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

REGULAR SESSION
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in regular session Thursday, February 23, 2017, with ten members present: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Walker, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Walters, Commissioner Seventh District; Philbrook, Commissioner Eighth District; and Holland, Mayor/CEO, presiding. Murguia, Commissioner Third District; was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Doug Bach, County Administrator; Gordon Criswell, Joe Connor and Melissa Mundt, Assistant County Administrators; Ken Moore, Chief Legal Counsel; Bridgette Cobbins, Unified Government Clerk; Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer; Debbie Jonscher, Assistant Finance Director; Maureen Mahoney, Assistant to the Mayor/Chief of Staff; Reginald Lindsey, Budget Director; Mike Peterson, Budget; Rick Mikesic, Accounting Director; Wilba Miller, Community Development Director; Chris Slaughter, Land Bank Manager; Charles Brockman; Economic Development; Marlon Goff, Economic Development; and Major Solomon Young, Sergeant-at-Arms.

MAYOR HOLLAND called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Holland.

INVOCATION was given by George Kemper of Welborn Community Church.

Mayor Holland said anyone who is interested in addressing the Commission tonight during the public hearing of the 2018 Unified Government budget, we ask you to please sign up at either door. If you did not sign up on your way in, we'd ask that you move to the door to sign up. You'll be called to speak in the order in which you signed up. I also want to let you know that the Clerk will announce who's speaking, who's on deck. You will be given three minutes to

speak and the Clerk will give you a one minute warning. We ask you to be brief. By the way, you're never required to use all three minutes, but you are welcome to.

Mayor Holland asked the Clerk if there were any revisions to the agenda. **Bridgette Cobbins, Unified Government Clerk,** said yes. A blue sheet has been distributed. Under the Administrator's Agenda, we have additional information for Item No. 1. It's a resolution regarding the Kansas State Historic Preservation Grant Fund for the Quindaro Ruins District.

Mayor Holland said, Commissioner Markley, you have an announcement about a special recognition tonight. **Commissioner Markley** said yes. I just wanted to mention that Commissioner Johnson has taken on the Treasurer's position on the MARC Board. I wanted everyone to know that and to recognize that. We're very excited for someone on our Commission to have taken that leadership role. Congratulations to Commissioner Johnson. **Mayor Holland** said that is the Mid-America Regional Council Board.

MAYOR'S AGENDA

ITEM NO. 1 – 17978…APPOINTEES: WITNESS DESTRUCTION OF ELECTION BALLOTS

Synopsis: Appointing Commissioners Mike Kane and Angela Markley to witness the destruction of election ballots on March 29, 2017, that no longer need to be retained.

Mayor Holland said this is a regular exercise required by State law.

Action: **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were nine "Ayes," Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Holland asked if anyone in attendance tonight or any commissioner or staff member would like to set aside an item from tonight's Consent Agenda. If you would like to set an item aside, please step forward to the microphone. Any item not set aside will be voted on by a single vote. Let the record show no one is moving to set an item aside.

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve the Consent Agenda**. Roll call was taken and there were nine "Ayes," Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters.

ITEM NO. 1 – 17976…RESOLUTION: ESTABLISH SCHEDULE FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATES

Synopsis: A resolution establishing a regular schedule of the Unified Government Commission meeting dates and times from April 20, 2017 through January 31, 2018, submitted by Ken Moore, Chief Counsel.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-13-17,** "A resolution establishing a regular schedule of the Unified Government Commission meeting dates and times from April 20, 2017 through January 31, 2018, and repealing that portion of Resolution No. R-27-15 which conflicts with this resolution." **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to adopt the resolution**. Roll call was taken and there were nine "Ayes," Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters.

ITEM NO. 2 – 17959…RESOLUTION: SHARED COSTS FOR 47TH ST. IMPROVEMENTS

Synopsis: A resolution authorizing an agreement with the City of Overland Park, KS, to cooperate and share costs while making public improvements along 47th St., submitted by Misty Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel. On February 13, 2017, the Public Works and Safety Standing

Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-14-17,** "A resolution authorizing the approval of the agreement between the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas and the City of Overland Park, Kansas, for the public improvement of 47th Street from the east side of Antioch Road to 1800 feet east of Antioch Road, and 47th Street from 200 feet west of Conser Street to the north side of Merriam Drive (MR-1764)." **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to adopt the resolution.** Roll call was taken and there were nine "Ayes," Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters.

ITEM NO. 3 – 17967…REQUEST: PROCEDURES FOR TRANSCRIBING PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

Synopsis: Procedures for transcribing minutes for the Board of Zoning Appeals, City Planning Commission and Kansas City, Kansas Landmarks Commission, submitted by Robin Richardson, Director of Planning. On February 13, 2017, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Markley, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full commission.

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were nine "Ayes," Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters.

ITEM NO. 4 – 17974…PLAT: PARALLEL PLACE

Synopsis: Plat of Parallel Place, located at 86th and Parallel Parkway, being developed by Reddy Development, submitted by Brent Thompson, County Surveyor, and Wayne Moody, Interim County Engineer.

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve and authorize Mayor to sign plat.** Roll call was taken and there were nine "Ayes," Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters.

ITEM NO. 5 – 17971…NOMINATIONS: BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Synopsis: Nominations for Boards and Commissions:

Victoria Meyer to Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board, 2/23/17 – 3/31/20, submitted by Commissioner Murguia

Jerrold Childress to Board of Planning and Zoning Appeals, 2/23/17 – 3/31/18, submitted by Commissioner Walters

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were nine "Ayes," Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters.

ITEM NO. 6 – MINUTES

Synopsis: Minutes from regular sessions of December 15, 2016, January 5 and February 2, 2017; and special session of January 26, 2017.

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were nine "Ayes," Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters.

ITEM NO. 7 – WEEKLY BUSINESS MATERIAL

Synopsis: Weekly business material dated February 2 and 9, 2017.

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to receive and file.** Roll call was taken and there were nine "Ayes," Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters.

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

ITEM NO. 1 – 17962…ANNOUNCEMENT: AWARD FOR CAFR

Synopsis: Announcement of the Award of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year ended December 31, 2015.

Doug Bach, County Administrator, said the Government Finance Officers Association is a professional association serving over 17,000 government finance professionals across the United States and Canada. The organization has awarded the Unified Government the Certificate of Achievement for its 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report or CAFR. This is the highest form of recognition for financial reporting and the GFOA considers this a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

In order to be selected, the CAFR is determined by an impartial panel to meet the highest standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure. Clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR. This is the 17th consecutive year the Unified Government has achieved this award. The Mayor has this this evening to present to our Director of Accounting Rick Mikesic.

Action: Presentation was made.

ITEM NO. 2 – 17977…PUBLIC HEARING: 2018 PROPOSED UNIFIED GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BUDGETS

Synopsis: Conduct the first public hearing to receive citizen comments on:

- UG 2018 Proposed Operating and Capital Budget
- Community Development 2018 Budget

Mayor Holland said I want to say just a word about this process. For years and years, and I've been up here since 2007, we would have a public budget hearing, which is required by state law, the night that we would vote on the budget or two days before when really there was not much room for revision. That was moved to May so we could hear in advance of the budget session. One of the things we learned that there wasn't adequate time even to consider that.

Four years ago, I believe Commissioners Markley and McKiernan, fed up with said process, came up with a new plan and said we need to invite the public to speak. As we did the backward counting back in February so that whatever impact came from public input, could be properly discerned by the organization and by the commissioners so there would actually be due consideration for it.

Our budget—you'll see the calendar for our budget process, but this really begins the budget process and backs it up three months for proper consideration of public input. We still do hold the public hearing, as required by public law, right before the vote because we obviously are going to fulfill the law. This opportunity here really gives more opportunity for input.

We will take your input and the staff's response to it into our annual financial retreat, which will be April 20, that the Commission will have. That is a public meeting. It will be televised. It will be a meeting on Thursday, April 20, where we will take consideration of looking at our financial forecast that we heard at 5:00, looking at the input from the public, the input from the staff, and really begin to work the budget.

We used to do the whole budget in three weeks. We now do the whole budget in six months. It's turned out to be a much better process. I appreciate the commissioners, all of the Commission ongoing commitment to this process, but we are ready to open it up to the public for your input.

I'll turn it over to Mr. Bach to begin this presentation. We do have a few slides of presentation so you all can have a big picture of what our budget looks like and then we will listen to your input as long as that takes.

Public Hearing
February 23, 2017

FINANCE

2018 Budget Process

2017-18 Community Development Budget

Mr. Bach said it is a pleasure to have everyone her. As the Mayor said, we do have a fairly lengthy budget process that we get into.

PROPOSED 2018 BUDGET CALENDAR
FOR 2017
PRELIMINARY

Board of Commissioners Budget Planning	
November 28, 2016	Review of CMIP Projects - Public Works & Safety Standing Committee
November 5, 2016 (9AM-3PM)	Commission Strategic Planning Session
2018 Board of Commission Budget Planning	
February 23, 2017 (Thursday)	Special Session - Long Range Financial Planning (5PM)
February 23, 2017 (Thursday)	2018 Budget Public Hearing (7PM)
April 20, 2017 (Thursday)	Commission Retreat
May 2017	CMIP – Committee of the Whole workshops
June 2017	Administration 3 x 3 with Commission (Budget forecast/input)
County Administrator's Proposed 2018 Budget Presentation/Workshops	
July 6, 2017 (Thursday)	County Administrator's Budget Presentation (5PM)
July (Mondays & Thursdays)	Budget Workshops
July 10, 2017	Set Maximum Mill Levy
July 13, 2017	Publish Maximum Mill Levy
July 24, 2017	2nd 2018 Budget Public Hearing (5PM)
July 27, 2017	Budget Adoption (7PM)

FINANCE

As you can see by the calendar on the wall, we actually started last November when we started going through and reviewing our CMIP projects, looking at capital projects across the community, and projecting forward what we're going to be doing in the coming years. Then we

meet in a strategic planning session, and that's more of a goal setting by the Commission where we review and work on that as we move forward.

That takes us up to where we started today, earlier in special session, and looked at our long-range strategic financial planning. We had an hour presentation and discussion on that. Now we move to where we are this evening to where we have a public hearing. This is an opportunity for you all, members of the public, to come forward and express different initiatives or ideas that they see regarding the way we spend our budget, public budget, as we build it.

My staff really gets very active in the next month from this point through the month of March and into April as they build their budgets that will come forward that the Commission starts to consider. As the Mayor said, we then go to a Commission retreat on the 20th, which is really the Commission's opportunity to weigh ideas that are brought forward tonight, weigh different ideas that staff has brought forward as we mold them to give me direction so I can go back and try to formulate all the different programs and put together to then later present as a budget on July 6th of this year.

I'll also note, as part of this hearing, we welcome public input regarding the 2017-2018 Community Development budget. However, the Community Development staff will be meeting with the governing body separately on March 20th to determine the CDBG process for this year. In addition, Community Development will have a specific public hearing on Thursday, April 6, at 7:00 p.m. to come forward and go specifically regarding the Community Development Program. We still welcome those ideas at this meeting and we'd like to have it.

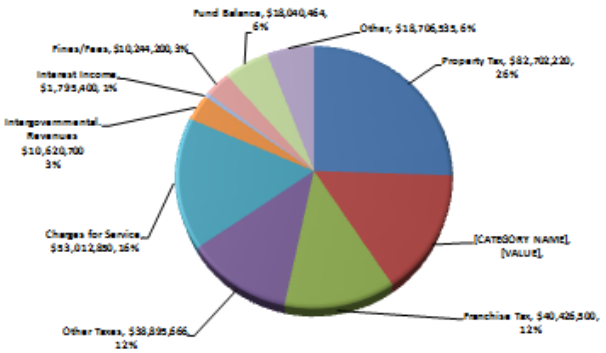
At this time, I'd like to introduce Reginald Lindsey, our Budget Director. He will begin the presentation along with our Chief Financial Officer Kathleen VonAchen. They will go through a few slides regarding really how we get into and what's in our 2017 Budget.

FINANCE

2017 Budget

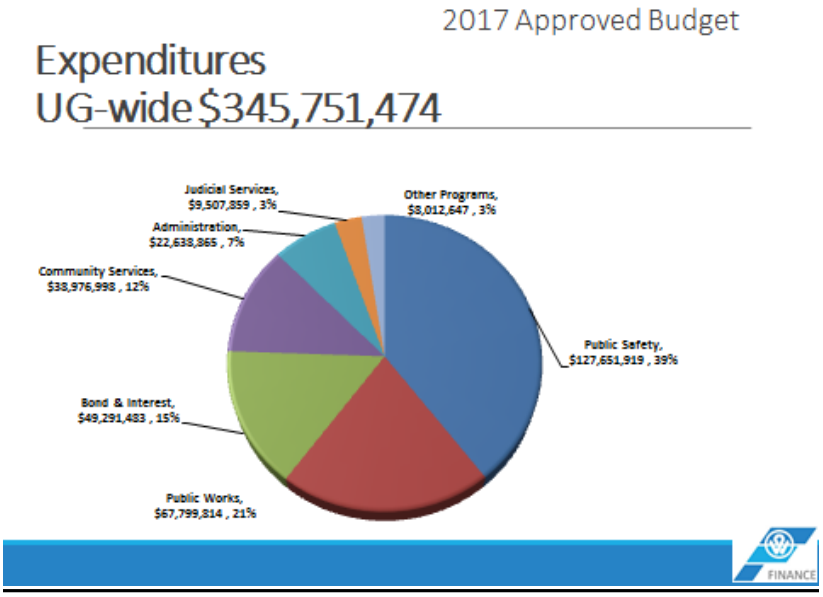
2017 Approved Budget

Revenues
UG-wide $345,751,474

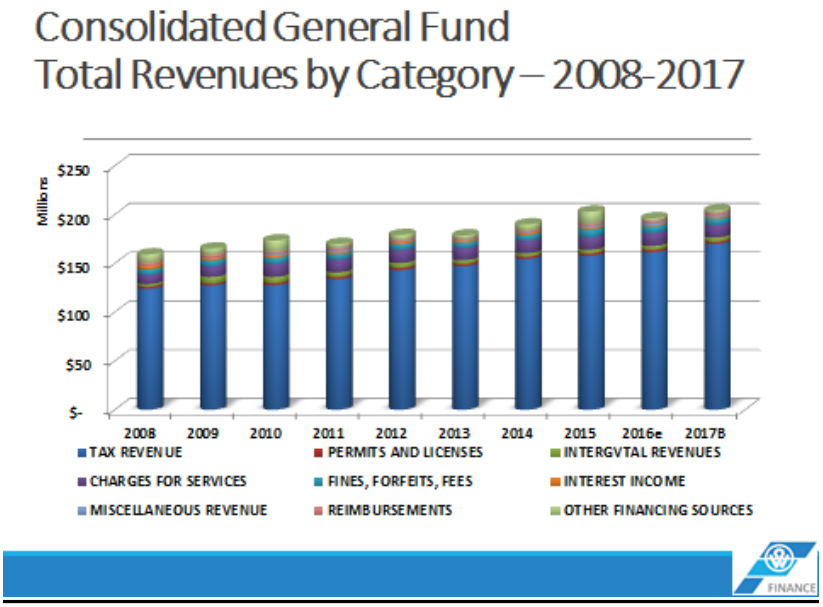


FINANCE

Reginald Lindsey, Budget Director, stated last July we approved a $345M budget that includes revenues and expenditures that are a balanced budget. The largest portions of the budget on the revenue side are the property taxes, which come in at 26% of the pie and then sales tax which comes in at 19% of the pie, and then we have charges for services which come in at 16% of the pie.



This slide here illustrates the expenditure side of the $345M budget. As we can see, Public Safety is the largest portion of the budget that is funded on the expenditure side at 39%. Then comes Public Works at 21%, then our Bond & Interest Fund at 15%, then a close fourth is Community Services.

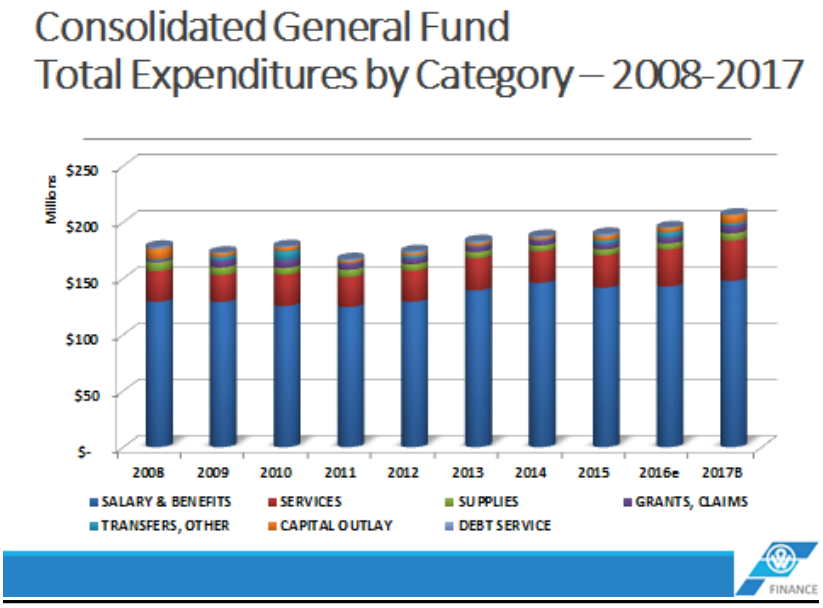


This slide right here illustrates a 10-year historical view of what our Consolidated General Fund Revenue would look like. Our Consolidated General Fund is our City General Fund, our County General Fund, and our Parks and Rec Consolidated Fund all consolidated together.

As we can see with this 10-year historical view, we have total revenues where our tax revenue is our major portion. The total revenues in 2008, just for the whole UG in the General Fund, were $150M. Now that we're in 2017, they're just under $200M.

The tax revenue in 2008 was $124M and now in 2017 it's $169M.

Charges for services, which is our next largest source of revenue, in 2008 was $9.4M. Now in 2017, we are at $12M.



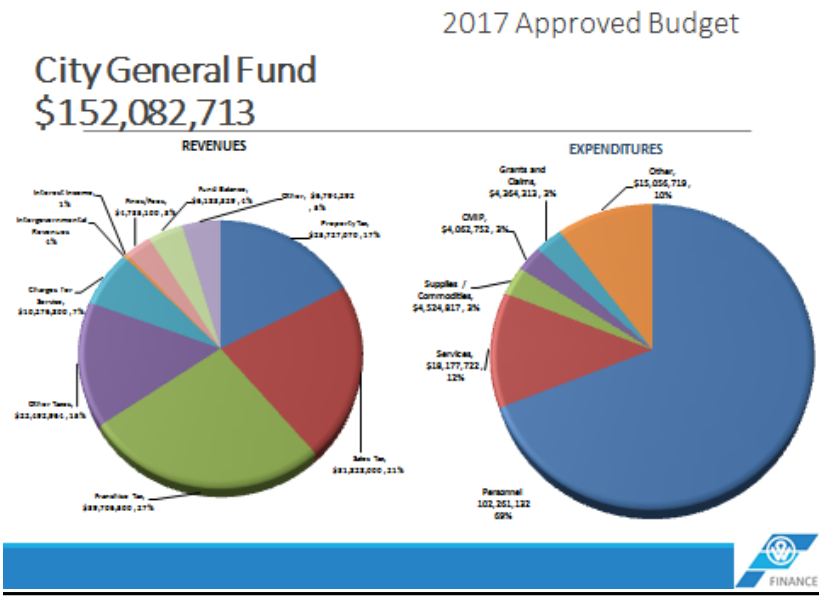
This slide right here illustrates the expenditure side which is the money that goes out when we pay for things. It's looking at a historical 10-year from 2008-2017. Consolidated General Fund expenses that are our largest here are our salary and benefits which in 2008 were $129M now they're $147M in 2017.

Services in 2008 were $27M. In 2009 we dropped to $23M that was during our recessionary period. Now in 2017, our budget is set at $35M.

The next largest expenditure category is our supplies which come in at $7.9M in 2008. The lowest we dropped to was $5.3M in 2014. Now we're at $6.6M which is still lower than we

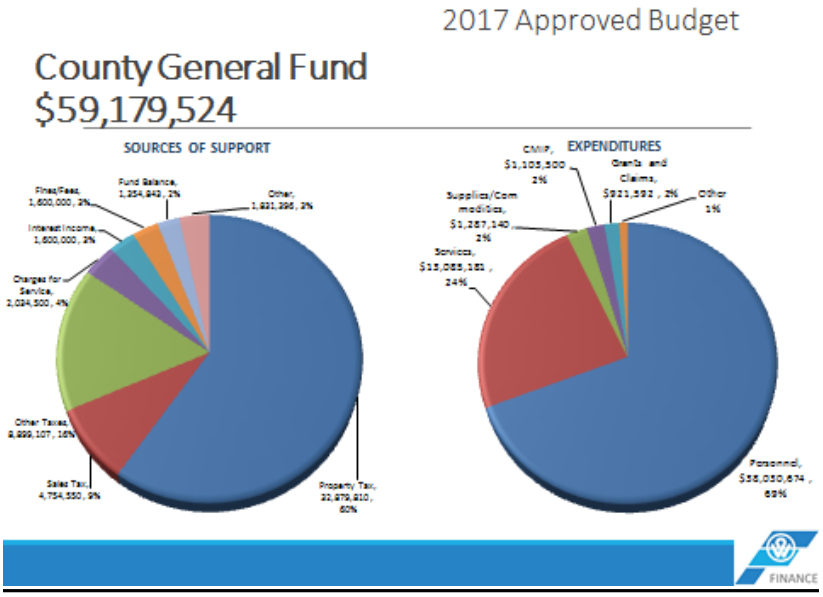
were in 2008. This is where we pay for fuel so fuel is a lot of why expenses haven't gotten back up. We were able to just cut fuel down.

Also capital expenditures in 2008 were $9.2M and they dropped in 2011 to $1.9M. Right now in 2017 we have $7.6M built into the budget.



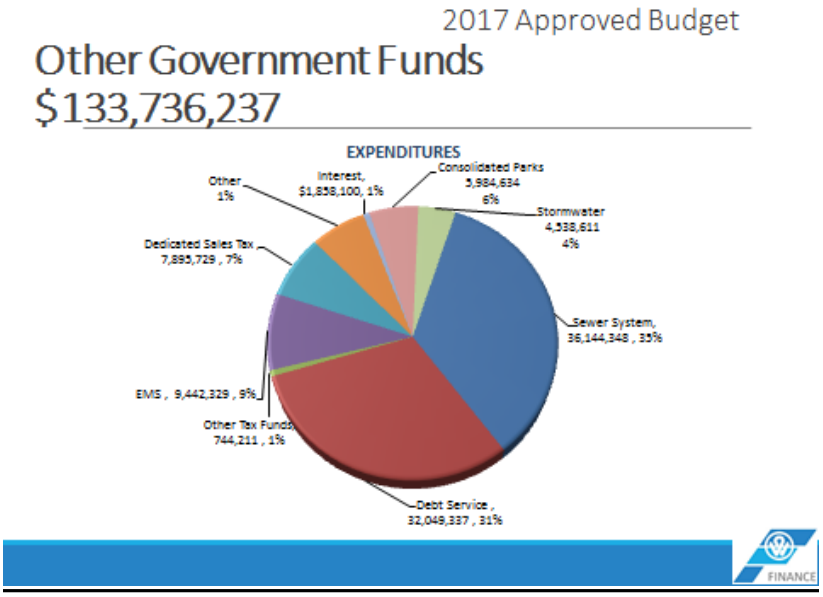
City General Fund is a $152M budget. It has revenues and expenditures balanced on both sides. The largest source of revenue is Franchise Tax which comes in at 27% and Sales Tax which comes in at 21% and Property Tax which comes in at 17%.

On the expenditure side, our largest category of expenditures is our personnel which comes in at 69% and then our services which comes in at 24%.



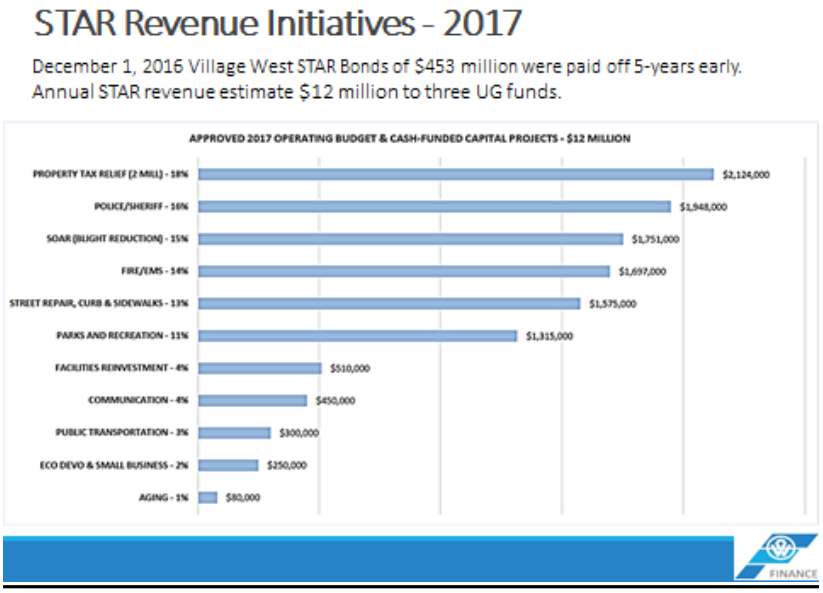
This slide right here breaks down the County General Fund which is a $59M budget. Our largest portion of revenue coming in is property taxes which come in at 60% of total revenue and then our other taxes which comes in at 16%. Other taxes are made up of motor vehicle, sales and use tax, casino tax and a few other taxes. Our sales tax is our next largest portion of revenue in the County General Fund and it comes in at 9%.

On the expenditure side, our largest portion which is pretty common to what we see on the City General side of the expenditure budget is $38M and that's 69% of the budget. They both have, on the city side and the county side, 69% personnel piece of the budget. Also, the next largest piece of services on this side also.



I just went through the City and the County General Fund. We have 29 other funds that make up $133M of the budget. It breaks it out in this pie right here. As we can see, the Sewer System is the largest portion of this pie at 35%, Debt Service at 31%, and also the EMS Fund comes in at 9% and the Dedicated Sales Tax comes in at 7%.

I want to turn it over to our Chief Financial Officer Kathleen VonAchen.



Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer, said the slide I'm going to talk about is a listing of all the STAR Revenue Initiatives. Back on December 1, 2016, about three months ago, the

Unified Government paid off the $453M that was issued 17 years ago for the Village West STAR bonds. They were paid off five years early. As a result, we no longer have to make that $12M debt service payment. As a result, the $12M is now being deposited into our General Fund as well as our Emergency Medical Services Fund and the Dedicated Sales Tax Fund.

The $12M, how it's split up is $9M of it will be deposited between the City and the County General Funds, and then $1.8M of it goes to the Dedicated Sales Tax, and then $1.2M will be deposited to the EMS Fund.

As a result, we went through an extensive process including neighborhood listening tours over the past two years to gain citizen input into how the $12M should be allocated, the new $12M. After that process and the budget process that occurred last summer, the result was that there was a 2 mill property tax reduction which amounted to $2M which is 18% of the $12M. Roughly $2M was spent on Police and Fire operations as well as capital and equipment that was needed. $1.75M was dedicated for various SOAR projects which are sought to reduce blight and to make many other improvements to our community. $1.7M of it is going to the Fire Department and EMS services for equipment and operating. There are street repair and curb and sidewalk repair funding that amounts to $1.6M. We augmented the funding for our Parks and Recreating by $1.3M. The reaming funds go for facilities reinvestment, for improving our communication with the public, enhancing our public transportation system and various economic development and small business initiatives, and the aging. Quite a bit of thought and policy discussions went into this distribution of the $12M.

At this point I think I'm going to pass it back to Reggie. He can talk a little bit about the Citizen Input forms.

Mr. Bach said it's posted out there. We asked you all to come forward this evening to offer your input. This is our website. Also with that we have budget input forms for you to fill out. We ask if you would put that into writing it helps us to kind of—maybe you have more than you want to put into three minutes in presentation this evening to go with what you have. You could put this form forward to us, we ask to get it back my March 3, and then we can go through and digest that and move it forward from that standpoint.

Mayor Holland said if you are not able to download that form, let one of our staff know tonight and we will see that you get a form mailed to you, but we want you to have that.

Mayor Holland said before we open up the public hearing, I want to recognize former City Council Member Chester Owens.

Public Comment

Mayor Holland said that begins our public hearing now. I'm going to turn it over to Ms. Cobbins, our Clerk, to call your name and bring you to the podium and to give you your three minutes of input.

Ms. Cobbins, UG Clerk, read the public hearing statement.

The following appeared:

Edgar Galicia, Executive Director, Central Avenue Betterment Association, 1021 Central, said what brings me here is nothing but Central Avenue. I believe we all know which Avenue has decided not to die. We all know which Avenue in the eastern part of Wyandotte has decided to continue thriving and increasing the amount of businesses that have really made home right here.

It's sad to know that there has been several businesses that have come and wondered around our Avenue and have had to leave the opportunity to come and join us because of the lack of parking that is all throughout the Avenue. The rules and regulations are such that require an extensive amount of parking for each of these businesses that are open or want to open their doors. Several of these entrepreneurs, several of these business owners have had to walk away.

I'm here to request that you take into consideration the infrastructure that is there on the Avenue and first thank you for the improvement and investment that you have made as a county,

as a city, as a Unified Government to the Avenue itself. We need to continue to look at it as what it is. A center of activity that can help our community change the train of mind, the vision and opinion that we, as a community and the greater Kansas City, have of what Wyandotte County is all about. We can change that by improving and making Central Avenue a more friendly and business-oriented site to grow and to spend new fresh dollars into a community.

Kira McConico, Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce, said I'm a 20-year veteran of Wyandotte County and I'm a 12-year entrepreneur of Wyandotte County. I'd like to thank you all for hosting this event tonight for the community to come and have words to say about the budget that's coming up.

During the listening tour, Mayor Mark Holland, you so graciously told us that when big business comes to town, you roll out the red carpet; and when small business comes to town, you roll out the red tape. One glance along Wyandotte County from the Missouri River, really all the way to Providence Medical Center, we can see our county consists of small business owners.

Tonight, on behalf of Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce, we really just want to raise awareness of an existing gap, an absence of combined resources located here in Wyandotte County for small business owners, women owned businesses, as well as minority business entrepreneurs. There are multiple service agencies inside of the Kansas City metro area that provide resources to entrepreneurs, but none of those lie within Wyandotte County. Often times our business owners have to go across the river or to Johnson County to utilize those resources to strengthen their businesses.

Tonight, we will be presenting an initiative to help entrepreneurs to get those resources right here in Wyandotte County. We are asking the Unified Government, along with Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce, explore a ready for business initiative to bring resources to Wyandotte County, to help our entrepreneurs to expand their businesses, to retain jobs, and to grow their businesses.

One last thing we'd like to add, our goal is to stand with the Unified Government in this initiative. We know that you all are very conscious of small business owners and we are wanting to make sure that we partner together on this initiative.

Christal Watson, Heartland Black Chamber of Commerce, said I just want to reiterate the importance of us supporting small business in our community, particularly minority and women. There was a statistic that came out, the Federal Reserve provided some information at the African-American Round Table and shared with us that in Kansas City, Kansas, in 2014, the average annual sale for African-American business was $46,000 in Kansas City, Kansas. White business is 20 times higher than that.

There's a lot that we can do and of course there's enough need for improvement. We would ask that you would consider in your budget plan to allow for some small business initiatives that can help support and strengthen our community. We are a majority and minority. There's great potential from even our youth in our community and we want them to be able to see examples of great entrepreneurs within Wyandotte County, but we need your help to do that. We are way past time in being able to set up programs within the Unified Government. We believe that with your leadership and the partnership of a Chamber, not just with the KCK Chamber, but with the Heartland Black Chamber, we believe we can be successful in growing and helping our minority businesses attain the same wealth as white business does in this community. We greatly ask for your support and continued funding in this area.

Lewis Taylor said I'm here on behalf of McCurry Groceries, 1936 N. 3rd. By the grace of God I was lost in this business and people that I met throughout the years work here in Wyandotte County talked to me right before Thanksgiving and tried to give me some guidance in what to do. Like I said before, I was lost. They sent me down here to talk with someone on the 8th Floor, they sent me to the Budget Department and also told me to come and speak with you guys.

I've come to you all today to ask in the grace of God, McCurry Groceries, we, here—he's gone. Rest his soul. My mom is the only one that's been helping me to try to stay afloat, to keep the building somewhere near together. I made mistakes because I was told not to buy a lot of the sad stories that came about when people say they hungry, they want something, they want this. When you're sitting back there, ladies and gentlemen, and you're telling somebody no when they're hungry and they may got away with doing that, but I know God is good overall. I bought all those excuses and I was told not to. So trying to keep the upbreak in that building has been real hard for me to do. That building is over 111 years-old, I think exactly.

My question is today to you guys, if I could get you all just to consider to give me some kind of support to reestablish that building, get it up for the community again, and get it running to help kids get jobs in the neighborhood—I always try to be a good influence on them because that neighborhood—and I always try to tell them throughout my years to do the right thing, be okay, do the right thing, you'll be alright. I was always good about giving. They come and tell me they need this, they need that. I know I couldn't afford it and I don't want to take much of your all time, but somebody told me to address you guys just like I told them.

Now, I'm in the position now where I need help just to get the building back together again. I'd like to ask that of you. I'd also like to maybe put internet service so they could have WiFi, do stuff for the customers. With you all help, that's what I'm asking this evening.

Chuck Schittler, Executive Director, Downtown Shareholders, 726 Armstrong, Suite 201, KCK, said last December we were awarded the contract as Administrative Agent of the Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District, the SSMID. We're here to ask you to consider and grant the request of the SSMID Advisory Board of an increase in the 2018 Budget that would address needs in the area of marketing, landscaping, radio communications, and general budget.

Mr. Kuluva, Board Chair, will be speaking to you in a few moments. We have each organization presented a letter which I believe the Clerk has distributed to you. I will send those also to your email addresses tomorrow electronically. Again, we would ask that you consider the request, grant request, and we appreciate your consideration very much.

Marcia Rupp, Forty-Sixers, said tonight is about police, police, police. Everybody, I think the Mayor has some meetings that he wanted us to attend. I wasn't able to attend them but I'm sure he knows that's my number one thing and it always has been, the value of human life.

We need more police and we're never going to be caught up. Doug, just keep having the academies. We don't care if there are eight or eleven. Bring in the good police. Everybody here needs them in the neighborhood. Proactive policing is the only thing, you're not going to stop it completely, but it's the only thing that comes close to stopping crime. Putting police in those areas that really need attention and interacting with the people that are in those areas. Maybe even passing out fliers at the police, calling them to a meeting, just sit down and have coffee and

rolls and talk to them. We have to have a police presence in the neighborhood and you can't do that unless you have a lot of police, doing knocks and talks, just interacting with the neighbors.

The other thing I wanted to mention, I've mentioned it before, is Parallel Parkway. It has got to be grind and overlayed. If you don't have the money to do it, I understand. I've been to a lot of budgets, but you can at least go down. I know that the Mayor has to get to his church. It's right where—Parallel is so bad and I'll tell you where it starts. It starts at Providence Hospital coming down through where he lives on Parallel and going right straight to his church and then it just stops right there. Every time you go through a stop sign or you go a little ways, you're going to hit a great big bump where that pavement has worn and it's just horrible.

Another thing I want to say really quickly, I know we have the new SOAR and I think that's going to be great, but making SOAR better would be to listen to the neighborhood watch groups. We have been trying to attend meetings to get landlord training involved, just going after the really bad ones, not the ones that are doing well. Nobody wants to go after—but the really bad landlords that are bringing in the wrong kind of people. We would like you to really push to let us help out SOAR, work together with them, even maybe have a group meet with them, every neighborhood watch meet with them from every area every once in a while.

Mayor Holland said I appreciate your concern for my church, just for the record. The location of my church is not a consideration in our Grind and Overlay Program.

Murrel Bland, 8311 Garfield Avenue, said *Business West* represents some 80 members, mostly small businesses. Property taxes are a major concern for most of our members. One of the major drawbacks in attracting new businesses and new residents is high property taxes. We appreciate the Unified Commission in holding property taxes for 2017. We would certainly hope we can look forward to a mill rate reduction for the 2018 Budget. All taxpayers need a break.

Mayor Holland said, Mr. Bland, with all due respect, I will point out that we did not hold the line in 2017. We reduced it by two mills.

Jerry Jones, 803 Armstrong, said on behalf of the Wyandotte County Safety Net Clinics, some of them are here: Duchene Clinic, Mercy and Truth Medical Mission, Southwest Blvd. Family Health Care, Swope Health, and Wyandotte County Community Health Center, as well as

Riverview Health Services and the Community Health Council. Thank you for this opportunity to address you all tonight.

Tonight, we're here in part because we share a common goal with the Unified Government which is really to maximize the health and wellbeing of our citizens and to improve the quality of life. For many of the folks here in Wyandotte County the only access they have to quality, affordable healthcare is provided by these folks right over here.

In 2016, the Wyandotte County Safety Net Clinics treated 22,994 unique patients. To put that in perspective, in two weeks Sporting KC is going to be hosting FC Dallas. That stadium holds 18,500. Imagine an entire stadium of people who need to be treated for sickness, injury, and disease filling that stadium and then another 4,500 people waiting to get in to see those folks over there. That's how many people the Wyandotte County Safety Net served in 2016. Collectively, we provided a grand total of 57,786 patient visits.

We would love to be able to tell you that business is good, but it's not. We provided topnotch medical care enabling services to each and every patient regardless of their ability to pay. However, the reality is, the Safety Net provides 55% of the patient seen by them last year were uninsured. That's 12,647 people without insurance seeking primary care.

As a Safety Net, we recognize that changes are on the horizon in DC and Topeka and certainty has never been higher. Our patients can't afford that level of uncertainty to access to care here in Kansas City, Kansas.

On behalf of the Wyandotte Safety Net Clinics, we're asking for serious consideration to be given to establishing a line item beginning with the 2018 Budget that would go towards the costs associated to providing medical care and supporting services to the most socially and economically vulnerable patients here in Wyandotte County. Thank you for your attention to this important issue and your commitment to the health of all Wyandotte County residents.

Eugene Jackson, Quindaro Development Corporation DBA the Quindaro Community Center, 2726 Brown Avenue, said for the last three months approximately, members of the Quindaro Development Corporation have been meeting with Commissioners Bynum, Johnson and Townsend. Our meeting has been primarily about the Quindaro area, the Brown Avenue corridor specifically, but tonight we have residents here representing the whole northeast area that are behind me; however, our request remains the same.

We are asking for monies to be added to the Unified Government's General Budget for clean-up, street sweeping, tree topping, and dead tree removal, where necessary, blighted building removal, board up buildings and houses dealt with Code Enforcements of ordinances already on the books that will help bring about revitalization to the northeast area.

On December 15, 2016, members of the Quindaro Development Corporation met with Commissioners Johnson and Bynum and left 20 8 x 10 color photos of properties that were either blighted or boarded up. Since then, we were assured that some of these properties were already on the demolition block.

We ask that you would make your Community Development Block Grants more transparent that deal with roofs, electrical, plumbing, furnaces, and burial removal. A lot of these homes do not have computers in them so the residents don't know that these services exist or how to qualify for assistance. Also, you have at the beginning of the year of 2017, there was $50,000 allotted for minor repairs that's through your Livable Neighborhood Division. We ask again that these programs be allotted to be presented to people that don't have computers. In the coming weeks, the Quindaro Development Committee will be submitting to Commissioner Gayle Townsend programs that we believe will help in this effort.

Mayor Holland said you said a number of people came with you. If there are those of you who came in support of Mr. Jackson who are here but did not choose to speak, if you would stand so we can recognize your presence.

Lynn Kuluva, 833 Minnesota Avenue, said I'm here this evening, as Chuck Schlitter said, as the Chairman of the Advisory Board for the Downtown Improvement District, the SSMID. As Chuck said, we had provided you with our request for funding for the year 2018. I won't take your time to discuss that in detail now. I'm sure we will be doing that over the weeks and months ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly express the appreciation from the Advisory Board and from all of your neighbors downtown for your continuing support for the improvement district both financially and otherwise. Through your assistance and working with the district over the last eight or nine years, we significantly improved downtown. We made it

cleaner and safer. Downtown is now a better place to shop, work, do business, whatever you want to do downtown. That's in the past; we're talking about the future now.

The Commission, very wisely, extended the term of the district through the year 2026. That demonstrates your confidence in us and your commitment to downtown over the next 10 years.

What are we going to do going forward. It's not enough to make downtown clean and safe, now we want to make it attractive, maybe even beautiful. You will be seeing over the next few months over 100 new banners going up on lamp posts downtown, colorful new fresh banners. One side will say "Welcome to Downtown KCK" and the other side will be a celebration of the cultural diversity from all of us working downtown.

The next thing we want to do starting in 2018 is some landscaping. This was part of our initial mission. We didn't have the resources to do it. It's time to do it particularly considering that other things are going to be happening over the next 10 years downtown: the downtown parkway district, Healthy Campus and so forth. We've got to make the rest of the downtown attractive and beautiful as well. It will take time. We want to start in 2018. We want to make downtown one that we will all again be proud of and this time we'll do it without pylons. I just want to see which Commissioners are old enough to remember the pylons.

In conclusion, I want to remind you as I do every year at budget time, the payment that the Unified Government makes to the district is not coming from our local government, it's coming from another property owner within our district, and it's coming from me and all of your other neighbors. Please give our request your serious consideration.

Dr. Stacey Yeager Huddleston said I represent you with a small business owner as well as a parent. There are a couple of things I think that need to be addressed within the budget. First, from the parent perspective. We've talked about crime and how we increased the amount of police presence, but what we do not have is an increase presence in activities for our youth. We need stronger programs through the Department of Parks and Recreation or other departments that will have a strong presence during the summer. An eight or six week program that will encompass a wraparound approach to address our youth as well as our parents will help them to stay on track and avoid getting in trouble during our summertime. There is a lot of strength in

our community with leaders who are willing to lead these summer programs; we just need the avenue and the appropriate channels to support the funding for these programs.

We've had freedom schools these past years; this year is no longer as strong as it was in the past. There are a couple of programs that are available, but they are at high cost. One of them I was just alerted the price is over $250 for one child to attend an eight-week program. As we know, a lot of our citizens cannot afford this so I encourage you to incorporate in your budget, in each area, a place for our youth to go this summer.

Another area I wanted to address was funding for small business owners. I'm your wonderful, awesome Mary Kay Director for this area. I come to you as a business owner. I applied for a business grant. I am an African-American woman with a small business who have a number of consultants in this area. As we know, people with small businesses we also help with finances coming from inside out and Mary Kay is one of the corporations that has been around for over 50 years with a large number of women entrepreneurs pouring back into the community and strengthening the community.

I ask that you would extend the small business grant program to have more money. I was one of those who found out about the program the later part of last year and I was advised by Charles that the funding had run out. I ask that you would please increase that for those owners who are small businesses making an impact in this community who want to see more. Quite honestly, we need to support the community by giving money to those who are within so that we can refurbish that money or pass it on to others.

Carolyn Wyatt, 359 Troup, said I was here last year and it was funded. JFK Recreation Center was funded but there are no programs yet. I'm asking for funds for 2018 hoping that the funds for 2017 will start being implemented. I just wanted to say that I gave a number of programs last year. I kind of knocked it down this year but it's not my job. I don't get paid to do this, but I'm a community person that cares about kids.

There are programs I have here for seniors, arts and crafts for kids, tutoring, ACT workshops for high school students, health and wellness classes, seminars, games and exercise programs for seniors during the mid-day. The building is not being utilized as it should. Other gymnasiums and community centers in our city are well utilized, and we just want to make sure

that the John F. Kennedy Recreation Center—we have a lot of schools in the area, high schools and grade schools. These kids have nowhere to go. It's there for them.

All we need you to do is start implementing the programs. Let the money go. It passed last year so just here on behalf of the community to let the programs get started at the John F. Kennedy Center. Like the lady said, we have these kids. You have kids in your neighborhood, maybe they have programs. Right now at the John F. Kennedy Recreation Center, we got basketball and a few other things. Nothing really that can touch a child that can change his life. We're hoping that the Commissioners will come together on this and let us utilize that building as it should be for the northeast area in Wyandotte County. Basically, that's what I'm here to talk about. We didn't put a budget figure on there because we already know that the funds just need to come in and I have something to pass out.

Chester Owens, 1150 Washington Blvd., said I don't envy you guys because I know what you're going through to get the budget completed. I hear businesses and we need businesses. That's a life blood. I operated a business for 39 years in this city and it's still operating. As a matter of fact, this business is 70 years old. It will be 70 years in October and still operating.

As many of you know, I spend a great deal of time with young people. This is something that I've been very successful with even though I'm an old guy now.

We do a lot of things in our area. Even though we need businesses, I hear a lot of comments today we never must lose sight of people, particularly people in the neighborhoods. I know that you all are concerned about but let me say that I appear before you tonight regarding the budget allocation for John F. Kennedy Center. Some of you may not be aware that JFK was closed for over ten years. In my opinion, of all of the rec centers in Kansas City, Kansas, this is one that never should have been closed, never should have been closed.

It was reopened in 2010 only because of the insistence, and that is putting it mildly, of community members. A process that we took that never should have been allowed to have to take place. I live two blocks from JFK and I am a frequent visitor to the center. It is highly utilized. It should be available to the community every day and every hour that it's open. The youth that live in the area of the center need a place to go for recreation and seem to be a place to exercise and the community needs a place for meetings.

JFK has only one person who does everything. If there is a center that needs all type of programming, it's JFK. The staff person there does an outstanding job. As a matter of fact, I don't know how he's able to do all the things that he does and accomplishes. It is our hope that this center will be treated the same as the other recreation centers and adequate staff is needed now more than ever. Thank you. Good luck on the budget.

Rodney Easterwood, 1000 Quindaro, said thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns here about the Kansas City area. I've been a long-time business owner here in Kansas City. My name is Rodney, better known as Lucky Easterwood. I am the mural painter of this area. I constructed a mural back in 1996 and to this day, people are still posing and have interest in that site.

This thing I thought it would be a program that would continue here in the city, but somehow it got off track and I've painted in several states across the country. I want to bring this project back to Kansas City to compete with cities such as New Orleans, New York, and Chicago. I believe that I can construct murals that have an impact in the city. I know that murals have went out, but somehow the murals I create are different because they tend to inspire and have a message. It creates an interest in the city.

I didn't put this in my budget, but the offspring of this project allowed me to be the ambassador to the arts which means that I go into schools, I speak to the kids who have an interest in the arts. I do a lot of things that is an offspring of this project.

I have three locations that I intend to address in this area. One of them is 5th & Washington. There's a wall there that's about 10 ft. high and about 100 ft. long that is blighted and I want to turn that into a backdrop for the city. I want to turn it into a landmark for the city and also a backdrop for tourists when they come in. As I stated, the mural at 7th & Quindaro they still show interest in that. Even today as I went down to take pictures of that, there was still people there taking pictures. I asked them what was the interest. That's the only thing they have of interest in this community so I want to change that.

There's also a location at 7th & Minnesota at the bus station. There is another revitalization project that I intend to do in this area. I just ask that you would consider this so I can make a big improvement here in the city as we go on with other projects that other citizens here are interested in so we can beautify the city.

America Patton, 1829 N. 33rd St., said I'm here representing the Quindaro Underground Railroad Museum which is known as the Vernon Multi-Purpose Center. Last year I had the privilege of serving as a Kansas Americore Member. One of the non-profit agencies that I adopt as a Americore Member was the Vernon Underground Railroad Museum. Number one reason why I adopted that museum was because I was a lover of history. My under grad was in history at McPherson College. Being an African-American who grew up in this community and did not know about this rich museum, I thought that this would be an awesome opportunity for me to help build this museum.

One of the things that I did during this period is I engaged in an indoor mural with the youth ambassadors and we did phase one of the mural, but it's still not finished yet. While serving there, I also learned that there was a rich amount of history that never had been uncovered at the Underground Railroad Museum.

I spent a great deal of time at Spencer Research Library at KU learning about the documents that were never opened in this museum. One of the individuals I came across was Bishop Vernon. His story is important to this community. I feel that strong museums equal strong communities. People like Bishop Vernon who served as a minister in government, who served as a Treasurer for the United States Government, there's a story that needs to be told not only to this community but to the next generation of leaders. Not only does his story need to be told, it needs to be preserved.

I had the opportunity to work with Mr. Cedric Patton at the museum and one thing that we discussed is that this school, which used to be known as the Vernon Elementary School, it was never integrated. The location of this area doesn't get a lot of visitors. We're asking if you guys could come up with innovative solutions to help attract people to this museum to get people to come to that area, because it's known as a historical landmark. Right down the street is the Underground Railroad where John Brown brought many slaves to freedom. If this story is buried and the stories of Quindaro are buried, I feel that our next generation of leaders is going to be doomed to repeat history.

Mayor Holland said I just want to say on behalf of the entire Commission how appreciative we are of you taking time out of your evening to come out and to share your views with the Board of

Commissioners. Public input matters and we appreciate your taking your time to come out tonight. You are welcome to stay for the remainder of our meeting.

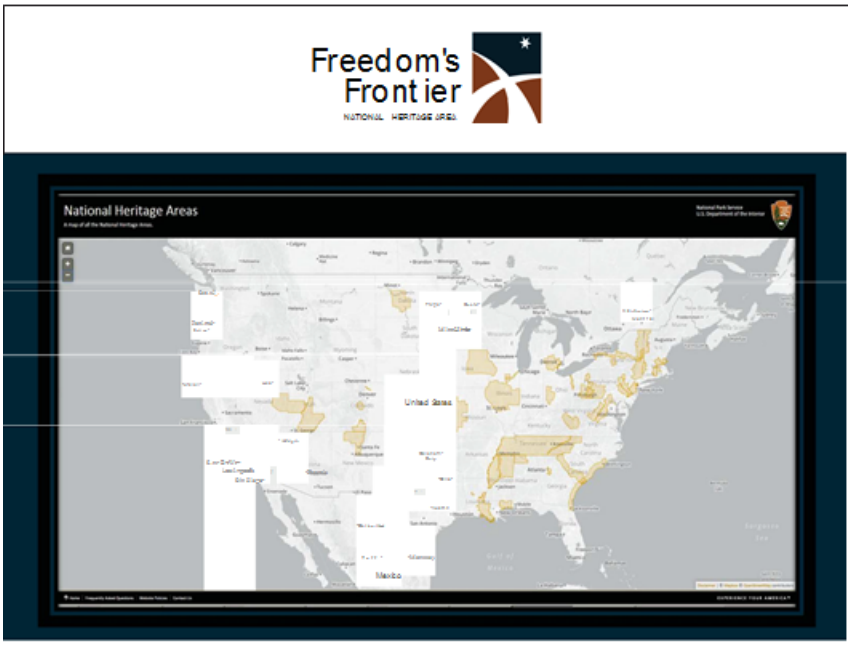
STANDING COMMITTEES' AGENDA

No items

ADMINISTRATOR'S AGENDA

ITEM NO. 1 – 17972…RESOLUTION: KANSAS STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT FUND FOR QUINDARO RUINS DISTRICT

Synopsis: A resolution of support of a local initiative aimed at qualifying the area for National Historic Landmark status with the National Parks Service, submitted by Marlon Goff, Economic Development.



Marlon Goff, Interim Economic Development Director, said the action item before you tonight is a resolution authorizing the staff to submit an application to the Kansas Historical Society. That green application would be in partnership with an organization called Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area.

Assistant County Administrator Criswell and our Parks and Recreation Director Jeremy Rogers and I, we hosted a series of informational meetings with this group over the past year. We were made aware of their work with a local group of citizens, business owners, and community stakeholders around the Quindaro Ruins District. Essentially, that group has been working towards the pursuit of national historic landmarks status for the district.

Freedom Frontier, based in Lawrence, Kansas, has their Executive Director here tonight as well as members of their staff and Board members who will present here shorty.

I wanted to make the governing body aware of this opportunity. We just recently found out about the grant opportunity so that's why this item is here before you tonight. Typically, we'll track these items through our standing committee. There is a time sensitivity with the grant deadline.

I'm going to introduce Mr. Jim Ogle with Freedom's Frontier who will not only talk about their organization, but more importantly, the work they've already been doing in the community for the better part of the last two years and then specifically about this grant opportunity which will assist them in that effort of pursuing that historic landmark status.

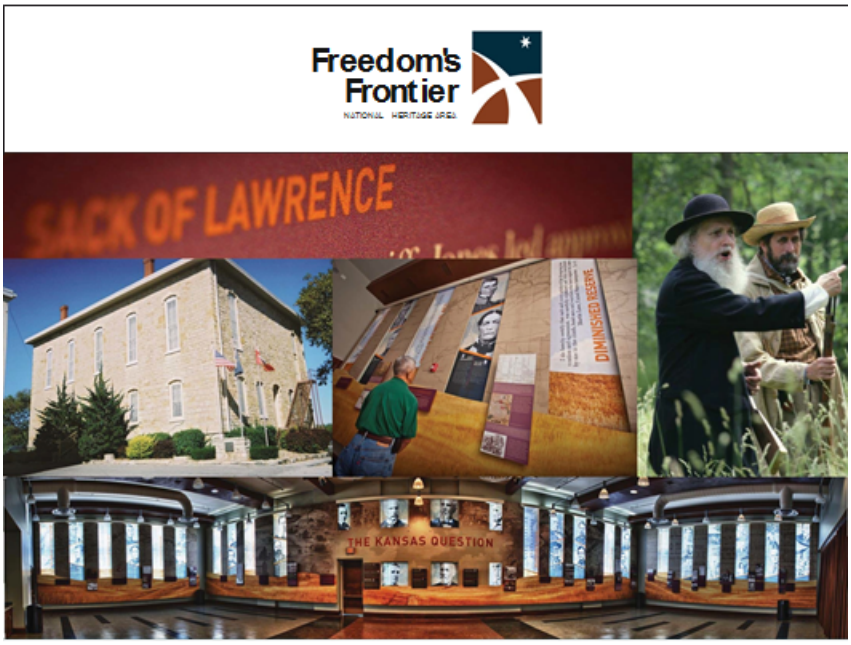
Freedom's Frontier NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Background

The National Park Service provides technical assistance as well as financial assistance for a limited number of years following designation.

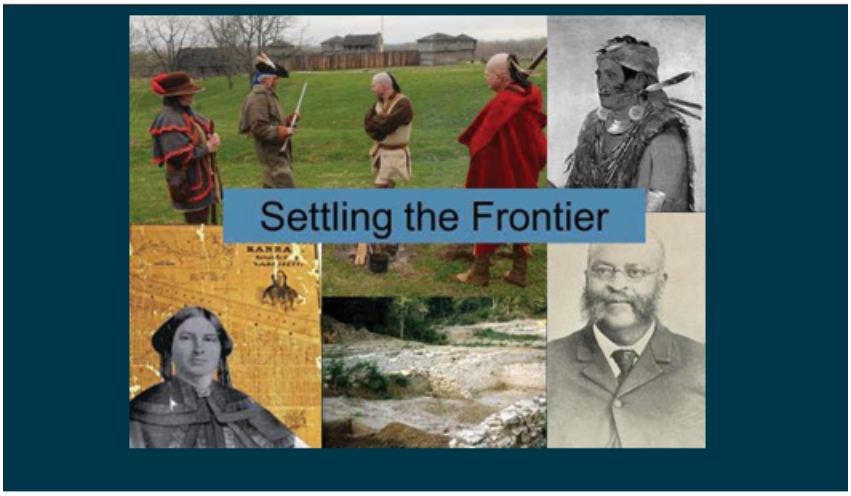
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Freedom's Frontier NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA


Freedom's Frontier
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
SACK OF LAWRENCE
DIMINISHED RESERVE
THE KANSAS QUESTION

Freedom's Frontier
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
Missouri/Kansas Border War

Freedom's Frontier
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



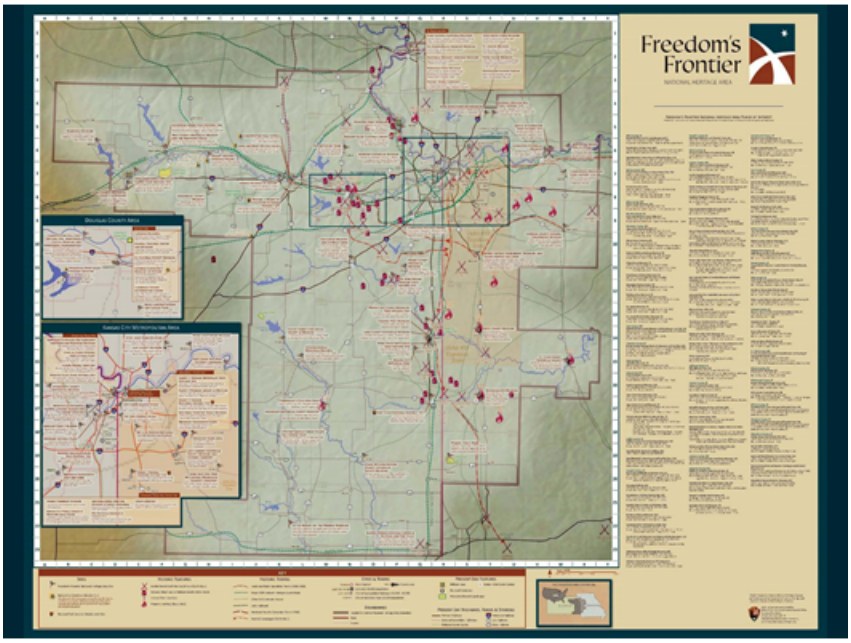
Freedom's Frontier
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

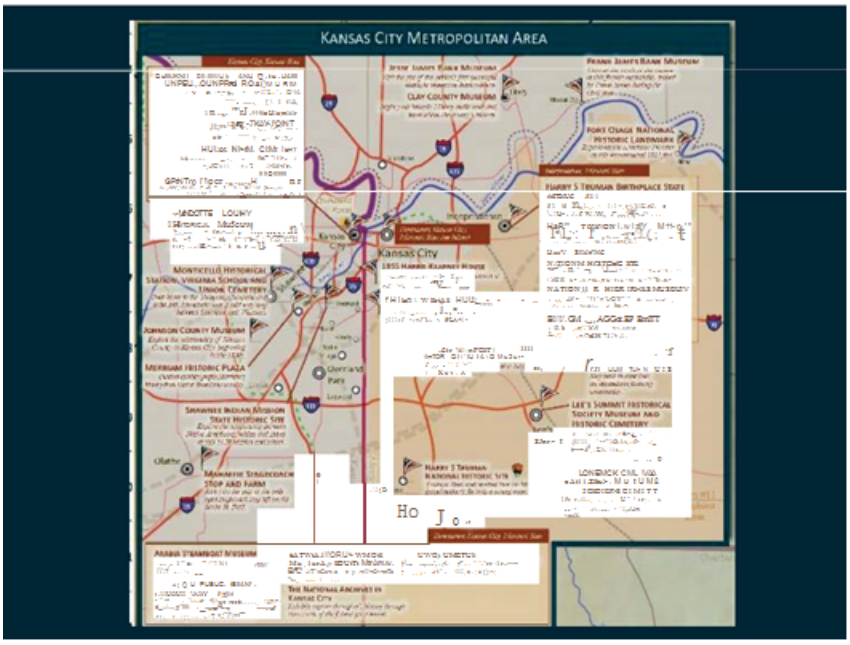
Jim Ogle, Executive Director, Freedom's Frontier, I must admit I wasn't given any training on your computer so I hope I do this correctly. A couple of my staff members will be joining me in this presentation. Julie McPike is our Managing Director and Liz Hobson is in charge of our Education Interpretative Grants. They have a variety of materials we want to leave you with here today. As part of what we're trying to do to educate you about what it is that we do. I'm pleased to be joined by three of the members of the Board of Directors of Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area. Janet English who is the Principal Chief of the Wyandotte Nation of Kansas, Craig Patterson of CP & Associates Architects & Planners, and Luther Smith who is Director of the Quindaro Underground Railroad Museum. I also want to call attention to Marvin Robinson who probably, as much as anybody else, has maintained this fire and enthusiasm for moving forward and remembering the importance of the Quindaro area.

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area is one of 49. You see them outlined on the map and we also happen to be one of the largest. Three million people are covered by the area. We serve 30,000 sq. miles. We're affiliated with the National Park Service which provides technical assistance and financial assistance for us as part of our designation. You can see the outline of the counties here that we serve: 29 in Kansas, including Wyandotte, and of course 12 in the state Missouri.

We tell a number of stories with the federal government when they passed the legislation that established us said that our three stories of significance are the Missouri-Kansas border war,

settling of the frontier, and the enduring struggle for freedom. We operate on a partnership basis with the diversity of partners, more than 150 throughout the area. We're very fortunate that those partners can receive this variety of different support purposes throughout what we do. I'm very excited to showcase who those partners are. I want to invite Julie to come up and tell you what we've been doing in association with the Quindaro area.





Julie McPike, Managing Director, said Freedom's Frontier was established in 2006 by a piece of federal legislation. As Jim said, these counties in the outline here. Ever since the beginning of the Heritage Area, we've recognized the importance of the history here in Wyandotte County and also especially the history at Quindaro.

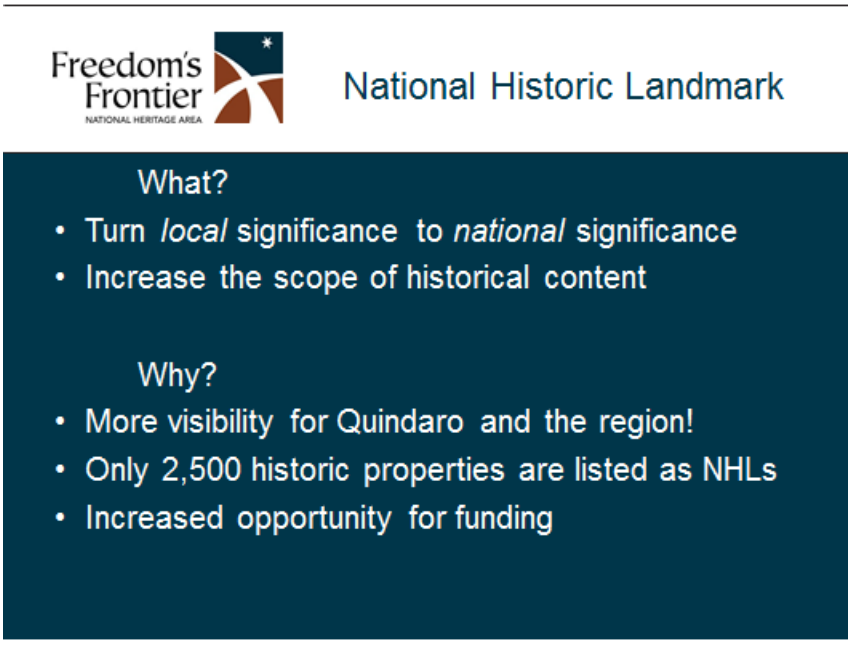
If you drill down close, you can see a number of sites around the Quindaro area are part of the story of Freedom's Frontier as we recognize them on our map. Our relationship with these stories and with this site has gone back to 2006 and even before then as we were working to gain the federal designation.

Our work on this project really started in August 2015. The Rivers Trails Conservation Association (RTCA), which is a program of the Park Service, came and had a public meeting at the Quindaro Overlook. The RTCA gentleman, who is in the mid-west regional office Brian Leaders, called me and invited me to come to the Overlook to the meeting because both of us having an affiliation with the Park Service he wanted to be sure that Freedom's Frontier was plugged into anything that might happen in the future of the sight. This was a really great meeting. About 30 community members came out and talked to Brian about the significance of the site.

Brian went back to Omaha and looked at some different options as to what the Park Service might be able to do with the site and with the partners here. His recommendation back

to us was a national historic landmark designation for the site. Since then, Freedom's Frontier has been working with this group of stakeholders to get us to that point.

We had a follow-up meeting in December 2015 at the Allen Chapel AME Church with that same group of stakeholders and invited to talk more about what national historic landmark designation means and also to talk about a vision for the site moving forward. Liz is going to take over.



Liz Hobson, Education and Interpretation Manager, said after the follow-up meeting, we kind of—at this meeting, we kind of talked more about what is a national historic landmark and what does that status mean. Currently, the ruins and the town site, they are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Both of these are kept by the Park Service. A national register designates the local significance by a huge amount. It's saying that it should be preserved and the story is very significant to the area. To bump it up to a national historic landmark is saying that there's a national significance; that the area is not only important to the region, but more to the entire country and our nation's story.

We thought that this was a great opportunity for the Quindaro area because their story, the story there is so significant to the nation, not just regionally. By doing this project, we are going to increase the scope of the historical content.

To back up a little bit, we did put in the first step of this process. It is a very lengthy process. There are a lot of reviews and edits with the Park Service that you go through. The first step was completed in late 2015 and that was actually writing a letter of your interest to the Park Service saying that you think this is nationally significant and can we do this.

They actually wrote back. We received their response in January 2017 and they consulted with the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office as well as the community members, the Wyandotte Nation of Kansas. Everybody who has been involved with this project received this letter saying yes, we, the Park Service, believe that this is a valid step to go to to become a national historic landmark. They did have a very clear outline for us going forward that the story that's in the 2002 National Register Nomination is not just the only story, it needs to be broader, widened, and to really make it shine like the story should.

So pursuing this, now we have the Park Service saying yes it's worthy. It's going to bring more visibility for the region. There's only 2,500 properties listed as national historic landmarks while there are a much larger number of national register numbers. I should have that too. It's very distinct to be designated a national historic landmark versus just a property on the national register.

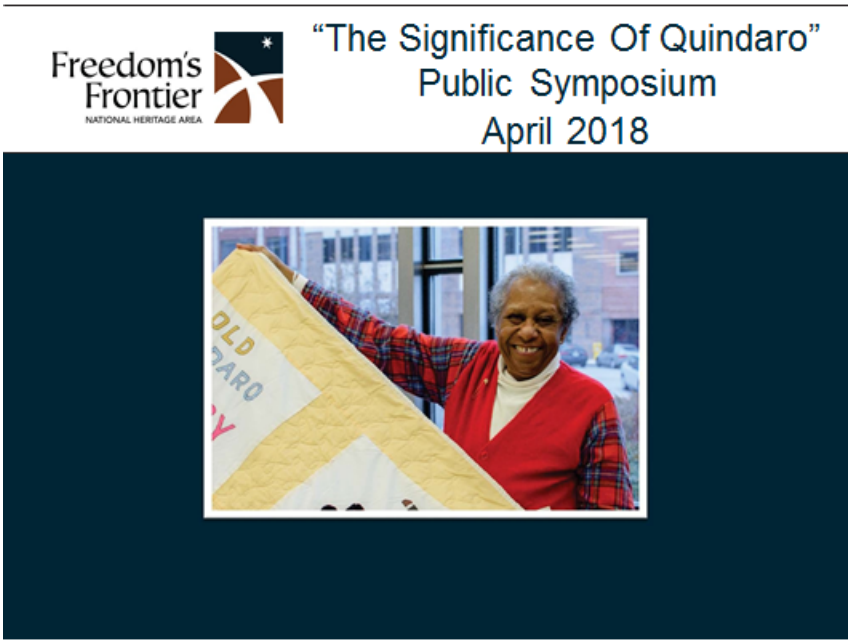
This also could bring increased opportunity for funding. There's different grants, there's different tax incentives and you can get more opportunities for technical assistance if you're listed as a national historic landmark.

When it comes to the visibility, the National Park Service does like to showcase the sites that are listed on the national historic landmark by putting them in magazines, doing more research on them, but also the educational aspect. With Freedom's Frontier, we already do a series of lesson plans that are modeled after the Park Service lesson plans. If this were to be listed as a landmark, there's a good chance that the Park Service could also develop some lesson plans and really start broadening the reach of the story so kids in California could then learn about the stories of Quindaro.

After that first meeting when we all agreed that this was the step to go and that the Park Service was going to be onboard, we began forming committees of these various stakeholders that Julie mentioned and community members, collections committees, interpretive committees, preservation just kind of talking about the different things that we could do knowing that there was so much story that we still wanted to tell and that wasn't already out there. We wanted to just start getting everybody together who had all this passion and start coming up with some ideas. They've been really successful, we've had people find new research items and artifacts, but we've also gotten together and realized that the community of Quindaro is getting older, the residents. We wanted to sit down and talk with them and really capture their stories.

Freedom's Frontier actually partnered with the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library and started offering a Quindaro Oral History Project. We didn't know what the success would be of it. We just kind of wanted to get the word out there that the library has resources that can record your memories and record your stories at any time. So we thought we'll just have it on a Saturday and see what happens. We actually had nine interviews that Saturday that just happened in February. We had volunteers to transcribe them and to use them. They'll be on the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library website.

We're hoping that all of these projects—and then they had some people actually bring in documents that some people had never seen so we were able to take pictures of them and made sure we knew where to find them. We're hoping that all of this information that we are gathering can then help us elevate to the next level of this national historic landmark.



Freedom's Frontier is going to be hosting a public symposium entitled "The Significance Of Quindaro." What we envision with this is that we would actually compile all of that research that's been doing and going on and actually take what we hope to be the consultant that this grant would help fund, which I'll get to in a moment, but really sharing it with the public so that there's record of the public being able to see all of the great stories and things that haven't been shared before.

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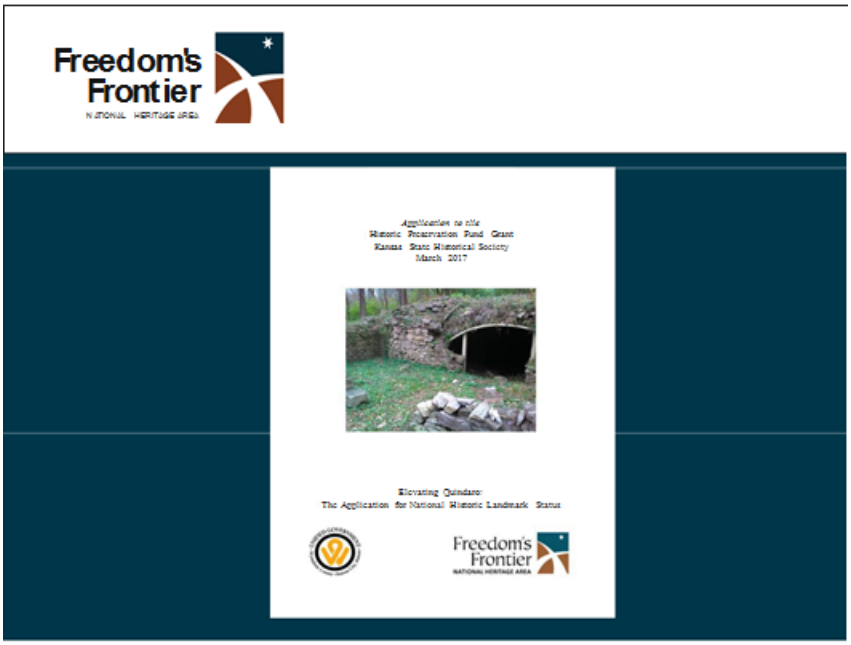

All of this work has been really helpful and really productive, but none of the groups that we've mentioned or Freedom's Frontier really has the time and resources to put into the next steps of this application for the national historic landmark. We can work together and find all of this stuff, but it's a very lengthy process to develop the application. What the National Park Service suggested to us was to work with a consultant to come in and have them really take the time and develop the application for the national historic landmark.

The grant that was passed out to you as well, that is a draft of what we would submit to the Kansas State Historic Preservation Fund Grant. This grant is requesting the $15,000 to hire a consultant to work on this project for the next year and then, in turn, finalize the application to the Park Service.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-15-17,** "A resolution authorizing the execution of a grant agreement with Freedom's Frontier and the Kansas State Historical Society to record a living history of the Quindaro neighborhood to preserve a record of the lives and events that have shaped this neighborhood." **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to adopt the resolution.**

Commissioner Bynum said I just want to verify the blue sheet and the documents that we have. It's a resolution for a Kansas State Historic Preservation Grant Fund, but it's actually a request for a national—that's what I want to know. What are we approving? **Mr. Goff** said the action item before you for approval is a resolution. The resolution will authorize staff to submit the application on behalf of the Unified Government. **Commissioner Bynum** said there's no grant involved. **Mr. Goff** said it is. The granting agency is the Kansas Historical Society. The Unified Government would be the applicant and Freedom's Frontier would be our administrative agent for the grant. Essentially, there is precedent for this. We've done this with Downtown Shareholders, for example recently, where we'll apply for the grants. We'll lend our capacity to pursue the grant, if the Historical Society awards it, Freedom's Frontier then functions as our technical assistant to administer the grant.

Commissioner Townsend said I just wanted to say, I guess the timing of this was really preteritua tonight that it dovetailed with the presence here of many residents and concerned citizens who live and work or have some other connection with the Quindaro area. You heard residents and representatives from the Quindaro Development Corporation tonight ask for particular monies in the budget to do what we should already be doing: upkeep, code enforcement, and demolition to make that area look better. This is just another reason tonight of why that type of money should be put in the budget.

I'm also grateful to all the constituents here and Mr. Ogle, Ms. McPike, Ms. Hobson, and everyone working with that organization. As you say you sought out and continue to seek stakeholders, there are so many people in that area that have an interest. I hope this effort will bring a lot of those together. I'm reminded of not only those people present tonight who have fire in the belly for that area, but I also think that to the late Jesse Hope and what he did for the old Quindaro Museum, and I would venture to say that back in the late 80's when that area was at risk of being used as a dump and what it looks like now where it's going. I wanted to thank all of these entities, all of the constituents and members of the community tonight, and I would urge my colleagues here on the Commission to approve this grant application.

Commissioner Philbrook said I just have a couple of points of information if you don't mind. On here where it says in the resolution about the Unified Government must provide a cash or in-kind match according to the terms of the grant award. Then on this side when you're talking about the project budget, you're talking $15,000. Can you pull all of these little numbers together and let me know exactly how that money flows?

Mr. Goff said absolutely. The intent of the grant, the budget amount, when we get to finalize the final budget would be to request the $15,000 from the Historical Society for the purpose of hiring a research consultant to pursue that effort towards submitting the application for national landmark status. As part of the grant, there is a matching requirement; however, it does not have to be in cash form; it can be in-kind services. As we talked about that as both the staff and with Freedom Frontier, there is some correlating initiatives that we have going on now with the Unified Government. One would be the Northeast Master Plan that overlaps and covers this footprint of this area as well as our Consolidated Parks Master Plan which Quindaro Parks covers the western edge of those ruins. In talking with Freedom's Frontier team, those are two

candidates that we can offer as an example of matching in-kind contribution that would be sufficient to cover that requirement that the grant authority has.

Commissioner Philbrook said thank you for all your hard work, all of you. I know that the gentleman that's been working hard on the Quindaro Underground Railroad I got to visit his museum at length one day. I was very impressed and I want to thank you very much for staying with that and working so hard. I just needed a clarification of that so I knew in my mind what we're talking about. **Mr. Goff** said that's a good question. I should have covered that in the presentation.

Commissioner Walker said I only have one comment about this and maybe it's because I've been around City Hall for so long. There have been a lot of people that have joined in this and certainly not to take credit away from any of them, but only one individual kept this project or this dream alive and he's sitting back there, Marvin Robinson. I'll tell you because the waste company that wanted to build a landfill there was within a matter of weeks of bulldozing Quindaro into the dirt, the rocks, and the remnants of the buildings. It was all that stood between at that time—you have to go back in time from that area, and Mr. Owens was up on the Commission, I believe, and it was an emphathist to keep it from being a landfill and that was the preservation of Quindaro. I think Mr. Robinson, Marvin, saw that long before anybody else saw the significance of what the foundation, remnants, buildings, artifacts, the historical stuff. I'm glad everybody is still on this. It's going on 30 years later, going on 30, if not 30, but I wish you well on this, and I certainly intend to vote in favor of this resolution.

Commissioner Townsend said one question I forgot to ask. I think Ms. Hobson mentioned that there are only about 2,500 of these national historical landmarks in the country. What does such a designation do to making funds possibly available from the National Park Service to preserve/ protect anything that gets that designation?

Ms. Hobson said I think there's so few of them compared to just national registered sites that they're actually kind of elevated more so than just locally preserved. It increases your chances for the funding.

Commissioner Townsend asked will there be a separate application process with the National Historic Landmark that they would have to go through. **Ms. Hobson** said there's

actually things just for those listed on the National Historic Landmark. It would be a separate application, but then it would also increase your chances on—a grant like this that we're applying for, the Historic Preservation Fund, that would actually boost our chances of receiving the grant in the future by being a national historic landmark is what I understand from this process.

Roll call was taken on the motion and there were nine "Ayes," Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters.

COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA

ITEM NO. 1 – 17970…TRAVEL REQUEST: COMMISSIONER KANE

Synopsis: Request to travel to Washington, DC, for National Police Week, submitted by Commissioner Kane.

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

Mayor Holland said Commissioner Kane and I both will be traveling to Washington, DC, for National Police Week. National Police Week includes a memorial for all the police officers around this country who have lost their lives. We will be attending that with the families of the Lancaster family and the Melton family as well as a significant detail from our own Police Department. We feel like it's an honor that the national government does this in honor to honor our two fallen police officers in this way.

Roll call was taken on the motion and there were nine "Ayes," Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters.

Commissioner Walker said in basketball they would say won and done. I'm announcing for those that are interested that I am not going to be a candidate for reelection to a second term. I thought it was appropriate that I give enough notice so that—I'm sure there will be candidates a plenty who might want this job. I've been in this building 38 years by the time this term is over.

I have to tell you that's enough. I will be here and I will be my usual cantankerous self for another ten months. I continue to enjoy the back and forth with all of you. I expect as the months go on, there's going to be a lot of back and forth.

Mayor Holland adjourned the meeting as the Board of Commissioners and reconvened as the Land Bank Board of Trustees.

LAND BANK BOARD OF TRUSTEES' CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM NO. 1 – 17941…LAND BANK BUSINESS

Synopsis: Request approval of the following applications and transfers, submitted by Charles Brockman, Management Analyst, Economic Development. The Land Bank Advisory Board has recommended approval. On January 30, 2017, the Neighborhood and Community Development Standing Committee, co-chaired by Commissioner McKiernan, voted unanimously to approve and forward to the Land Bank Board of Trustees.

Mayor Holland asked if there were any set asides. There were none.

Application
226 N. Early St. – Ricardo Balderama, property acquisition

Transfers to Land Bank
841 Everett Ave. – Board of County Commissioners
849 Everett Ave. – Board of County Commissioners
(Properties to be put on hold list for Prairie Fire Lofts – Section 42 Low Income Housing Tax Credit.)

Transfers from Land Bank
308 N. 21st St. – UG
(This was approved by the Land Bank Board of Trustees in November 2016 to be transferred to the Land Bank. Back taxes have been abated and need to transfer to UG Community Development Department for rehab and future sale.)

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to approve.** Roll call was taken and there were nine "Ayes," Philbrook, Bynum, Walker, Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

No items

Mayor Holland recessed the Commission as the Land Bank Board of Trustees and reconvened as the Board of Commissioners.

Action: **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to go into executive session until 9:15 p.m. to discuss confidential matters regarding purchase considerations and property locations related to land acquisition as permitted under the Kansas Open Meetings Act, and that staff designated by the County Administrator be present to participate in this discussion.** Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Holland said we would only need to come back down here if we were going to extend it. We are in executive session.

Bridgette Cobbins, UG Clerk, said the Commission will reconvene in open session at 9:15 p.m. in the Commission Chambers located on the first floor. If there is no further business, the Commission will adjourn the meeting at the conclusion of the executive session.

MAYOR HOLLAND
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:40 P.M.
February 23, 2017

_____
Bridgette D. Cobbins
Unified Government Clerk

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