are traveling for the tournament, so we have the six matches. We have three base camp locations here in our region. The team base camps are

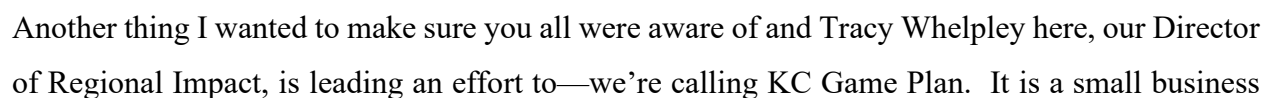
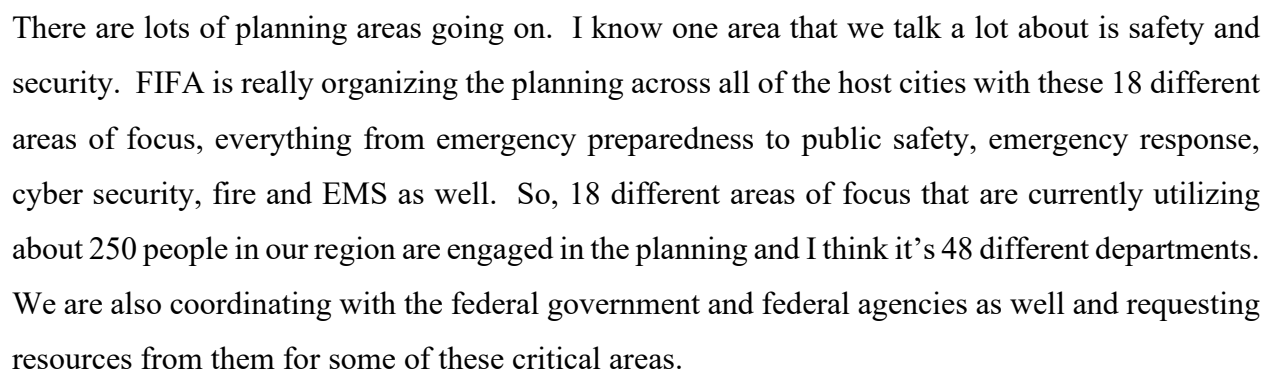
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the team's home away from home. So, if we have a team traveling from Austria, they want to find a base camp here, they will stay here and use that as their home away from home during the tournament. They'll stay here, they'll practice here, then they'll travel for a match, then they'll come back and that is really their base of operations during the tournament and we have the ability to have three. All three of these locations are in the FIFA brochure and teams have been coming through and traveling and experiencing these. What they do is they prioritize based on the locations that are in the brochure and they provide those selections to FIFA and then FIFA plays matchmaker after the final draw. We are so lucky, not every host committee even has a base camp, so there are some cities that were on that map that don't have any base camps. We're lucky that we have such amazing facilities and that we were able to have three.

The Compass Minerals Training Facility here is really best in class from all the teams that have come through, they're very, very impressed by the facility and I think there is a lot of interest in locating there. The KC Current Training Facility and Rock Chalk Park are also really excellent facilities. Again, there's lots of team interest in all three of our locations. Depending on how things shake out, we think that we're pretty guaranteed to have at least one team base camp in our region. To have two would be pretty phenomenal and three would be extraordinary, so we're trying to temper. Teams don't like to share communities with each other, but I think the uniqueness of our facilities and the quality will hopefully get those filled.



And then the venue specific training sites. For the teams that travel here to play matches, they get to practice match day minus one, so they'll travel two days before, they'll practice one day before, and then they'll play the match. The two venue specific training sites for those teams is Children's Mercy Park and CPKC Stadium. Those facilities are being utilized. They're just being utilized



Mayor Garner said quickly, who's with you. **Ms. Douglas** said yes, I'm sorry. Jason Sims is our Director of Transportation. He has been doing just a phenomenal job bringing his expertise from KC Scout and the transit operation here in the region and Tracy Whelpley is our Director of Regional Impact. She is the one operating and helping to coordinate with communities on events that they want to hold, but also the small business effort that we were working on.

Commissioner Bynum said maybe a little bit of an off-the-wall question, but I feel like this quantity of people is going to generate a ton of trash. Is there like any kind of coordinated effort for recycling specifically? **Ms. Douglas** said yes. **Commissioner Bynum** said so that doesn't all end up in our landfill. **Ms. Douglas** said absolutely. There are a number of recycling efforts that are underway both at the stadium—Arrowhead has got some really great sustainability efforts that they are incorporating now and for the tournament. We are also doing a lot of planning for Fan Festival and just kind of what that trash profile looks like, how we can incorporate recycling into that as well. We are planning for that. We are considering sort of the sustainability side and trash side. In fact, we were just talking about different ways for some of the hospitality and hosting and catering and things like that that we're going to be doing and wanting to identify ways that we can provide that food back to the community where it's needed as well. So, we're thinking about all of those waste streams and making sure that we're not missing an opportunity to benefit the community.

Commissioner Burns said thank you for your presentation. When will we know what countries may be coming to our region? **Ms. Douglas** said great question. The final draw is when they populate that match chart. That will happen in early December. We're still waiting on the final date from FIFA, but teams will continue to qualify. So, 48 teams can qualify. I believe we're up to I think 18 now and so the additional teams will be qualifying through the fall and then there will be a few more teams that will still qualify after the final draw takes place, but we will have a much better idea of who's playing here in December. **Commissioner Burns** said my State Representative out there in the crowd, she promised that we would get Croatia in downtown. Is that right? **Ms. Douglas** said I have heard that there is a prayer chain going. I have heard that. I know that there's a lot of excitement in the community and certainly we'll be very excited for the Representative's community if that happens.

Commissioner Davis said I'm curious just from you all's perspective how you all have seen other cities, particularly in Kansas, prepare. I mean, I've seen kind of bits and pieces of what Johnson County is doing, Overland Park, Olathe, just how do we compare and kind of track with some of the other first class cities on the Kansas side of the metro? **Ms. Douglas** said I think you guys have really created an excellent foundation with the task force. Lawrence has stood up a—I think they are labeling it a unified command in how they are thinking about the tournament, but we have been in front of the task force, I think, all three of us at one time or another have gone and presented to the task force. I know they are thinking about really how you can bring benefit to the community in lots of different ways and they are also very involved, city staff as well, in the planning both on the safety and security side as well as transportation how they can integrate into some of the things we're planning for the tournament and make sure you all are prepared as well. So, I would say you guys are doing a phenomenal job. Johnson County as well as Overland Park and some of the other cities in Johnson County have stood up committees as well that are exploring some of these things. I'm going to get myself in trouble, but I don't know that I've seen a report come out in as formal a way as your task force.

Commissioner Davis said what has been from you all's perspective—have you all thought about or are there efforts of engaging neighborhoods or particularly neighborhood associations just because—I mean we kind of talk about the elephant in the room, we have short-term rentals that have grown very, very fast in our community and I think rightfully so. There's some anxiety of what the World Cup will do to our neighborhoods and just what guests will do. I'm just curious if you all have thought about that and if there are ways that we can assist you in that just because we want as best as we can to make sure that our guests have the right etiquette to make sure that they are being a benefit to our city. **Ms. Douglas** said yes, absolutely. One thing and I want to stick to—I know there's a lot of conversation about this in the community, we've heard it from both sides of the state line, lots of different parts of the community. When the bid was submitted, every host city had to demonstrate that they had 55,000 hotel rooms within a certain travel distance from the stadium. We had to demonstrate that and we have sufficient hotel rooms to accommodate the visitors that are coming for World Cup. That being said, we also know that there's kind of traveler preference. People may prefer to stay in more of an Airbnb or VRBO style of accommodations.

As it relates to kind of our planning and what's available in our community, I know that we're going to have accommodation capacity to house everyone. I know that there's a lot of like local considerations related to policies around short-term rentals. I think that really is up to each individual community. One thing that we can certainly share back that was recently released, Airbnb did a study of every host city to really demonstrate the demand and then likely interest in kind of cost per person per night. So, for folks that are considering either making their home a short-term rental, if they have that ability through local ordinance and other regulations, there is a study that could kind of show what that opportunity is. I think that there have been—I have heard some pretty extravagant claims about what somebody could make if they put their home on, so I think that study might really help level set what the opportunity really is. We'll be happy to share that study back. **Commissioner Davis** said please do.

Commissioner Kane said does anybody have an idea how many buses it's going to take to move all these people around? **Ms. Douglas** said yes. Jason, like I said, I've got the expert. We have been working on that, we've been modeling that. Kansas City, thanks to Jason and our transportation team, we were the first to the market to secure our first host city buses. We secured 200 to start with. We know that we may need to plus up that number a little bit or maybe plus down that number depending on what that service profile looks like and the distance from the stadium that we need to move folks. So, we have three major requirements from FIFA. We need to move people from the airport downtown. We need to move people from downtown to the stadium and another thing that we're thinking about from our board's perspective is really making sure that we're helping people move throughout the community so we're looking at some regional connectivity solutions as well. Those 200 buses are really built—oh, and Fan Fest to the stadium. I knew he was thinking of the last one, from Fan Festival to the stadium and downtown to the stadium. We've got to get everybody to the matches, so those 200 buses are going to be used for all of those services. We are continuing to model as we kind of refine what sites we could potentially use for park and ride locations to help with that stadium movement and we may need to plus up our number.

Commissioner Kane said I would rather you go ahead and plus up now and have more than what you really need and then if you don't need that many, let somebody else have them. But if you start out at 200 and you realize you need 210, you're 10 buses short. **Ms. Douglas** said,

Commissioner Kane, you'll be very happy to hear that in our contract with our bus provider, we have built in clauses that we could plus up by 10% without having to go out and reprocur additional. So we are working with them on that and have certainly accommodated for that within our contract.

Commissioner Lopez said as a small business owner, would you suggest maybe just go buy a whole bunch of buses or at least get them leased out and ready to go for this time as far as like—I mean—**Ms. Douglas** said I understand. I think, you know, there's going to be for the KC2026 operation I know we're working to secure buses. I think there are going to be other travel groups and tours that may also be looking for bus service during this time and with eleven other host cities, there's only so many buses in the market that can accommodate that. I would certainly never venture to give anybody advice on investing in such a large asset, but I certainly do think there's going to be a lot of demand for transportation, both individual passenger transportation as well as additional tours and tourist activity that may need more of the touring style bus.

Commissioner Lopez said let me ask you this, are we going to be busing these people around for free? **Ms. Douglas** said we are currently exploring what our system is going to look like. We are looking at what that charge—if we were to apply a charge, what kind of revenue that could be and also wanting to work with all of our partners in the region to determine kind of what services may be charging at that time as well. We don't want to be completely inconsistent, but we certainly are exploring putting a fee on utilizing the transportation system. As far as the park and ride locations, I think we would confidently say we are for sure charging for the parking spot to go to the stadium. **Commissioner Lopez** said why don't we just figure out how much it costs to fuel a bus, drive it around all day, and then go off of that, put some numbers together. I wouldn't really care what other people are charging in other cities. They're over here and this is what we charge. If it's 10 bucks, 20 bucks a person, 30 bucks a person, I mean we need to be done with all these freebies because we're, you know, we need to come up with some numbers in it and maybe put the little credit card runners or whatever in these buses. I would suggest, you know, where they have to pay for the card, that way we're not having bus drivers running around with a bunch of cash and possibly getting robbed. We don't need to be busing these people around on our taxpayer's dime. We need to start charging something. We need—let's get something figured out where they can even open an account, but yeah, that's what I would highly—actually I would

recommend that because if you guys aren't—if the city—if we that we're not going to charge anything, then heck, I might just go buy some buses. I'd rather—here's the thing, we need to turn some money here and we can't be bussing people around for free. **Ms. Douglas** said I definitely appreciate those comments and the recommendation and I think we're headed that direction for sure. One tool that we plan to use to your question about kind of cash and drivers having large amounts of cash, there will be a tournament app that we plan to have both the Fan Festival pass ticket, it's free to enter Fan Festival, but we're going to have to figure out how to manage the capacity. So, we're going to ticket the event even though it's free, so everybody will have to sign up and register. If we have a transportation pass, it would be a cashless system that would be utilized through an app. We don't intend to have drivers collecting any sort of cash for a transportation pass.

Commissioner Lopez said let me ask you this and maybe this is one of the things that our Administrator is not getting answered because he even said hey, they're not telling us a lot of things. Does FIFA get a piece of the pie from revenue from our buses that are busing that let's say we're charging them 30 bucks a pop to move them here, there, whatever, does FIFA now get a piece of that because we're taking them to the games? **Ms. Douglas** said no. I can solidly say no. FIFA will not receive any revenue off of any services we're providing. So, the transportation service, they would not receive a portion of that revenue. One thing that they do get to collect revenue on is parking at the stadium. There will be some amount of parking that's at the stadium because they are utilizing that full property. They would collect the revenue from the stadium, but our services and even Fan Festival, there are some revenue lines at Fan Festival, all of that would be revenue that would stay with the host committee.

Commissioner Lopez said as we get closer, you said no, as of right now no or is this one of the things that they're not telling us that we're going to find out when we get closer to these dates? **Ms. Douglas** said no, it's a solid no. **Commissioner Lopez** said okay, that's good to know.

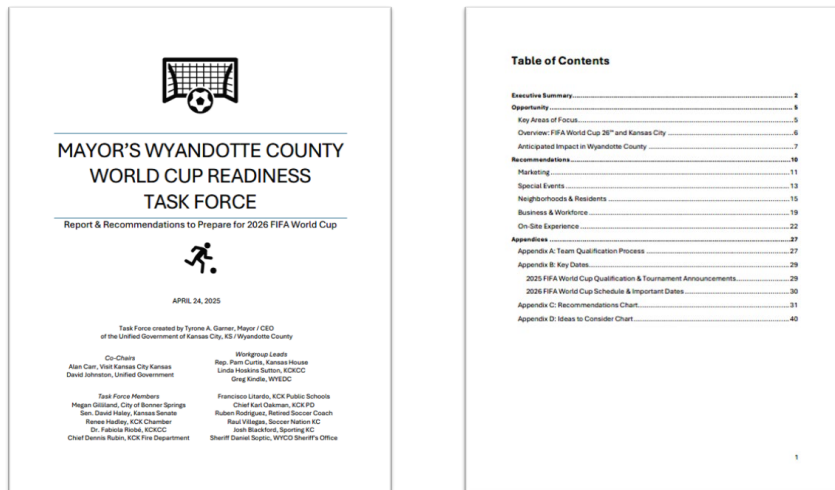
Commissioner Burns said I see in the projected travel profile that at the last ages—50 to 69%--to 69 is 22%. What about senior citizens that are over 70? Do they not attend? **Ms. Douglas** said I sure hope so. Those are travel profiles that we received from FIFA, so I don't know why they didn't capture kind of that higher age bracket, but I'm sure that we'll have attendees. I'm assuming

about those recommendations. The second area is On-Site Experience. As I mentioned, making sure that when those visitors come to Wyandotte County they have a good experience so things like signage and beautification, etc. Representative Pam Curtis led up that group and so you'll hear from her on those recommendations. We also wanted to think about Neighborhoods and Residents, how are they impacted. How can they participate and have some community pride during this event and so that was a really important area. Linda Hoskins Sutton, who's a community volunteer and a Board of Trustee at KCK Community College, led up that area and you'll hear from her on those recommendations. Then finally, Businesses and Workforce. As I said, making sure that this benefits the businesses of Wyandotte County. Greg Kindle with the EDC headed up that area.

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We put together a series of recommendations and you'll find that in the full report. It is about a 42 page report. There's a two-page summary that is a really good summary if you just want to read two pages. You'll also find a chart at the end with all of the specific recommendations that we made from the task force. We are not going to go through all of the recommendations this evening. We're going to kind of give you the broad strokes, but we would be happy as we go through those sections to answer any questions on those recommendations.

A couple things I want to point out here. One of the things early on that we identified, our purview is Wyandotte County. We are not any way involved in the planning that Lindsey talked about in terms of the official events. There is a separate group working with KC2026 on getting Wyandotte County ready for those security and transportation needs. We are really focused on how our businesses and residents can prepare, so we're not looking at the official events, but how we can work outside of those events to attract visitors.

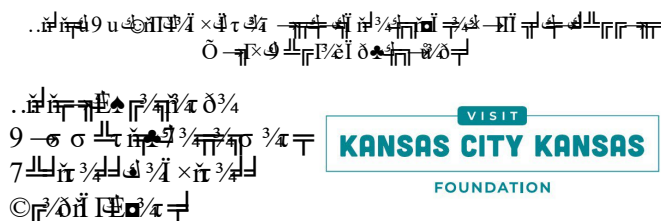


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tried where possible to identify costs although in a lot of cases we don't have those estimates, but I think what we want to see—what we're recommending is that if there's things that the community or the Commission feel like are ideas you want to move forward, if we can find someone that can champion that idea that can do the work to get it done and probably most importantly pay for that, then those are really good ideas for our community. I think that's where we are right now in this report is getting your feedback on what are those things that would best benefit the community as we go forward.

Funding we know is a big issue. It's been a big discussion on how do we pay for this as a community, how do we make sure that we don't burden our residents with additional costs for the World Cup.

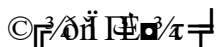
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One of the things that we have committed at Visit Kansas City, Kansas is to spearhead a fundraising effort to help raise private dollars to fund some of these initiatives that can be legacy projects for our community. Through our newly formed Visit Kansas City, Kansas Foundation we are going to be raising money to help fund projects that can improve the visitor experience, better our community, make businesses ready, and look at special events that can happen during the World Cup, but also potentially continue on after. So, we just completed an RFP looking for a fundraising agency and I'm happy to share tonight that we have hired a group to do that work for us. They're here in the audience. It's two women-owned businesses that have teamed up for a broad fundraising effort for our World Cup related activities here in Wyandotte County. One is probably a familiar face to you, Maureen Mahoney, who is the CEO of Mahoney KC. She spent her career improving the lives of neighbors here in Kansas City, Kansas. She's a longtime resident, a former lawyer and prosecutor with the majority of her practice spent in child welfare. She was

Chief of Staff for 8.5 years to two different Mayors, Mayor Holland and Mayor Alvey. After leaving the city in 2022, she formed her own consulting business, so she will be the point person for our fundraising campaign here in Wyandotte County. She's partnered with Lisa Pelofsky, who is the CEO of Pelofsky Consulting. Lisa has more than 25 years of experience in fundraising including capital campaigns, grant writing, and donor solicitation. She's been involved in numerous fundraising campaigns here in Wyandotte County. Most recently she was part of the fundraising team for the new KCK Community College Downtown Campus. She has also great sports experience, is a member of the Greater Kansas City Sports Commission and served as President for WinKC. We believe that the two of them will really help us to raise some funds. We have set a goal we hope as part of the overall effort to raise \$3M as part of this effort to fund some of these activities and the two of them who are here believe that is doable. So, we're looking forward to that.

With that, I'm going to get into the recommendations and we'll go through that.



Official Events: Support FIFA/KC 2026 events at KCK training site & base camp.

Watch Parties: List/support local parties (inform on licensing). BIG IDEA: Utilize Memorial Hall as a main public WYCO watch party site. Support St. John's Croatia watch parties.

Community Activations: Create events around key dates (Juneteenth, July 4). Organize Pop-Up Experiences and Guided Tours (food, history, neighborhoods). BIG IDEA: Living history experiences. BIG IDEAS TO CONSIDER: community mural, Open Street Events, International Village.

The first area that I'm going to talk about is Special Events because I think that opportunity to attract those visitors either for watch parties in the matches or between matches is one of the greatest opportunities we have here in Wyandotte County. Of course, Lindsey talked about those official events, the training camp and base camp. We don't really touch on those on the report. As I said that planning is happening separately, but we know there will be some activities and involvement required from the UG on those events. We do believe though that watch parties are a great opportunity for our community and we want to make sure that those that want to host watch parties have the opportunity to do that. FIFA and KC2026 are working on what the licensing

requirements will be, so that information hasn't been released yet, but we want to make sure we share that with businesses so they understand what those opportunities are.

One of our proposals, one of our big ideas is that we have a watch party centered in Memorial Hall here in eastern Wyandotte County. We know out west there's likely to be a lot of events and if you saw the news, Sporting at Children's Mercy Park is renovating their plaza as well as a potential watch party site out west. We want to make sure that there's a vibrant district here in downtown and in eastern Wyandotte County, so we are proposing that Memorial Hall host a series of watch parties to attract residents and visitors into Wyandotte County. One of the things that we think is a great opportunity with this site is the fact that it is indoors unlike some of the other sites so if it's a warm summer, it will offer air-conditioning and a great way to escape the heat. We foresee this spreading out into the street with food trucks and vendors and then you go a few blocks away and you have St. John's and all the activity they're planning around Croatia. I think it can create a really vibrant business district here for businesses for the World Cup.

The other area that we really focused on is what we're calling Community Activations. So, non-soccer related events, but events that can draw people into Wyandotte County in between matches when they're looking for things to do. As I mentioned, we think there's great opportunity around Juneteenth and Independence Day for groups and neighborhoods to organize events. We also want to make sure we're highlighting our history, our food, our neighborhoods, and so we will be promoting all of those things to visitors. We've heard already there are a number of events planned or in consideration and so we're working to see what we can do to support those events.

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As I mentioned, I'm not going to go through all of the recommendations, but those are in the report and we're happy to answer any questions about that.

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I'm going to turn it over now to Representative Pam Curtis who oversaw our On-Site Experience Group.

Representative Pam Curtis said thank you all for having us. It's great to be with you and appreciate the opportunity to share some of the recommendations that we heard from the residents as they participated in our discussion group.



Signage/Communication: BIG IDEA: Comprehensive Wayfinding Signage program. Use street pole banners. Provide language translation tools/training. Multi-language signage/menus. Address mobile/internet connectivity issues. BIG IDEAS: Large-scale/vacant building signage, real-time translation system.

Placemaking/Art: Create welcoming Gateways. Organize Placemaking "mini festivals". Recruit KCK Ambassadors. Consider temporary Visitor Center. BIG IDEA: Flag Park for competing countries. Ideas to Consider: KCK Ethnic Flags, Murals. BIG IDEAS TO CONSIDER: Grain silo murals, Interactive Murals.

Beautification: Plant flowers, plan trash removal, paint public structures, consider public restrooms, address code violations. BIG IDEA: Neighborhood Trash Cans.

Transportation/Parking: Coordinate regionally via KC 2026 (top priority). Identify park-and-ride needs. Improve access into KCK (alternate routes, suggested navigation). Enhance bus shelters. Publicize RV parking. Develop neighborhood parking plans.

Safety/Security: Coordinate regionally. Local planning (WYCO calendar, securing extra capacity). Ensure fire preparedness. Educate residents on safety. Plan to reduce panhandling/loitering. Address stray animals.

The group that I led is the On-Site Experience. We really focused on a couple of things. We focused primarily on the eastern portion of our county knowing that a lot of those things will be taken care—a lot of details will be taken care of in the western part of the county, so we focused primarily on the eastern part of the county. We also focused not only on the visitor experience, but we also focused on the resident experience knowing that during the World Cup people are still going to have to get to work, they're still going to have to take their kids to camp, they're still going to have a lot of the day-to-day functions that have to happen.

We broke it up into five specific areas. The first area that we focused on was signage in the Communication category. The recommendation in that category that received the overwhelming support and encouragement was the need for some good wayfinding signage particularly in the downtown KCK area to help visitors navigate the infrastructure challenges that we have and to be able to get to our historic sites and to enjoy the taco and the barbecue trail and to see and experience the places that we all like to share. The other ideas in that category that came up were banners that we see on the light poles and also the need for internet hotspots. That was something that we spent quite a bit of time focusing on is that in today's world with the need for internet access that we may have to see if our providers can provide some additional hotspots in areas where we know that there's going to be a lot of traffic. Translation tools was another topic that came up.

Moving on to the Placemaking and Art category, there's really two ideas that emerged from the group as priorities, that they felt should be priorities. First on the list is to create welcoming gateways to really focus attention on the areas where people come into our city to make sure that they are welcoming and inviting. The group also thought that it was a good idea to focus on areas where we're going to have gatherings. There's going to be a lot of people perhaps taking

public transportation and create kind of mini festivals that would create a welcoming environment as they're waiting to move on to wherever their destination is. We actually had somebody willing to champion that idea and I know that the Latino Arts Foundation that they are working to seek some funding and to create some mini festivals, working perhaps with our schools in doing that with some of the events that will be taking place in and around town.

The next category is Beautification. That is much like the placemaking. We've really focused on the gateways to our city, just looking at ways to clean them up, make them look beautiful, inviting. One thing that did come up was the need for trash cans. Commissioner Bynum had mentioned we will have a lot more trash with a lot more people in our community, so that might be something to think about.

On both of these next two categories, Transportation and Parking and Safety and Security, we really felt that in those two categories you really need to focus on coordinating regionally. We didn't delve a lot into those two categories. We felt pretty comfortable when the Director of the UG Transportation had spoken to us about some of the planning that was going on with identifying park and rides and trying to coordinate those efforts. I think in those two categories the real takeaway is that you have to have regional coordination, so we need to make sure that we are working regionally to make sure that both safety and security and transportation and parking are thought of in that way and taken care of.

In our Safety and Security category it came up to have a plan to reduce panhandling and loitering were two issues that came up. Another issue that came up that was kind of surprising was stray animals. The reason I mentioned that here tonight is that there was an announcement recently with Purina that they are one of the regional sponsors for KC26, so I'm just hoping that maybe there will be some partnerships. When they were announced as a sponsor, they said they wanted to make Kansas City the most pet friendly World Cup city. When the topic did come up, I have to tell you, there was only praise for our KCK Animal Services and there was just a very sincere acknowledgement of the work that the staff and the volunteers there do as they care for the animals in our shelter. They do an amazing job and they deserve a lot of credit, so hopefully there'll be some partnerships there.

we're planning to do is going to affect the neighborhoods and the residents and that's why that is very important and that's why we have to make sure that we educate the public on what's going to happen so they will be prepared. I heard one of the other meetings people are not excited about this, but I think overall if we can help educate the community, it will go a long way.

Some of the areas we talked about was Engagement and how do we engage the neighborhoods and the communities. I think one of the things that we can really draw on is, it's no secret, is the fact that Wyandotte County is one of the most ethnic diverse communities in the country. So, we can play that up. We can feel proud and want people to come here and visit us for that reason because they may see someone who looks like them. With that in mind, we said that we need to develop communication, a resource kit, because so many people will not know. Within the community they'll say what are all these people here for, we don't know, so if we could put something together to educate the community about this and what it can bring to Wyandotte County, organized community cleanups. I know that's ongoing and again with Neighborhood and Residents we were also thinking legacy. We don't want any of this to just be like a one-time deal. We want it to be exciting and fun for the whole community, so if people organize and start cleanups now, we don't want it to seem like we're just cleaning up for the World Cup. After the World Cup is over, let's continue to take pride and keep our neighborhoods clean.

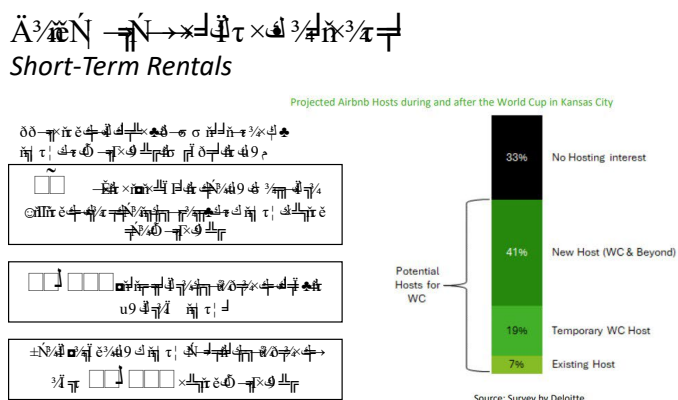
Big Ideas; grants for neighborhood tourism and site events. We know this could be big and I know Alan is planning some events, but depending on what the resources are we could have community events. Ideas to consider; contests, adopt a team, Sister City engagement. As I said, we had a lot of good ideas come from our committee. We had about 20 people actively participating in our group and I think that spoke volumes that the community is interested. We've just got to engage them.

You know, Kansas City could be considered a soccer town, so we thought of Youth and Soccer and that's another area for legacy. We get started with World Cup. We already have soccer in some of our schools, we have Sporting Kansas City, we have KC Current and so with that, how can we build on that as a legacy so that after the World Cup is over, we will still have a big interest in soccer here. Yeah, promote soccer as an asset. Big Idea; sportsmanship campaign, anti-bullying/racism, tied to the fair play that's in FIFA because we know that there's a lot of bullying and what have you going on in the schools. This is a way we can get our youth involved, get them interested in this to make a difference. Ideas to Consider; mentorships, clinics/tournaments,

engaging youth and that would be some of our schools and we already have a commitment from the Kansas State School of the Blind because they have a pitch field and they are going to promote that as a way of diversity because it's the only one in this area. Just many ideas are coming from this group. A big idea is to consider a pop-up soccer pitch.

Resident Impacts; that's a huge one and we realize that because some people are going to be welcoming into their neighborhoods, other people will not want it into their neighborhoods and we know it's going to impact traffic and parking. That's why we wanted that part to be in here. Prioritize code enforcement along with key routes and encourage property beautification and that goes back to what Representative Curtis was saying, flowers, painting, trash removal. We had a lot of conversation about trash removal because there's the anticipation with this much traffic that there is going to be a lot and so we want to encourage the neighborhoods, everyone, let's all work together to keep it clean. That's why we need the neighborhood participation, neighborhood buy-in. We want the whole neighborhoods to be interested in doing this and it's not listed here, but we did identify a lot of the neighborhood groups that could be contacted to be a part of this.

Housing; educate homeowners on short-term rental policies. Big idea; host short-term rental application events and protect tenants from eviction due to short-term rental conversion. Ideas to consider; temporary reducing the change in the policies. That came up a lot in our committee because some people are interested, some citizens are interested in renting out their home or what have you. They say the process takes a long and we said we are a task force that's presenting ideas to the commissioners. We can't tell you what's going to happen. We can just ask them to consider these things and leaning into that...



I will not go into all of our recommendations, but you do have them there in front of you. We will be taking questions at the end and now Greg wants to come up and talk about this part of it.

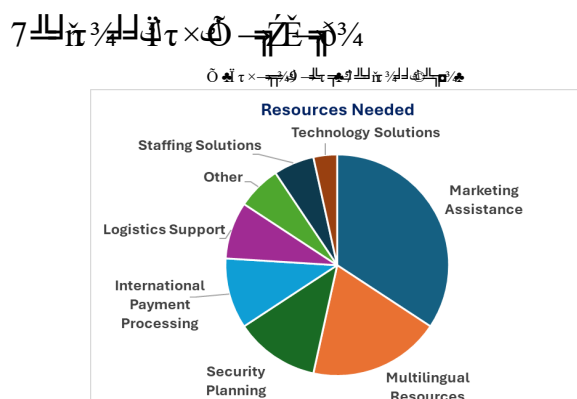
Mayor Garner said we've got one question.

Commissioner Kane said I won't be here, but one of the things you might want to consider during this timeframe is to loosen up our Airbnb stuff because we're only allowed to have one per block. I think we'd be better off for 45 or 50 days or 60 days, whatever it is to loosen it up so we can keep that money here. It's just something that the Commission will need to consider, but I think it would be well worth the financial reward for us, for Wyandotte County as a whole, to do that on a short-term basis and that's just my opinion. **Ms. Hoskins Sutton** said yes, and you know we got ourselves educated on the short-term rental. We had the Planning Office come and talk to us on more than one occasion so that we would understand the process and we understand that it is a lengthy process and that's why we're recommending that you make some exceptions. I don't know if exception is the right word to use, but consider modifying it or something so that it can happen sooner because actually the World Cup is upon us already, about a year out.

Commissioner Ramirez said I know Commissioner Bynum and I were kind of the two who pushed for that density ruling of the one per block just because in my district and I don't remember which other district—Strawberry Hill where the majority of those STRs are and it was just to regulate the density to ensure we maintain the neighborhoods. I would like to see how well we can regulate that to have a very short, as it's been said, a short short-term rental. You know just a brief period where we can loosen that restriction, but at the same time I would just like to see how that's perfectly regulated so that we can maintain the character of neighborhoods because I know I'm going to get a lot of push back from my constituents in Rosedale against any changes. I'm going to do my best to work with the Commission, work with the community, find compromises, and I reiterate, you know, these are going to be temporary changes. I just want to make sure it's properly regulated and that our staff has the resources to watch what's happening. **Ms. Hoskins Sutton** said yes, I agree and that's why we had said that traffic, that's a concern and so all of that has to be taken into consideration. I think the Rosedale community did come up in the conversation as well as Strawberry Hill, but we had people from the Strawberry Hill who know the enforcement

and they want it changed because there are some people there who want to rent their property out. They were very vocal in wanting it changed.

Commissioner Burroughs said my comment is for Pam Curtis. Representative, I know you mentioned Purina, but we have Hill's in Kansas. It's one of our number one pet foods in the world. You might want to consider reaching out to Hill's. They have a close working relationship with the legislature and others, it's kind of partial. Colgate-Palmolive owned Hill's at one time **Representative Curtis** said I think that's a great idea definitely.



Greg Kindle said it looks like I'm bringing up the tail end of this presentation. The EDC along with a number of partners including the KCK Chamber and Alan was a key part of really pulling together the Business and Workforce Committee. We had a number of meetings much like the other groups did. We consistently probably had 30 to 40 folks engaged, which I thought that was a really strong showing among folks who showed up in person as well as online. One of the things that we've done as part of this process is honestly just try to get a handle on where are all of our small businesses, how do we communicate with them because that's probably what the one big challenge that we had among all of this getting it started is just how do you do outreach. We did end up creating a distribution list of about 750 retailers and small businesses, some makers that we clearly identified. We worked with the UG, the KCK Chamber and the Bonner Springs and Edwardsville Chamber of Commerce to compile that list. We did get some bounce backs and we're still working through that, but we had a very strong list and so this survey that we sent out was one of the things that we did as a result of the initial meetings just to see what did they want training on, what was the most important things to them that we needed to make sure that we spent

some time and energy on. Again, this is all sustainable information. Helping them with marketing assistance. We have a deadline of the World Cup coming on, but frankly, we need to help our small businesses do a good job of having an online presence and being able to market to both local folks as well as regionally, statewide, and internationally if they so choose.

We sent out a survey. The responses came back. It was very clear from that survey that they needed more assistance with marketing, so we're focused on what that looks like. I'll go into a little more detail, multilingual resources, which makes some sense. This is an international event and so once we know who those actual teams are that will help define that even more clearly about who we need to have more ambassadors with and that's across all sectors, not just in the business side of it, but we want to make sure that we're approaching this from how do you make a best impression to the folks coming into our community.

Then, it's really kind of a split between security, planning, and then also international payment processing and how we make sure that we can in fact accommodate those international guests if they have not already done something with transitioning to dollar bills. We were a little surprised in terms of, you know, what we're surprised about. We're a little surprised that none of our restaurants in particular were as concerned about logistics, about making sure they have enough food ordered to accommodate a higher visitor traffic count and so that's something we're going to continue to monitor.

When we—probably in the next slide, but I guess I could kind of roll into this, one of the things we're excited about with KC26 is one of their predictive heat mapping systems that they're working on to really identify when we have those teams in town, where do they anticipate that they will most likely be. Once we have that information, and again, that will partly play into what teams are actually going to be playing here, but we can then roll out into those areas within the community and say look you need to anticipate a higher traffic count during these dates. Again, back to communication and making sure we have some methodology of communicating with these folks largely through email to say, this is what you need to be thinking about and if you have not placed your orders, then you should have already been doing this. Now we're going to reach out to companies like Scavuzzo's Meat, Wholesale Foods, others in our community that are providing food to a lot of our retailers to say are you already working on this and what does that look like. Presumably they are, but we want to kind of just keep doubling down on let's not be shorthanded, let's not be caught flatfooted with this.

On the security side of it, it really is tied to making sure that our businesses have a security plan, that they're tapped into the KCK Police Department camera system if they've not already done it. Things again that are legacy. This is not something that's just about the World Cup. This is just good business. Some of those kinds of things we were also a little thrown that they didn't anticipate needing more staffing. Most of them indicated that they thought they could handle the increased business with the existing staff. They did not seem to have any issues with doing special events, extending hours, doing longer hours, coming in on the weekend kind of thing. We were a little surprised by that. We still think that's a likely problem and so we want to do a little more education on that, but also have some resources available to them for temporary staffing and also just like it was noted with KC26 on volunteering. We think there's probably some value in having a base of folks who are excited about being involved with businesses and just being a natural resource to tap into.

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Communication/Collaboration: Develop business communication plan. Partner with local support orgs. Encourage local procurement. BIG IDEA: Recurring Small Business Roundtable.

Business Operations: Address staffing needs (training, language). Plan for disruptions (traffic, parking, utilities). Inform on wage/hour rules. Enhance safety (security, KCKPD link). Prepare for international customers (payments, info). Plan marketing/promotions. Manage supply chain demands. Develop post-event success strategies.

Workforce: Assess temporary needs. Partner with employment orgs. Focus on underemployed/unemployed. Connect schools to work opportunities. BIG IDEA: Pilot program connecting students to small businesses for marketing support.

On this last slide, I think really what comes out of this is that this group that we've pulled together, they aren't necessarily members of any Chamber or our organization or any other group, we don't really care. What we want to do is have a long-term conversation and relationship with retailers and folks who have not traditionally been engaged and that's going to take on some more forms. We've got to do more on some other languages in general. We have a very large Latino market as you all know and so we've got to figure out how we do a better job with that in general as well. That conversation has come up several times within that business roundtable to say this ought to be something that goes on beyond the World Cup. This is a great reason to pull it together, but not one that we want to see stop and we should do it collaboratively. That's where that

communication piece comes in with having Alan and Renee and others from our local organizations be part of that.

On the Business Operations side, we talked about language. There's some ideas around that. We've tried to remind them about traffic and just being prepared for that, that you've got to take a deep breath. This is about customer service, having a great customer experience and to be thoughtful about it. That also means as we are working through training, this is another big piece of our interaction with KC26, as recently as yesterday we had an opportunity to be on the phone with Tracy and really start talking about let's make sure that we don't duplicate training programs, so there's no reason for all of us to go out and do that and spend any kind of money or effort to do that. Let's do that jointly, let's make sure it's very regional in nature. The idea of helping businesses to be prepared from a marketing perspective is not special to Wyandotte County. It's not special to Kansas City, Missouri, this is a regional effort and this is something we can do on a long-term basis and if we have those as a webinar fashion as well as in-person, that's something we can do ongoing. If we know from the survey what our businesses wanted, then that's what we need to dedicate most of our trainings to and so that's helped inform us with that. I think it helps inform KC26 as well and make sure that we're not duplicating efforts.

On the Workforce side, even though we still think there needs to be some more assessment on that temporary needs side. One of the big ideas that we've already started working on is really through Monica Breezy. You all know that she's on our team on the Workforce side. This idea that most of our—all of our school districts have academy programs of one type or another and most of them are tapped into the Kauffman real world learning experience opportunity and so we think that there's ways to connect those students with some of our small businesses that do not have a presence, do not have a marketing plan, maybe don't have a really good forward looking opportunity to say why don't we connect our students to some of these small businesses and make this a real world learning opportunity and help a business at the same time. I think there's a lot to be gained from that and that's not something that has to stop with the World Cup. We've already started that process. The school districts thus far seem very excited about it. The harder part there will be defining how many kids do we have, how many businesses do we really have that want to take that on, and then making sure that those two things are matched up and that we've got the metrics, but those are details we can work through.

yes, we have been looking at that and thinking about how we can incorporate some of those Kansas City stars into our programming both at Fan Fest—we have a KC House concept that Tracy also works on that's really going to be more of a trade mission in our backyard. So, as we have all of these international visitors and business folks from across the world, how do we tell the story of our business community in both a trade mission sort of way, but also a place to entertain them. So, how do we incorporate that, how do we really look at some of the folks that are in our region as those assets to really attract and help tell the story of Kansas City.

Commissioner Bynum said is there merch yet, KC26 merch available? **Ms. Douglas** said there is. That is an area that FIFA does control, but they do have a website up for Kansas City specific World Cup merch and I believe, and I'm going to look to Tracy, do we have that linked from our website yet? Yep, okay, great. The link is up on the KC2026 website.

Commissioner Bynum said talking about the short-term rental, it's an important item and it's an interesting concept. I like the notion of some kind of modification because I do think that's an opportunity for people to maybe make a little money in a way that they hadn't thought of before. I think that's a really unique opportunity, but in the future maybe we could discuss. I just keep thinking of some kind of modified time period for it like—I just want it for 60 or 90 days and maybe that's the carve out that we could make. Just a suggestion.

I was curious, Pastor Sims, is there any comment you would like to come and make to the body? **Jason Sims, Transportation Director KC2026**, said I wanted to say the magnitude of 200 buses, if you look at the entire KCATA, we're really bringing in an entire new transit system. KCATA, their fleet for the entire region is around 200 buses, so I think we're going to be prepared and ready and I'm certainly Dotte proud. **Commissioner Kane** said I sure hope a bunch of those bus drivers are union.

Commissioner Davis said I have kind of a variety of questions if Representative Curtis can approach and I am so sorry, I'm going to ask you a question just in your state legislature capacity and no worries if you don't have an exact answer, but I know that there's been some conversation of the state contributing to this effort and I imagine a lot of that will be kind of out west just given the base camp and everything, but that could be kind of statewide. Do you have any other insight that you can provide that can kind of help provide some color to that or what the state's contribution will be for preparations? **Representative Curtis** said thank you for the question, Commissioner.

The state actually has appropriated \$28M to help with the hosting in the region. All that \$28M will be spent on the Kansas side and actually Lindsey is probably in a better position to answer how that money is flowing. I know that there's an agreement with KC26 and the Department of Commerce on how those dollars will be spent, but certainly those dollars should be somewhat accessible to our community needs, so let me turn that over to Lindsey and let her go into more specifics.

Ms. Douglas said as Representative Curtis mentioned, we did receive an appropriation from the state of Kansas. \$28M was appropriated after sort of the administrative cost. We are receiving \$27.6M or .4. Don't trust your brain. Should have brought notes. For the Kansas dollars, we have allocated those into areas where we are doing planning on the Kansas side, so the transportation effort is receiving a fair amount of those resources. Business Attraction and Marketing is receiving some of those funds as well as Safety and Security. When we think about the base camp locations and the venue specific training site, there are multiple requirements for the host cities in securing those locations. So, a big portion of our Safety and Security budget is personnel costs. When we think about whether we're paying for the policing services and EMS and fire services within the community, we want to make sure that we're covering those costs.

So, we have been in contact with your departments to make sure that they're giving us estimates of what they think that level of effort would take. After they had the opportunity to review those requirements from FIFA, we've captured those costs and we've got some of the Kansas dollars that are allocated specifically for that as well as other needs associated with the tournament. We are looking at some specific assets that we could create that I think will help towards some of the recommendations from your task force related to wayfinding and signage, community events, thinking about how we can create sort of a kit of parts for folks to be able to utilize for some of those events. Tracy's been working really closely with the organizations, both the task force and your local leaders here in the room with us today around what they need, what we're hearing from the community. I know I've had several conversations with Representative Curtis about wayfinding, helping people find those businesses and those attractions in the county. **Commissioner Davis** said music to my ears. I was not expecting that comprehensive of an answer and so that is far—**Ms. Douglas** said sorry. **Commissioner Davis** said no, that's great. No, I'm just glad because when we talk about infrastructure cost and public safety costs for probably transportation is up there, but I don't think we've really mentioned that part and that is a massive

bill that I would really hope we would not put on our local residents to pay for and so I'm glad that there was a way that we can use state dollars to assist with that.

I kind of have some other general comments before I conclude. I think including Parks and NRC in these particular conversations will be very important especially if we're talking about business licensing and short-term rentals. Then, of course, with our Parks who are often responsible for maintaining our corridors and beautification and things of that nature. Some other revenues sources, we do have an existing Community Event Budget that each commissioner has access to and so I do think that can be leveraged for the World Cup.

Then we have the Transient Guest Sales Tax. I think 8% is too low. I think we should up it by 4% and see what we can do to make some of these particular plans come to life. I do think that there's some opportunity for us to coordinate on what that looks like. Thank you all so much for this information. I'm really excited.

Commissioner Burns said I don't want this to be a loaded question, but is there anything, task force members, that this Unified Government is not doing to help you along any better and don't be bashful to tell us. **Mr. Carr** said I will say I think in a lot of ways we're still very early in this process. You know, we're still getting some information about what's needed. I know the County Administrator's Office has been working, and I believe they're having weekly meetings on some of the areas of interest there. I think one of the things we really weren't able to touch on too much within our report is, are there ordinance changes that you may want to consider and I do think that's something for the Commission to think about. You've heard about short-term rentals and is that something you want to look at. I know several communities around the metro are taking a look at their regulations there, but there may be other things. Things related to sidewalk dining. I know on the Missouri side, they passed the bills so that bars can be open later. I believe in Missouri it will be 5:00 a.m. if the local community allows that. There may be some things like that you may want to look at. **Commissioner Burns** said don't be bashful in telling us. We don't know unless you tell us. I know, Pam, you have an opinion about that.

Representative Curtis said I don't know if I have anything specific. I think what we did was we gathered a lot of information from citizens and so now I think what would help us that—those of us that will continue to stay involved in the World Cup efforts is just to know what you all think

are the priorities and what you all are willing to spend some resources and some dollars to help make happen. I think beyond that, I mean, the World Cup's going to happen. These people are coming regardless of what we do, so it's really up to us to figure out how we take advantage of it and so that's kind of where we're at. We've got some great ideas. We know there are some things that have to happen just for safety and the sake of our community continuing to function during this time, but I think beyond that, it's really up to us to identify those things that we want to embrace and that we have champions for and that we think are doable and just being reasonable. Not setting expectations that we can't achieve, so that would just be my kind of two cents on a final comment.

Commissioner Hill said I have a quick question for Rev. Sims on transportation. You mentioned the chartered buses. I was wondering is there any extra training around Lyft and Uber drivers. What's the uptick you expect in that arena and vans and stuff? **Rev. Sims** said certainly we've been talking with Uber and Lyft and FIFA put on a great, what I would say, workshop for all the host cities to engage directly with Uber and Lyft. It's been a question everywhere I go how are we looking at—we have to analyze the capacity of ride share in our region and then how much we need to uplift based on how many people are coming. It's been a week-by-week thing. Also, we're having some opportunities now to look at what ride share looks like at our stadiums, at our Fan Fest and maybe leave some legacy behind there too.

Commissioner Ramirez said I like this. I was commenting to Commissioner Davis because now it gives us kind of things that we can choose from. It gives us a list. It doesn't mean we have to do everything, it doesn't mean—but we can pick and choose what we think is going to be best for our community with the funding that we have. So, I really do thank you guys for all the hard work. I look forward to it and working with you and the community to pick and choose what we can do to best set ourselves up for success.

Administrator Johnston said I also want to just bring your attention that with Lindsey that the KC26 has a number of work groups that has been involving many local community departments. Transportation is one, security is another and Wyandotte County/KCK has had the public safety agencies working with the Safety and Security Work Group and our Transit Department has been

working with Rev. Sims on the Transportation Work Group. They've been working over a year, I believe, in both work groups making sure that we're part of the regional approach in moving people throughout the system and it's been quite an adventure. When I talk to our representatives in those work groups, when they're taking a look at the wider picture and how we contribute to that and they come back and talk to me about those discussions.

It's quite an eye-opening involvement when they say, hey, Wyandotte County, when they talk to us about our contribution to the wider picture, it's eye-opening to them because so many times they're so pigeonholed about our own little part of the picture day in and day out and when they're talking about the World Cup and say, no, we're part of this bigger interaction to make this thing work, it's amazing when they come back. Hey, we do have a wider responsibility and so it's great to have that wider interaction and we do have a wider responsibility, not just because we're being deemed a host community for a team, but because we do feel inclusive to make the Kansas City picture work. I'm glad we're a part of that. That means we are part of the Kansas City region and they come back and they feel proud that it's more than just basic mutual aid. No, they're going to do what we can to make it work regardless and so it's a good function to make the region work, the best that it can. I just thought I would let you know that KC26 has these working groups and if something happens, the region will come together.

Mayor Garner said I would just like to say thank you to the executive team of KC2026, our local World Cup Readiness Committee, all the staff, all the volunteers, more importantly, our community members that really weighed in. This is the value of task force and you're seeing it at play right here. I know when past KCK Mayor Reardon, who is now the Executive Director of the Greater KC Chamber, went out and did these tours and I went to a couple of them and it was really profound, the information that was given. But what I took away was that call to action that we need to start preparing now. One thing that I learned in leadership is that if you fail to plan, you're planning to fail and so with that notion you have to plan and create strategies to accommodate so we can be better prepared, so we know and I think Representative Curtis mentioned it, they're coming. You don't want to be in a position where you're told ready or not. You want to have plans in place so you can say ready, set, go and we're ready for anything that is happening.

I do appreciate all the work of the greater task force and our local task force. It is community driven and I think that's really key and you all have done good work to leave our commissioners with some things that they can ponder on. I know, Mr. Carr, that the task force work is not done. I don't want that to be lost on the community. I've got about four months left as your Mayor and I know that the next Mayor will pick up. It's not Mayor Garner's World Cup Readiness Task Force. It is the Mayor's initiative that's driven, as well it should be. Hopefully, the next Mayor will provide the continued leadership and vision that can hopefully—well, we know, will be a successful event and not just in the greater metropolitan area, but right here in Wyandotte County and I'm really excited about the opportunity to put Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas on the world stage and present respectfully.

So, after everybody goes home to their host nations and back to their communities those thoughts and memories of their experience right here in Wyandotte County will lead them back here again over and over again and that word of mouth will get out that Wyandotte County truly is—the Dotte is truly the spot to be. There's great things here, great people, great iconic restaurants, venues, historic markers, great places to see and a lot of good things to do right here in Wyandotte County. I know the work is going to continue, so thank you all so much for your presentation. I know a lot of work. You're talking a long leg of work that has went into this and a lot of hours, volunteer hours, and I think people need to be reminded of that.

I also want to say, and correct me if I'm wrong Chairman Carr, but I believe that you're still looking for any volunteers, any assistance, so if you want to talk about that and I noticed that on one of the slides that really as we move and I know that the greater—listed as well, people willing to volunteer, that's really going to be key when you talk about us being a host world state city. If you want to talk about that briefly and then just a little more on the marketing. That was one of my questions and I know you've probably already got the answer for it, but just a portfolio that could be given out or someone can go to our web page that really highlights our iconic historic sites, our neighborhoods, our restaurants, our tourism venues, places to see, things to do, our parks. Listing of all our parks so people that want to come and enjoy our parks.

The last thing I think you heard from the Commission, and I talked to the Administrator briefly about it, maybe just a little work task force on what are those policy recommendations based on what other communities are doing, not just here in the KC metro, but nationally that

maybe this Commission can make an informed decision on, seeing if that's something we want to implement here either short-term or long-term that could be of value for the event.

Mr. Carr said absolutely, Mayor, this work is not done. This work is just starting and we would love the community to be involved. I think there is still a lot of opportunity to get involved in some of these specific projects. As I said, one of the things we're looking for are champions for some of these initiatives. So, if you're passionate about gardening and you want to contribute to that effort, if you're passionate about animals, there are ways for you to get involved and help prepare us for the World Cup, but make our community better. We encourage you to look at those opportunities. Reach out and we'll continue to connect you with the right folks.

Volunteers are going to be key. You heard Lindsey talk about it. I think the first place, you know, sign up with KC2026. They need a ton of volunteers and you'll have that opportunity. We also will be looking at how we can provide support for events taking place in Wyandotte County and have some locals help provide information and assistance with some of those things, so we'll be doing that.

Finally, on Marketing, that was one section we didn't get to, but we are working—that's something that Visit KCK is taking on those marketing efforts. We are currently working on a World Cup website. In fact, we're redoing our website, but we plan to launch a Wyandotte County website for visitors to the World Cup in the coming months. We'll be, as you said, creating some special publications and maps to help get visitors around and learn what they can do here and we're also working on a community branding initiative. One of the things we didn't talk about was like the Super Bowl or Final Four. You cannot use the World Cup if you're a business unless you're a sponsor with FIFA, so you can't use those words and so we're putting together a brand for Wyandotte County that we can use and the community can use to welcome those visitors. We will have that in September.

Mayor Garner said thank you so much and thank you all again for your time, your work and we're looking forward. There's no further business for us in this Special Session. I'm going to entertain a motion to adjourn.

Action: Commissioner Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to adjourn. Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Bynum, Burroughs, Burns, Ramirez, Hill, Kane, Lopez, Stites, Davis.

**MAYOR GARNER ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 6:46 p.m.**

Monica L. Sparks
Unified Government Clerk

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July 31, 2025