

Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas



Public Works and Safety Meeting

5th Floor Conference Room

701 N. 7th Street Trafficway, Kansas City, KS 66101

Chair Andrew Kump

Commissioner, District 2, Bill Burns - Commissioner, District 3, Christian Ramirez

Commissioner, District 4, Evelyn Hill - Commissioner, District 6, Phil Lopez

BPU Board Member Gary Bradley-Lopez

MINUTES

Monday, July 13, 2026

5:00 PM – 6:18 PM

Attendance:

Committee Members Present:

- Commissioner Kump (Chair)
- Commissioner Hill
- Commissioner Ramirez
- Commissioner Burns
- Commissioner Lopez

Committee Members Absent:

- BPU Board Member Bradley-Lopez

Staff Present:

- Maiyee Lor (Unified Government Deputy Clerk)
- Casey Meyer (Assistant County Administrator)
- Daniel Kuhn (Senior Attorney)
- Diana Miles (Solid Waste/Recycling Manager)
- Aaron Morris (Attorney)
- Dr. Shelley Kneuvean (Chief Financial Officer)
- Phil Lockman (Director of Community Corrections)
- Terrie Garrison (Interim Director of the Health Department)
- Mark Heath (Assistant Chief Emergency Medical Services)

- Shane Turner (Assistant Police Chief)
- Karah Barnes (Substance Misuse Coordinator)
- Chief Dennis L. Rubin (Fire Chief, Kansas City, Kansas, Fire Department)

Call to Order

Commissioner Kump called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Revisions to Agenda

No revisions to the agenda were announced.

Approval of Previous Minutes: (Discussion Begins 1:28)

Commissioner Burns moved to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2026, meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

- Ayes: Hill, Ramirez, Burns, Lopez, Kump
- Nays: None
- Absent: Bradley-Lopez

Committee Agenda:

Item 4.1: RESOLUTION: 5-YEAR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN (Discussion Begins 1:57)

Diana Miles, Solid Waste Manager, presented an overview of the Five-Year Solid Waste Management Plan, requesting approval. Ms. Miles noted that the plan was reviewed and approved by the Solid Waste Management Plan Committee before being brought before the committee. She explained that the Solid Waste Management Plan is required by KCHE (Kansas Department of Health and Environment), is updated every five years, and that an annual update is provided to the Commission each year. Ms. Miles outlined the plan requirements, which include population disposal and diversion data, identifying facilities and services changes to the solid waste system, a plan for recycling and source reduction, a method for financing the selected system, and goals and an implementation strategy.

Ms. Miles then introduced Emma Billings of Burns and McDonnell to continue the presentation.

Emma Billings, Burns and McDonnell, provided a detailed overview of the plan. She noted that the plan covers Wyandotte County, which includes Kansas City, Kansas; Bonner Springs;

Edwardsville; and a small portion of Lake Quivira. The materials covered in the plan include trash, recycling, composting, and bulky items, and it addresses programs and services such as residential curbside services, commercial and multifamily construction and demolition (C & D) drop-off programs, and education and outreach. The item is requested to be fast-tracked for approval to the July 16, 2026, Board of Commissioners' meeting.

Key Data Highlights (2024):

- Total generation in 2024 showed commercial generation at approximately 42%, residential at approximately 35%, and C&D debris at 23%.
- Of total diversion by material type, refuse comprised 76% of total generation, C&D debris at 23%, and recycling at just 1%.
- The county recycling rate is approximately 4%, compared to the national average of 32%.

Residential Curbside Collection Overview:

Ms. Billings highlighted the differences between service models across the county. The pre-existing non-cart service in KCK involved weekly collection with no carts provided, personal containers used by residents, yard waste commingled with refuse for landfill disposal, and weekly bulky item collection. The KCK Cart Pilot Program introduced weekly collection in 96-gallon carts, the same for recyclables, yard waste collected weekly in compostable bags or bundles with a 10-bundle limit, and bulky item collection weekly of up to three items per week. Bonner Springs offers weekly collection in 96-gallon carts, biweekly recycling collection in the same size carts, weekly yard waste with no bag or bundle limit, and bulky items collected by the provider upon request for a fee. Edwardsville operates similarly to Bonner Springs with no service for yard waste.

2020 Plan Implementation Successes noted:

- Establishment of the enterprise fund.
- KCK establishment of a cart-based pilot program, including transition to carts, yard waste collection in paper bags, and a call-in system for bulky item collection.
- Bonner Springs' new contract with a cart-based system.

Commercial and Multifamily Services:

Ms. Billings noted these services are conducted on the open market with no real regulations and limited or unknown recycling access. Multifamily waste is collected in dumpsters rather than through curbside collection. Recommendations for this sector from the previous plan included

licensing haulers, requiring businesses to have trash service, and providing education and outreach.

County Drop-Off Programs:

Ms. Billings reviewed existing county programs: the Recycling and Yard Waste Center, the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility, and dumpster days. Bonner Springs and Edwardsville participate through interlocal agreements. Prior plan successes included completion of a compost feasibility study in 2021, implementation of dumpster days for drop-off of bulky items, and continuation of monthly HHW collection events.

- Recycling and Yard Waste Drop-Off Center (2024): Approximately 600 participants; 28% for recycling, 71% for yard waste, and less than 1% for mulch. The majority of participants are from KCK, with some from Bonner Springs and Edwardsville. Accepted materials totaled approximately 317 tons of yard waste and approximately 162 tons of recycling.
- Dumpster Days (2024): Approximately 634 participants. Accepted materials included dumpster disposal for bulky items, e-waste, and bulky reuse.
- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-Off (2024): Approximately 1,000 participants; accepted materials totaled just over 100,000 pounds, remaining relatively steady across years.

Plan Recommendations by Sector:

- Residential Curbside Collection: Roll the cart pilot program out citywide in KCK.
- Commercial and Multifamily: Commercial hauler licensing; diversion requirements at Chief Stadium complex; business license requirement for solid waste removal; improving building permits to include enclosures.
- Public Education and Outreach: Continue current education and outreach efforts; address illegal dumping through a public campaign.
- Construction and Demolition (C&D): Lead by example and implement C&D diversion requirements.
- Recycling and Yard Waste Drop-Off Center: Modify acceptance criteria to prohibit overuse by landscapers; enhance site safety and efficiency; consider increasing hours of operation; continue to consider food scrap diversion; continue to explore building an organic/compost facility.
- Dumpster Days: Continue doing the events as they are heavily utilized.
- HHW Facility: Continue monthly collection events; pursue grant funding opportunities; make improvements to facility operations; consider more frequent hours of operation.

The Chairman opened the public hearing. No comments were received. The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Burns moved to adopt the resolution with a fast-track to the July 16, 2026, Board of Commissioners meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hill.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

- Ayes: Hill, Ramirez, Burns, Lopez, Kump
- Nays: None
- Absent: Bradley-Lopez

Item 4.2: ORDINANCE: AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO OPERATION OF A MICRO UTILITY TRUCK (Discussion Begins 18:43)

Aaron Morris, Unified Government Legal Department, presented the proposed ordinance amendment. Mr. Morris explained that the amendment addresses two distinct matters:

1. Housekeeping Update: The ordinance would update the Unified Government's definition of a micro utility truck to match that of the state and includes a state reference to the state's definition.
2. Authorization Mechanism: The state prohibits the use and operation of micro utility trucks unless authorized by the city. The current Unified Government ordinance states that micro utility trucks are unlawful unless authorized by the Unified Government; however, no procedure for authorization was ever created. The proposed ordinance amendment would remove the "unless authorized by the Unified Government" language and instead allow the use of micro utility trucks within the bounds of the city so long as they comply with state-required equipment statutes, the driver possesses a valid driver's license, and the vehicle is insured.

The Chairman opened the public hearing. No comments were received. The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Ramirez moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

- Ayes: Hill, Ramirez, Burns, Lopez, Kump
- Nays: None
- Absent: Bradley-Lopez

Item 4.3: PRESENTATION: DESIRE FOR A SIDEWALK (Discussion Begins 24:29)

Avery Jones, Community Organizer, BikeWalkKC, and Ellen Edgar, President, Friendship Heights Neighborhood Association, jointly presented on the topic of traffic safety and the desire for sidewalk infrastructure in the Friendship Heights neighborhood of KCK, located in the Third District near T. A. Edison Elementary School.

Avery Jones introduced BikeWalkKC's mission as making the metro a place where people do not have to drive to thrive, where streets are safer, and where pedestrian and cyclist fatalities are reduced. She noted that BikeWalkKC worked with T. A. Edison throughout the year, including teaching children how to ride bikes in gym classes, teaching pedestrian safety and crosswalk safety, and working with parents and residents on advocacy for safer streets.

Ellen Edgar explained that the Friendship Heights Neighborhood Association was newly formed through Livable Neighborhoods KC and coalesced largely around the safety issue on Locust Street, which is the main thoroughfare used by children, school buses, parents, and walkers to access the school and nearby apartment complexes. Ms. Edgar noted that no children were biking to school despite interest from students and a facility to store bikes safely. She described initiating a bike bus, which began small and grew during the school year. She noted applying previously for a Safe Routes to School Kansas grant, which was not awarded, but which led to a connection with BikeWalkKC. Ms. Edgar described working for approximately one year to develop the neighborhood association and promote walking safety on the way to school.

Avery Jones highlighted a bike-to-school day in the spring, during which approximately 50 students rode bikes. She described the primary ask as a sidewalk on Locust Street from South 10th Street to South 9th Place, noting that students currently walk in groups on the side of the road, in ditches, and on the edges of private yards, navigating traffic on a hilly stretch with limited sightlines. She noted that three priorities had been identified: (1) a sidewalk on the identified stretch of Locust, (2) an eventual complete sidewalk network to improve connectivity, and (3) addressing dangerous intersections identified through resident surveys, particularly the intersection at Ninth and Locust, where speeding and near-misses with pedestrians were frequently reported.

Ms. Jones noted that city staff members Devon, Alyssa, and Christopher had met with the group and estimated the cost of the sidewalk at approximately \$40,000 for materials, with additional costs for curb and gutter, labor, and three ADA ramps. She discussed ongoing efforts, including gathering signatures of support from neighbors and continued organizing through the Friendship Heights Neighborhood Association.

Ms. Jones and Ms. Edgar shared that a first-grade student named Xander wrote a letter to Mayor Crystal Watson requesting safer sidewalks, inspired by BikeWalkKC's pedestrian safety programming at the school. Mayor Watson saw the letter on her desk, replied, and invited first graders and other students to observe a sidewalk being poured. This event further energized the community's desire for sidewalk infrastructure in their neighborhood.

The presenters noted that investment in pedestrian infrastructure on the east side of KCK would help to address historic disinvestment in the area. They highlighted that the initiative aligns with emerging Vision Zero and Safe Streets goals in KCK, and noted that pedestrian and cyclist fatalities in the metro have been increasing in 2025 and 2026 even as driver-related crashes have decreased, with children representing a disproportionate number of those victims.

The Chairman opened the public hearing. The following comments were received:

- **Ashlynn Markink (Kansas City, Kansas) (Comments begin at 41:29)**
- **Kathy Freeman (Kansas City, Kansas) (Comments begin at 42:28)**
- **Laura Rowlands (Kansas City, Kansas) (Comments begin at 42:39)**
- **Juliana Ladd (Kansas City, Kansas) (Comments begin at 43:03)**
- **Eva Garcia Meza (Kansas City, Kansas) (Comments begin at 44:52)**
- **Eli Woody (Kansas City, Kansas) (Comments begin at 46:38)**
- **Sammy Edgar (Kansas City, Kansas) (Comments begin at 49:27)**
- **Joseph Garcia (Kansas City, Kansas) (Comments begin at 49:42)**
- **Karen Shibi (Kansas City, Kansas) (Comments begin at 50:21)**
- **Maggie Bender (Kansas City, Kansas) (Comments begin at 51:04)**

The Chairman closed the public hearing.

This item was for information only, and no action was required.

Item 4.4: UPDATE: OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS (Discussion Begins 52:51)

Dr. Shelley Kneuvean, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the opioid settlement funds and their current usage. She explained that following the opioid epidemic, the Kansas Attorney General's office coordinated a state lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies, and cities and counties — including the Unified Government, working with the League of Kansas Municipalities and the Kansas Association of Counties — had the opportunity to participate. A negotiated settlement resulted in pharmaceutical companies agreeing to pay funds to cities and counties for specific purposes related to drug abuse and use, focused on victims and ancillary impacts to families, with an explicit exclusion of enforcement activities.

Dr. Kneuvean noted that the use of funds is heavily regulated, and the Attorney General serves as a state organizing agency that the Unified Government consults to confirm eligibility of planned expenditures. She noted that disbursements began with a small amount in 2022 and 2023, built up in 2024, and began being allocated to county and city initiatives in 2025. She noted that disbursements are erratic, not necessarily consistent, and are based on a formula administered by the Attorney General. Disbursements are expected to continue through 2038 but will decrease substantially over time. A foundation affiliated with the Attorney General's office tracks how funds are being used across all communities, and the Unified Government is required to submit an annual report on fund usage.

Dr. Kneuvean noted that approximately half of all funds received to date have been allocated. She emphasized that the funds will diminish over time and are not a permanent, sustainable funding source, and that the Unified Government has been intentional about pacing expenditures and identifying what will have the most benefit in the community.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed by all participating cities and counties requires that funds be used for victims and education, focused on the prevention side. Crime prevention or law enforcement response is specifically not eligible.

Departments receiving allocations submitted requests annually to the County Administrator, who identifies funding for different initiatives. The Chief Financial Officer then contacts the Attorney General's office to confirm eligibility, and the Commission receives annual updates.

County-Side Departmental Updates:

Community Corrections:

Phil Lockman, Director of Community Corrections, reported that Community Corrections used opioid settlement funds primarily for behavioral health court and drug courts. Fifty-nine individuals under Community Corrections supervision received direct treatment, at an average cost of approximately \$1,100 per person. Mr. Lockman noted that Medicaid beds for drug treatment in Kansas are scarce, with waits of weeks or months, and that without these funds, individuals would have remained in county jail at a cost of \$40 to \$50 per day. Approximately \$45,000 was used for drug testing, which is a required component of drug treatment programs. Training funds were also used to send 18 individuals to a national conference, including two district judges, staff from Mirror Incorporated and Wyandot Behavioral Health, and members of the Community Corrections team.

Dr. Kneuvean noted that the remaining allocated amounts for Community Corrections are intended to continue these programs throughout the year.

Sheriff's Office (Dr. Kneuvean presenting on behalf of Sheriff):

The Sheriff sent his regrets due to a scheduling conflict. Dr. Kneuvean reported that the Sheriff's Office funds a co-responder program with Wyandot Behavioral Health. Of 523 responses during the prior year, approximately 30% were directly related to opioid and drug-related offenses, with indirect relationships present in the remaining cases. The program has been very successful.

District Attorney's Office (Dr. Kneuvean presenting on behalf of District Attorney):

The District Attorney also sent his regrets. Dr. Kneuvean noted that both the Sheriff and the District Attorney are willing to attend a future meeting if the committee desires. Opioid funds were used to fund a victim advocate and a coordinator supporting drug-related cases and drug court activities. The District Attorney's office handled 14 specific opioid cases and 25 drug court cases (not limited to opioids) using these resources.

Wyandotte County Health Department:

Terrie Garrison, Interim Director, Wyandotte County Health Department, reported that the Health Department conducts Narcan community distribution through multiple avenues, including vending machines at various community locations and distribution through the Transit Department for bus riders. Karah Barnes, Substance Misuse Coordinator, added that harm reduction kits and Narcan are available for free at the Health Department, and anyone may walk in to receive Narcan and fentanyl test strips. Ms. Garrison noted that the Health Department has been able to leverage free Narcan doses through a relationship with DECA, which is why expenditures in this category have been lower than anticipated.

Communications Department:

Dr. Kneuvean reported that Communications has a plan for a public education campaign, including billboards and bus wraps, to be launched in the fall. She noted that Communications has been short-staffed and was unable to implement the plan yet. She committed to sharing the campaign details with the Commission upon launch and noted that geographic distribution throughout the community would be ensured, as that had been a prior concern.

City-Side Departmental Updates:**Kansas City, Kansas, Fire Department:**

Mark Heath (Assistant Chief of Emergency Medical Services, Kansas City, Kansas, Fire Department) reported on seven programs funded through 2025 opioid settlement funds:

1. Software to track opioid events geographically, shared with the Health Department and KDHE.
2. Community paramedic program — covering staff hours while the paramedic conducts specific opioid-related outreach work in coordination with the Health and Police Departments.
3. Narcan leave-behind kits — described as \$1.79 makeup kits from Amazon with a sticker applied and Narcan provided at no cost, totaling approximately \$3 per kit. Kits are left at scenes where an overdose has occurred, for family members or community members present, given that a person overdoses an average of two to four times before treatment sticks.

4. Extra Narcan kits for all apparatus — enough for every crew member on every Fire Department apparatus and ambulance in the field, for internal use in the event of an accidental exposure or crew member overdose.
5. Community outreach — covering staff time for public speaking engagements. He noted one speaker is on the national circuit and a video crew has recorded content in Kansas City, Kansas.

Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department:

Major Shane Turner, Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department, provided a brief overview. He noted that the Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department was the first department in the metro area to implement a fentanyl strategy, in which detectives and an Assistant District Attorney respond to every overdose, track overdoses to the dealer/supplier, and pursue search warrants and prosecution. Key statistics since 2023 include:

- 215 search warrants and vehicle takedowns conducted
- 735,000 pills and 134 pounds of powdered fentanyl recovered
- 1,118 illegal firearms recovered
- 19 suspects charged in overdose deaths
- 16 million doses taken off the streets
- \$1.5 million in cash recovered
- Overdose totals: 210 in 2023 (peak), 196 in 2025, 42 so far in 2026

Major Turner also noted that opioid funds were recently used to purchase a TrueNarc machine, which allows officers to identify opioids at the scene without sending samples to a lab, improving response time.

Dr. Kneuvean clarified for the record that opioid settlement funds are not used on the law enforcement/enforcement side; they are used on prevention and victim treatment. She noted the Police statistics demonstrate the magnitude of the community need and context for the overall program.

The Chairman opened the public hearing. No comments were received. The Chairman closed the public hearing.

This item was for information only, and no action was required.

Adjournment: (Discussion Begins 1:18:10)

Commissioner Ramirez moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0

- Ayes: Hill, Ramirez, Burns, Lopez, Kump
- Nays: None
- Absent: Bradley-Lopez

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 PM

BJS