

**PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, August 24, 2020**

The meeting of the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee was held on Monday, August 24, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., remotely via Zoom or on-site. The following members were present: Commissioner Bynum, Chairman; Commissioners Markley, Ramirez, Kane, Philbrook, and BPU Board Member Tom Groneman. The following officials were also in attendance: Melissa Sieben and Emerick Cross, Assistant County Administrators; Carol Godsil, Deputy Unified Government Clerk; Misty Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel; Susan Alig, Assistant Counsel; Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works; Angel Obert, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation; Steve Haulmark, Assistant Chief, Police Department; Rocki Mayes, Executive Assistant to County Administrator; Logan Masenthin, SOAR Coordinator; Brittanie Pruitt, Kansas City Kansas Police Department; and Patrick Holton, Codes Enforcement Manager.

Chairman Bynum called the meeting to order. I want to announce that due to COVID-19, some members, staff, and public are attending remotely via Zoom as well as some on-site. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid any background noise. During the meeting when you speak, please make sure that you announce yourself by name and title when you do speak so the public knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and it is guidance from our Kansas Attorney General.

Also, due to COVID-19, the public is allowed to participate by Zoom or submit comments by email prior to the meeting and those comments are included in the record of the meeting. We did allow anyone desiring to speak tonight to let the Clerk know, per the instructions on our website. The deadline for informing our Clerk of your desire to speak or submit written comments for our meeting tonight was 5 p.m. on Thursday last week.

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

Approval of standing committee minutes from June 22, 2020. **On motion of Commissioner Markley, seconded by Commissioner Ramirez, the minutes were approved.** Roll call was

taken on the motion and there were six “Ayes,” Groneman, Philbrook, Ramirez, Markley, Bynum, Kane.

Committee Agenda:

Item No. 1 – 20314...UPDATE: ILLEGAL DUMPING & LITTER ELIMINATION (IDLE)

Synopsis: In 2020, SOAR launched the Illegal Dumping & Litter Elimination (IDLE) Team, which has been meeting twice a month since January. The team includes representatives from 12 departments, submitted by Melissa Sieben, Assistant County Administrator. For this presentation, staff will go over IDLE's progress, including wins and challenges, and provide data on illegal dumping in Wyandotte County.

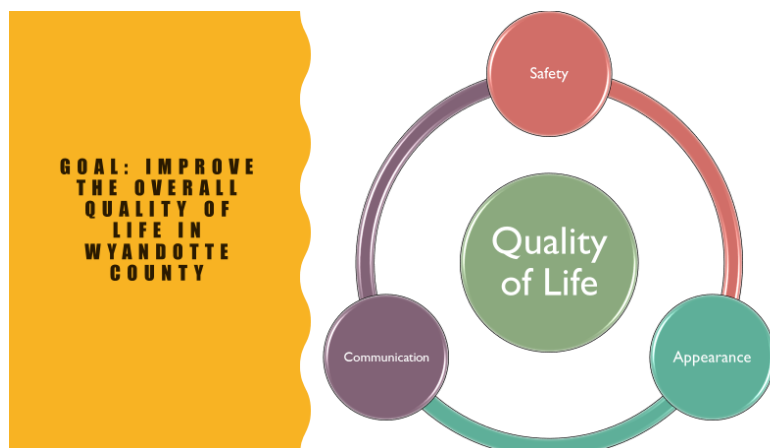
Melissa Sieben, Assistant County Administrator, said with me tonight presenting our litter and illegal dumping efforts will be our SOAR Coordinator Logan is here and also Captain Brittanie Pruitt with the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department; Jeff Fisher with our Public Works Department and last, but certainly not least, Patrick Holton, our Codes Enforcement Manager at the Neighborhood Resource Center.

As you know, we've been working on a variety of things related to blight over the last number of years as part of our efforts in the community. Starting earlier this year or late last year, I'm not quite sure which, we actually started working on how we could tackle illegal dumping and littering in the community.



August 24, 2020

One of the things that we wanted to do is update you here in August about what progress we've made, some wins we've had, and some challenges we're being presented and that's why we have our group of folks here tonight.



As you know, with our SOAR work, and work related to SOAR that we endeavor upon, we're always looking at how we are going to enhance the quality of life through our efforts and that always comes back to safety, appearance and communication. So, I want to remind you, again, that as we start all of these endeavors as it pertains to blight or blight related activities, that we're always looking at how do we hit these three core elements to improve our quality of life here in Kansas City, Kansas.

LITTERING AND ILLEGAL DUMPING AFFECTS QUALITY OF LIFE

- Appearance
 - When people feel a space is more beautiful, they're less likely to discard trash and items illegally
 - Efforts to clean up vacant lots, land bank lots and improve mowing revealed the scope and scale of the littering and dumping
 - This takes away from the efforts to improve appearance
 - Addressing littering and dumping in our neighborhoods will create spaces that people are proud to maintain
- Safety
 - CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) shows that enhancing the built environment decreases crime and makes people feel safer
- Communication
 - Improving communication helps residents understand the importance of eliminating litter and dumping and brings neighbors together to help improve our community

Over the last while, we've looked into the policies and the principles related to why people litter and dump, and sort of what the outcomes are on the community. From an appearance standpoint, what we understand, much like we do with vacant houses, is that there's an impact on the neighbor. They tend

to not feel as safe in their community and tend to not feel as good about the appearance of their neighborhood. The same can be said with dumping and littering. It detracts from the beauty of our community and it makes people feel less positive about their environment, and ultimately leads to people feeling comfortable with doing the same activities themselves.

In our efforts to kind of clean up the community, we've also peeled back some things that have hidden some of this dumping and littering in our community because of our improvement with management of vacant lots and our improvement of how we've handled our Land Banking programs through primarily mowing, but also cleaning up around our houses. We kind of also unveiled more of these issues, which is a good thing. We're getting to all the parts of the system and we're trying to create spaces that people are proud of and wouldn't want to litter or dump in.

The other area that we know about from a safety standpoint is our CPTED principles, which is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. Basically what it says is enhancing the built environment decreases crime and does make people feel safer, will ultimately not having littering and dumping makes people feel safer in their neighborhoods and in and around the community.

We know the biggest challenge we face in this area going forward is how we communicate with our residents about the expectations and about what they can do to help us, help them improve our community by reducing litter and eliminating dumping.

RELEVANT 2020 RESIDENT SATISFACTION RESULTS

- 50% of respondents believe Illegal Dumping is a problem in neighborhoods
- 37% of respondents are dissatisfied with the clean-up of junk/trash/debris city-wide
 - 30% are dissatisfied with the clean-up of junk/trash/debris in neighborhoods
- 49% of respondents chose "clean-up of junk/trash/debris city-wide" as 1 of their top 3 choices of codes and ordinances to receive the most emphasis over the next 2 years
 - 32% chose "clean-up of junk/trash/debris in neighborhoods"

We also want to go back and spend a little bit of time looking at our 2020 citizen survey, just to make sure that this effort before we started devouring upon it was one that was being seen or perceived by our residents as an issue. What we found is that 50% of our respondents believe illegal dumping is a significant problem in neighborhoods. 37% were dissatisfied with how Kansas

City, Kansas, was addressing that and that included city wide, but also in neighborhoods as well. Additionally, there are about half of our respondents as well said that it was in their top three priorities for codes and ordinances to be addressed in the coming two years.

We feel like we're on the right track and now we're going to dig a little bit further into what we're learning. Logan, do you want to go ahead?



Logan Masenthin, SOAR Coordinator in General Services, said a little bit about why littering and illegal dumping are a problem beyond the things we just went over. These are pretty clear cut, but just to go over them, they can cause physical harm or injury to people. They can facilitate the spread of disease, cause environmental pollution, negatively affect and even kill wildlife, impact tourism and the perception of a community can increase the probability of fires and also breed insects.

Ms. Sieben said so with that, we're going to go ahead and turn this over to Patrick Holton, our Code Enforcement Manager with the Neighborhood Resource Center.



Patrick Holton, Code Enforcement Manager, said so, knowing that illegal dumping is a big issue in our city, our Code Enforcement Supervisor Robert Morgan began tracking illegal dumping actively in about April of 2019. In May of 2019, he spent the day with Kansas City, Missouri illegal dumping inspector Allen Ashurst, as they had already been—they were well into this process at that point and we wanted to get some ideas from them.

After that, he began working with officers Joe Caiharr and Mike Mullen in Community Policing and they started developing a mapping system. At the very beginning, it was just a laminated paper map and orange and purple dry erase markers. They were tracking illegal dump sites and the arrests that the police were making. At the beginning of 2020, the map was transferred to MapCreator, which was a little bit more interactive, but we were still unable to track dump sites that were located in streets, rights-of-way, railroad or KDOT properties. We shared our map data was SOAR and with Geospatial Services. By April 2nd, Kiersten and Elizabeth began working on a preliminary map. April 16th, the first editable map was developed.

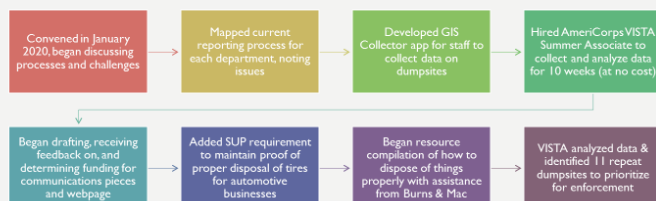
By May 19th, the Collector Dumping App was demonstrated—a demonstration was presented to us. By May 27th, the Collector App was ready for users to track dump sites in real time, as well as provide pertinent information and pictures. Since then, it's been evolving every day.

LITTERING AND DUMPING TEAM



Ms. Masenthin said so, the story Patrick just told you just goes to show how important collaboration is with this project and all SOAR projects. Just to show you who all is involved in this, the Mayor's Office, various departments from Code Enforcement, the Police, Public Works, Parks; we even have a resident involved and other departments as well.

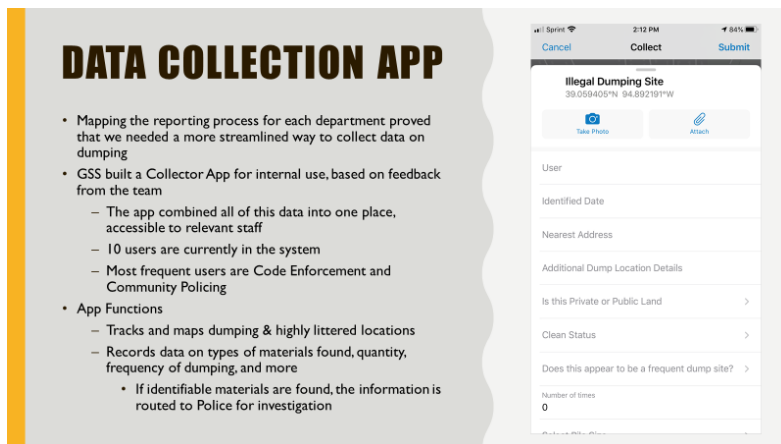
JANUARY 2020 TO NOW



This is kind of an overview of the big wins we've had so far this year. The team began convening in January of this year and discussing processes and challenges. From those processed discussions, we were able to map the current recording process for dumping for each department, which were not the same and quite confusing so we were able to note some issues there and see how we could move forward. We developed that app that Patrick just talked about, and we'll talk more on in a moment.

We also hired an AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associate this summer to collect and analyze data for 10 weeks, which was actually at no cost to the UG. We began drafting, receiving feedback on and determining funding for communications pieces and a webpage, as Melissa had

mentioned. The communications will be huge here. One of our big wins was adding a special use permit requirement with the Planning Department. We know that one of our big issues with dumping is tires and so we are now requiring that automotive businesses keep record of proof of proper disposal of tires. We also began compiling resources of how to dispose of things properly with assistance from Burns and Mac. Our VISTA, before she left, was able to analyze data and identify 11 repeat dump sites to prioritize for enforcement.



Mr. Holton said just to go on a little bit more about the Data Collection App, it's become a way for us to streamline our processes and data on illegal dumping. Right now, it's just for internal use and we have about 10 users who are currently actively tracking sites in the system, but it allows us to keep all of that in one place. Our most frequent users are Code Enforcement and Community Policing. The app works to track and map the dumping so we can see repeat spots where the dumping is actually located as far as certain parts of the area that are receiving more or less dumping; and then we can also add in, like I said, pictures and identify the materials being dumped so it's to track who might be the ones dumping materials in our community.



Ms. Sieben said, Patrick, I have you on this one. **Mr. Holton** said okay, yes. What we found is that we see that a lot of businesses might be the perpetrators of illegal dumping in the city, contractors, mechanic shops, tire shops, places like that, that have a lot of excess trash based off the work they do, and they don't want to pay the costs of taking it all the way to the landfill.

Ms. Sieben asked Captain Pruitt, do you have anything you want to add on this one?

Captain Brittanie Pruitt, Kansas City Kansas Police Department, said yes. So, I mean, we see everything from a tree brush that's dumped on the side of the roads to, like he said, we've collected and disposed of probably thousands of tires. We have our entire gamut across the city of different things; ones that we can solve and ones that we can't. I think it just depends on what's actually being dumped at the sites, but we do see a lot of varying dump sites with different materials in them.

Ms. Sieben asked, and you would say that as you're using that app, you're hoping to get it more robust, and we'll talk about that a little more as we go through this?

Captain Pruitt, said yes, definitely. No, I mean, the app would be great. It's actually great for us, a great tool to use to see what is being dumped and to actually determine what solvability factors are there for us, because unfortunately, we know with tree debris, there's not going to be a piece of mail in that to where I can figure out who did the illegal dumping, but this app will definitely notify us firsthand and show us what kind of materials are being dumped at each site.

Ms. Sieben said great.

LITTER – WHAT, WHY, & HOW

Common Types of Littering

- Fast food packaging
- Cigarette butts
- Used drink bottles
- Chewing gum wrappers
- Broken electrical equipment parts
- Toys
- Broken glass
- Food scraps or green wastes

How Litter is Generated

- Improperly secured trash and recycling containers
- Deliberate throwing of items from vehicles,
- Abandoning items or wrappers by the roadside
- Construction projects



Litter Causes More Litter!

Ms. Masenthin said the slide we just went over was more of the dump sites, but litter is also a big problem, and this is just a little bit an overview of what, why and how with litter. Common types of littering, and we all see it fast food packaging, cigarette butts, broken glass, food scraps and how is litter generated? Well, there's a lot of things that go into that; improperly secured trash and recycling containers are a huge component. There's, of course, the deliberate throwing of items from vehicles, abandoning items by the roadside, things like that, as well as construction projects and debris being blown in the wind. The overarching how here is that litter causes more litter. People that see litter are going to take less ownership of an area and think less about its appearance and it will cause more litter.

Ms. Sieben said alright. I believe we bring in Jeff Fisher at this point and he talks about the first part of this slide.

DUMPING DATA

- Challenges with all datasets. Future improvements include better tracking, data collection, and reporting abilities
- 2019 Parks and Public Works Data - 584 total work orders to clean up illegal dumping in 2019
 - PW Streets Division spent \$27,335 on work orders
 - Average cost per work order - \$110
 - No 2019 cost data available for Parks and Rec cleanups
- 2020 Parks and Public Works Data – 364 total work orders to clean up illegal dumping as of 6/16/20
 - PW Streets Division spent \$20,990.11 on work orders
 - Average cost per WO so far – \$70
 - Parks and Rec spent \$7,574.74 on work orders
 - Average cost per WO so far – \$755
- Dumping Police Reports filed, 1/1/19 to 8/21/20
 - Private property – 11
 - Public property – 47

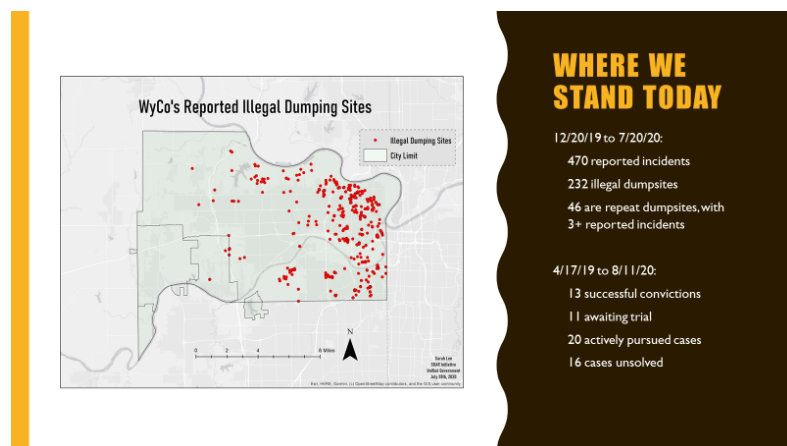


Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works, said there are ongoing improvements in the

area of data collection and tracking. We're getting much better in this area. In 2019, Public Works and Parks, 584 total work orders. Had to shift resources 584 times amounting to \$27,000 in labor and material costs to address those; \$110 for each work order on average.

In 2020, we're already through June 16th, 364 work orders and \$20,000 in Public Works' cost and a total of \$7,000 in Parks and Rec. I think we're seeing an uptick. We're getting much better in this area. We know the costs; quantifying and describe these much better today.

Captain Pruitt said we do track a lot of our illegal dump sites, but these specific reports that we generated where there were solvability factors—we did run into some issues trying to actually pull up all of our police reports because, unfortunately, we were not, at this time, we're not able to specifically pull up illegal dumping reports. To date, we do have 11 on private properties and 47 on public properties, but mind you, these are only reports that are generated out of my office, which is Community Policing. There could be—there probably are other reports out there that I'm just not able to find at this time, but there are several dump sites and our officers are going out to make police reports. As long as there are solvability factors that go along with these.



Mr. Holton said since the formation of the IDLE team, we've recorded 470 separate dumping incidents across 232 illegal dump sites. We've identified that there are 46 repeat dump sites with at least 3 dumping incidents on them. **Captain Pruitt** said so current to date, dating back to 4/17/2019, we have 13 successful convictions. We have 11 that are currently awaiting trial, meaning that they have been cited and just waiting to go before the judge. We are actively pursuing 20 cases and then 16 cases are currently unsolved, but that doesn't mean that there aren't solvability factors with those. We have not made it to those cases just yet.

Ms. Sieben said and what I want to emphasize here is a year ago, we couldn't have told you where these were all three other than anecdotally, and so I just want to state how thrilled I am with the work of this cross-departmental team working hard on this, but also want to thank the Mayor's Office, particularly working with their unit, Lynn, in the Mayor's Office. We keep getting more information, which I think has been really helpful and it kept encouraging us in our efforts in this area. I do want to thank Lynn. I don't know if she's on here tonight, but it's really important that everybody has their eyes open and letting us know when they're seeing things happen because that's how this app gets populated. This is how we dispatch our police officers to help us and how we work on the abatements throughout three different departments, Parks, NRC and Public Works.

Captain Pruitt, I believe this is you again.



PREVENTION TOOLS

- Criminal prosecution and fines
 - This hopes to prevent dumping in 2 ways
 1. Prosecute dumpers and disincentivize them from continuing to dump
 2. Show the public that the UG takes this issue seriously and dumpers can face serious consequences
- \$250 reward for witnesses upon successful conviction
 - This should incentivize reporting as well as show the public that the UG takes this seriously
- Cameras & Surveillance of Dumpsites
 - Police and Parks strategically place cameras at dumpsite and monitor them
 - Challenge – Cameras are limited (15) and require staff time to monitor

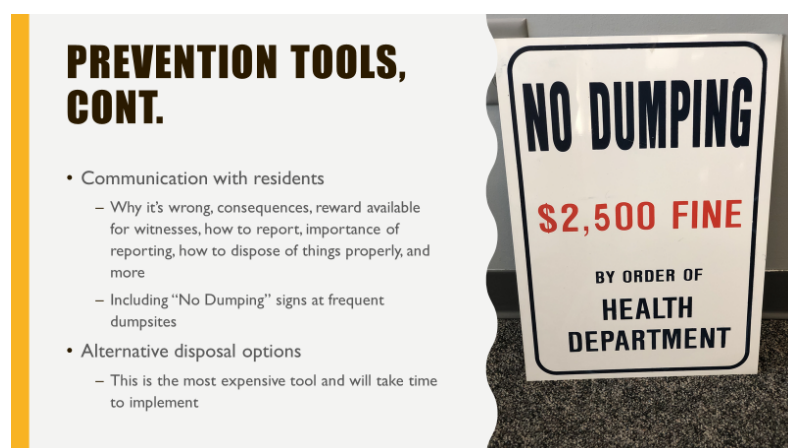


Captain Pruitt said we're going to talk about some prevention tools that we use. In order to catch our perpetrators, there are certain things that we found work best and some things that we can

actually do within our community to elicit their help. Two ways to prevent dumping is to prosecute the dumpers and desensitize them from continuing to dump because we have seen that. We do have a lot of repeat offenders that continue to dump at these specific sites; and then show the public that we do take this as a serious issue. You know, we all live in this community and we see it on a day-to-day basis, either as littering or as these dump sites so, we had to find ways to combat this and to figure out what is the best course of action.

One of the first processes that we did was a \$250 reward for witnesses upon successful conviction. You know, we always encourage our citizens that if they see something please call. That's either from illegal dumping to crime, but this is just a kind of an incentive to help them report. A lot of people that live in the community, they do see it and they're able to be our eyes and our ears, so it's great to reward them if we do have successful convictions.

We also currently use our cameras and surveillance at certain dump sites. Around the city we have approximately 15 cameras that are up. We do place those in specific areas where we know that illegal dumping is taking place on a recurring—the cameras and surveillance is probably our best way to find our illegal dumpers. We've got them throughout the city. We're able to pull out those videos. We will put them in specific places and then our officers may watch hours and hours of video just to find a tag, a specific vehicle, and then our officers can be on the lookout for those specific people. This has been our best way to actually track our dump sites and our perpetrators who are committing these crimes.



Ms. Sieben said where we're at now is we've got our infrastructure being built. We're continuing to refine it on how we're going to address individuals that are perpetrating these acts against our community's quality of life. Our biggest challenge going forward is how we're going to

communicate with residents on this. One of the things that we are looking into doing is trying to help people understand, through our communications, why it's wrong, the consequences that if you want to help us there are rewards available, or even just how to report it if you're not worried about the reward, and then also how to properly dispose of things.

As we're aware, there's a lot of challenges in this area and a lot of confusion. We are also looking at reinstituting no dumping signs. We actually find these do have some impact on individuals and we're actually looking at what that would look like. This is an example of an old one that Commissioner Philbrook let us know existed out there, but we are looking at ones that kind of give them the sense they're being spied on as an option to communicate clearly that we're on to this. We are taking extensive time to put together a clearer way of sharing with folks how to get rid of these items that we're seeing commonly dumped.

Logan, do you want to talk a little bit about Adopt-A-Spot and how it impacts littering?

PREVENTION TOOLS, CONT.

Adopt-A-Spot

- Launched in September 2019
- Adopting groups hold 3 litter cleanups a year for 2 years
- 42 spots adopted
- 94 available
- 8 cleanups held so far
 - COVID stalled many
- Upcoming Improvements:
 - Reach out to participants to make sure they plan cleanups
 - Send thank yous to groups after cleanups
 - Improve communications efforts to increase participation



Ms. Masenthin said yes. One of our prevention tools, specifically for littering, is the Adopt-A-Spot Program that we launched last September. This requires adopting groups to hold three litter cleanups a year for two years in exchange for a sign with their name on it. Currently, we have 42 spots adopted with 94 available and that list continues to grow. Unfortunately, with the pandemic, we've only had eight cleanups held so far. We normally would have had a ton of cleanups in the spring.

We are stalled a little bit, but cleanups are now happening with safety precautions in mind. We hope to grow that number soon. Some of our upcoming improvements, we will be reaching out to participants to make sure they're planning cleanups. We would want to send

thank yous to groups after their cleanups, and we want to improve our communication efforts overall on the program to increase participation.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Developed draft communications pieces for reporting dumping, littering and vandalism
- Challenges:
 - There is a lot of information to share and a variety of audiences.
 - No funding to develop professional marketing materials
 - No funding available for ad space, must use existing resources currently dedicated almost exclusively to COVID-19
 - ENews
 - Newsletter
 - Social Media
 - Only one of several articles have made it into the Newsletter this year as scheduled



STOP

ILLEGAL DUMPING

& REPORT

TO REPORT YOU CAN:

Call 311

Go to wycokck.org/311

Report on 'myWyco' Mobile App

\$250 REWARD
IF THE VIOLATOR IS CAUGHT AND CONVICTED OF ILLEGAL
DUMPING, LITTERING, OR VANDALIZING AN AREA WITH
GRAFFITI

Ms. Sieben said one of the other things that we have been working towards doing this year as part of our plan, that was interrupted with obviously the need to shift with the COVID-19 issues, is we have drafted some communication pieces. An example is on the right using our new standard fonts and colors from our work with Sage who's now changed to Mod Op. We have included in this work dumping, littering, and vandalism because they often are things that are intertwined with each other. There is a lot of information to share and a variety of different audience types that we need to be able to interact with in order to be successful at reducing the amount of littering and dumping in our community.

We currently have no funds directly available for these efforts. Finding ad space, given the constraints with COVID, or spots for articles has been very limited to date. We do have, what we believe is the champion, the mayor on this, and he's going to be helping us as he'll address later in the presentation. I want to say that we have had one article this year that we think will help more with the littering side, but we are looking actively to find ways to get our information out in ways that are as economical as possible, if not free.

Don't Trash Your Neighborhood (or Anyone Else's)!



The SOAR Initiative (Stabilization, Occupation, and Revitalization) is working hard to make our neighborhoods safer and more beautiful. Proper disposal of trash is the first way to keep your property and your neighborhood looking good. Here are some tips to help with trash.

- Put your trash and recycling out no earlier than 4:00 pm on the day before your trash day and bring your cans back in by 7:00 am the day after.
- Subscribe to the Unified Government's ENews or follow us on social media to keep up on schedule changes due to extreme weather or holidays.
- If there is an issue with your trash pickup, report it to 3-1-1, online at mywco.wyoclick.org or using the myWycO mobile app (search myWycO wherever you download apps).
- Put your trash in bags and put those bags in containers with tightly fitting lids.
- Do not keep your trash cans in front of your house when not at the curb. Put your trash cans where they can't be seen or tampered with.
- Place trash cans next to the curb and make sure they are visible between cars parked on the street. Do not place them behind vehicles where the cans can't be seen by Waste Management from their vehicle.
- The Recycling and Yard Waste Center is located at 3241 Park Drive, Kansas City, Kan.
- The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site is located at 2443 S. 88th Street, Kansas City, Kan.
- Call 3-1-1 or visit wyoclick.org/Waste to learn more.

Here is an example of what we would like to start doing more often is helping people understand what can help prevent litter blowing around in our community. This is one we did earlier this year. We also shared their options for disposing of debris properly. Jeff, did you want to mention about anything really quickly about our recycling center? I know we restarted some hours of operations there. You don't have to go into any specific details, but just share a little with the group that that's back up and going. **Mr. Fisher** said the drop off center has opened up a few weeks ago. I think we're doing that every other weekend. While we're on that subject, I know we're getting the message out this week to the Commission and the public that Household Hazardous Waste will be open in September and October. Those dates are September 18th and 19th and then October 17th and we'll, like I said, get that information out to the public this week.

Ms. Sieben said right. That's great, Jeff. Thank you.

OPERATIONAL AND FISCAL CHALLENGES

- Decreased ability to clean up littering and dumpsites due to loss of FTEs in Public Works and the Neighborhood Resource Center
- Kirk Suther's retirement from Public Works – his position focused on littering/dumping, solid waste management, and graffiti
- Community Policing routed to COVID-19 duties
- The data collection app and process is not currently integrated with other UG systems – Lucity, Accela, NewWorld, Dynamics
- Reports of dumpsites are not seamlessly sent to the proper department to be cleaned and/or investigated due to lack of data integration
- Need for increased funding for abatements of little and illegal dumpsite

Ms. Sieben said Jeff's going to go ahead and take the first couple of bullets on this slide. **Mr. Fisher** said, of course, there are several departments dealing with the sources, the vacancies in

positions; streets alone are around 21 vacancies. So, now when you're having to shift resources hundreds of times a year to deal with things like this and you have the number of vacancies, of course, not as responsive as we'd like to be, and it does take away from our core responsibilities as well. Kirk Suther's retirement, probably the most on the call is familiar with that happened a couple of weeks ago. It's always tough to lose a longtime employee, a good employee like Kirk with a lot of institutional knowledge. It's also an opportunity to rethink the position and the programs and so we are doing that and we will be posting that position with a bit of broader scope and maybe change up a few of the programs a little bit so we can provide even better services.

Ms. Sieben said, Captain Pruitt, I'm going to have you go next after I just finish up these other points really quick. We are in the process of trying to figure out how we communicate between our different technology resources in this area. The app is a step towards being able to work together across departments on this better, but it's not driving our work systems; meaning, specifically our Public Works Lucity System, or our Neighborhood Resource Center Accela and I believe it's New World and Dynamic's with 311 and with the Police Department. Until we find a way through some of our upgrades, we're going to be working multiple systems which allows for errors. We're aware of that. We're working towards remediating these issues hopefully over the next year or so, but we're trying to find a way to get us smarter at this and also start solving some of these crimes.

It isn't a seamless process. I think Captain Pruitt will hit on some of this just as she talks about how they've been rerouted, but also how they have some staffing challenges. There is need if we're to truly enhance our abatement of dump sites, and even litter for that matter, to look at our funding mechanisms because there's just not a dedicated source for this. You know, it's not something where you're a typical, like home abatement where you're building back the property. In many cases, this is on public lands, not on private lands and that does create a bit of an issue. If it is on private lands, people do try to clean it up but in some cases, that's just not feasible.

I'm going to turn this over to Captain Pruitt to kind of walk through the challenges that the Police Department is facing in this area.

Captain Pruitt said yes. Community Policing, of course we know in March of this year, COVID-19 did hit in which means since as essential workers, our work changed a little bit. Our officers

were directed more towards COVID-related type calls. Then we also had to figure out, as a police department, how we're actually going to respond to different calls for service. Since then, we've been trying to kind of go back to what our norm would look like prior. Within the last few months, we've been a little bit restricted on interaction with the public, having to deal with businesses that are being shut down because Community Policing does not have just designated officers to look at illegal dumping, so not only are they doing Community Policing work, but they were also doing illegal dumping. So, we did face some challenges with that because over the past few months, their hours had been flexed; they had been changed just because of the time, the need of the community changed and our concerns were around COVID-19 at that time and making sure that we are keeping the community safe as well as our businesses as well.

Over the last few months, we're trying to kind of figure out what Community Policing is looking like right now, not only in regard to illegal dumping but also for community groups. Our officers are extremely busy with everything. We're trying to get that all figured out.

Ms. Sieben said much appreciated. Patrick, do you have anything to add? **Mr. Holton** said no, just that the better we get at streamlining this stuff the better we can track it and, know where it, is and who's doing it, the more we'll be able to combat this in the future. **Ms. Sieben** said right. I do know that based on a lot of our research, kind of once you start getting convictions on this and the word gets out that we're serious about it and our residents start to engage further in littering and dumping, raising that issue and holding each other accountable, the better off we'll be as a community. That's why our communication is going to be really critical.

MAYOR ALVEY'S CHALLENGE

- Mayor Alvey will be developing a campaign and marketing strategy to reduce littering
 - Focus on neighborhoods
- The Mayor would like others to join him in enhancing the appearance of the Dotte

From our Neighborhoods UP.
Kansas City, Kansas

In sharing this with the Mayor, and our last slide tonight, he is going to be working with a small group of us to develop a campaign and marketing strategy to really work on focusing on the

litter, which we're hoping will also bleed into the dumping concept. He's encouraging and challenging the commissioners and Mr. Groneman from the BPU Board tonight, on this call, to join him. I think you'll be hearing more from him and his team on that. I'm really thankful for his interest, and I think our team is excited to see what we can start doing to further the efforts to improve our quality of life in this area. That is all I have, Commissioner Bynum.

Chairman Bynum said that is fantastic! I really appreciate the presentation, all of the work that's been done to date. Of course, illegal dumping and littering is something that our community's been fighting for a very long time, so the efforts are most appreciated.

I have a couple of questions and a comment with regard to the team that's been assembled that's working on this together. Several commissioners, Commissioner Markley, Commissioner McKiernan and myself have been serving with Jeff Fisher on the Solid Waste Management Committee. It just occurs to me that the only category I really don't see represented in your broad team that you've created is the Commission. It strikes me that either a member of this Public Works and Safety Standing Committee or one of the three of us that's working with Jeff Fisher's Solid Waste Management Committee, might be a good addition to this team; just a suggestion. We are hearing and collecting all kinds of information on updates to upcoming improvements for trash collection. So, those two things clearly go hand in hand.

I have a question, Melissa, and I don't want to take up a lot of time, but could you quickly remind us, again, about the Unified Government's mowing. What is mowed by us; what is mowed by a contractor, just as quickly as you can. **Ms. Sieben** said absolutely. Our Park's Department is responsible for the parks and most of the medians and rights-of-way. A limited amount of it is now done by Public Works. The Land Bank lots are typically a contracted service, and I know Angel's on here, but that's primarily how that's handled. We have had some changes this year as it pertains to our contractor, which I think at the end, Emerick might be able to talk to us a little bit more than me, but we're monitoring that. It's getting better, but we have had some challenges, the dry weather. Last I knew, last week, we should be caught up this week which is good.

Chairman Bynum said thank you. The only reason I asked is because sometimes it's us, sometimes I believe it's frankly KDOT along the I-70 corridor, but I always—you know, when I drive along and see a recently mowed area that has trash shredded all through it, in my mind my snarky comment to myself is oh, we mowed the trash again. I just would ask, are we asking our

mowing people or our contract mowing people to stop and do their own litter reduction to the best of their ability before they run over it with a mower. That would go a long way. **Ms. Sieben** said, yes, absolutely, Commissioner Bynum. That is part of the protocols that we have. I can tell you that Emerick would tell you that we reinforce that regularly with our staff. Jeff can say the same. Unfortunately, not everyone listens as well as we'd like. Yes, they are to do as much pickup as they possibly can.

I will tell you this year with our staff resources and the number of Parks' employees that were down, as well as Public Works employees, that has probably not been the priority we would like it to be. Emerick, I'm going to go ahead. I see you've unmuted yourself and let you jump in.

Emerick Cross, Assistant County Administrator, said that's a good point. The other thing is we had, believe it or—well, you guys know we had quite a bit of rain in July. That was kind of unseasonable for that time of year and that really threw us back as well. But, like Melissa said, with the reduced manpower, it's just been—they're just trying to get it mowed. But, you're right, Commissioner. What we're supposed to do is walk through the areas, check those areas out for litter, pick that up and then mow. It's kind of a compounded storm here.

Ms. Sieben said this year has been a setback for us in this area in a variety of ways. Certainly, the number of Park staff has been a huge, huge loss in keeping up in our parks, which is all a fiscal issue due to COVID as we've tried to adjust to that and then getting a new contractor onboard. None of this has been ideal and it's definitely not the efforts that we have been putting forward in prior couple of years. I wish I could say it—you know, there is some easy solve, but this year has been a struggle.

Chairman Bynum said I really appreciate it. I want to reiterate how I am appreciative of all the work that you're doing. Is there any other member of the committee with a question or comment on this?

Commissioner Philbrook said I want to tell you that the Wyandotte County Lake Park and the Bonner Springs Park looked absolutely wonderful. They're doing such a great job in both of those parks and those are not small parks. Thank you very much for that. Also, there are a lot of folks

out there that are doing a really wonderful job of mowing clear out to the street. I drive by those places and if it weren't for COVID, I'd stop and knock on their door and tell them how proud I am of them that they really care about their community. There's a lot of those. A lot of the businesses are just doing a wonderful job.

The auto dealer just down the street from me, he mows our area in front of his dealership. It's not his job but he mows that too to keep it looking nice in front of his place. So, like I say, there's a lot of good people out there working hard. I just wish more people thought better of their own property. That's it. **Chairman Bynum** said thank you, Commissioner.

Are there other comments or questions on this item? If not, it was information only. Again, I can't thank you all enough for the extra and hard work that you're doing. It's not an easy item and we will let you continue doing it. I'm pretty sure Commissioner Markley would be willing to join your team.

Ms. Sieben said okay. Well, please let us know, Commissioners, because Logan would be happy to add anyone, and we are meeting virtually now. I believe our next meeting is tomorrow so if you're available, we'd be happy to take one of you. **Commissioner Markley** said I was just volunteered but yes, absolutely, I would love to assist. **Ms. Sieben** said we are fortunate to have Lynn Melton and her interest from the Mayor's Office and W. D. Long, who is one of our residents that Jeff Fisher connected us with. I think it's been eye opening for everyone who's been working on this, and the not simple issue that it is all the way around from a cultural issue to just a process issue, to a cost issue, to catching them. We will continue our work, and we thank you for listening to us tonight. **Chairman Bynum** said thank you very much.

Commissioner Markley, I was just semi joking, but if you'd be willing, I just think that would be a great addition. Like I said, with your work on solid waste management, it just seems to me that those two things go together quite well. **Commissioner Markley** said yes, I agree. **Chairman Bynum** said all right. Thanks a million.

Action: For information only.

Item No. 2 – 20305...RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BONNER SPRINGS/EDWARDSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE PROVISION

August 24, 2020

OF A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER.

Synopsis: Request approval to enter into an agreement with the Bonner Springs/Edwardsville school district for the provision of a School Resource Officer to serve at schools in the district, submitted by Susan Alig, Assistant Counsel.

Susan Alig, Assistant Counsel, said this resolution would just offer as contract that would continue the status quo. We had a Sheriff's Deputy at the Bonner Springs Schools last year. Both parties thought that was a good experience, that it was nice to have a deputy in the school, and this would just allow us to continue that for the next school year.

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

Chairman Bynum said excellent, and just to call protocol, any comments or questions from the committee. If not, are there any comments received in the Clerk's Office on this item? **Carol Godsil, Unified Government Deputy Clerk,** said no public comments were received. **Chairman Bynum** said thank you very much.

Roll call was taken on the motion and there were six "Ayes," Groneman, Philbrook, Kane, Ramirez, Markley, Bynum.

Item No. 3 – 20315...GRANT: FY20 FEDERAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG)

Synopsis: The Police Department is seeking approval to apply for and accept the FY20 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$88,514. A portion of this grant would be used to help train and fund our newly established comfort canine program. These canines will be used both to assist officers with the stress and trauma that they experience during line of duty incidents and also to calm and ease victims of crime within our city. The remainder of the grant money will be utilized for officer protective equipment that will be utilized for training scenarios and in the case of civil unrest, submitted by Steve Haulmark, Assistant Chief, Police Department.

Steve Haulmark, Assistant Chief, Police Department, said the Police Department is seeking

approval to apply for and accept the federal award through the Fiscal Year 20 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. The money will be used to help train and fund our newly established Comfort Canine Program. The Police Department recently adopted two canines from our Animal Services Unit, who will be trained to be comfort canines. These canines will be used both to assist officers with stress and trauma that they experience during line of duty incidents and also to calm and ease victims of crime within our city.

The canines are currently too young to receive formal training as this training usually begins at about the one year of age mark. The dogs are currently coming to work each day. They're being socialized in preparation for the training. The grant money would be utilized for the training expenses, food and medical care for the animals, and the remainder of the grant would be utilized for protection equipment for officers. The department currently stocks two trailers that are equipped with shields and other equipment that are used for training and may be required in the event of civil unrest. The items we currently have are dated and some have become damaged through normal wear and tear and during utilization for training. The performance period for this grant will extend October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2023. There is no match required for this grant.

Chairman Bynum said excellent. Any comments or questions from our committee members.

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

Chairman Bynum said I'll ask the Clerk, did we receive any public comment on the item? **Ms. Godsil** said no public comments were received.

Roll call was taken on the motion and there were six "Ayes," Groneman, Philbrook, Kane, Ramirez, Markley, Bynum.

Chairman Bynum said and that passes. Thank you so much, Deputy Chief, and best of luck. **Deputy Chief Haulmark**, said thank you.

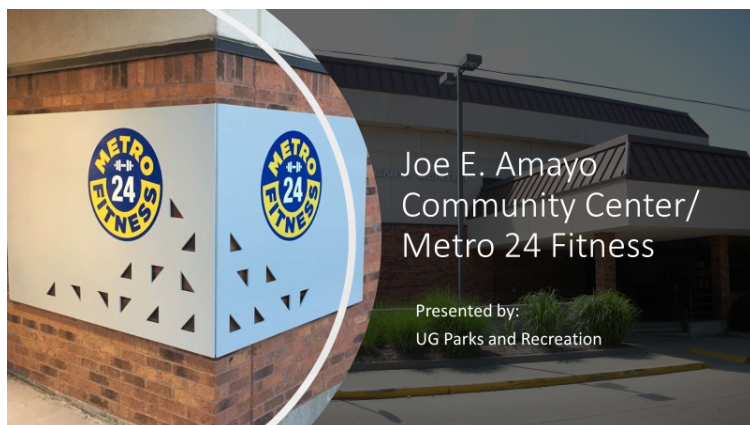
August 24, 2020

Item No. 4 – 20258...PROPOSAL: METRO 24 FITNESS MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

Synopsis: A proposed renewal of Metro 24 Fitness Management Agreement for the Joe E. Amayo Community Center, submitted by Angel Obert, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation.

Chairman Bynum said I'll just kick this off. We will hear quite a large number of public comments on this item. So, just to lay out how this will proceed, we have Angel Obert here with Parks and Recreation. She's going to make a presentation and then I would like to know if Mr. Matt Warner is also making a presentation or not. He would be next. Then we would move into our committee questions, comments and then we would have the Clerk read the names of the speakers or the comments that were received in writing. Those are going to come to us in the order in which they've been received. Anyone that wanted to participate in that way, was able to do that with a deadline of, again, 5 p.m. this past Thursday for submitting their desire to speak or their written comments. So, I'm just asking our committee members to be patient and yet attentive because we've got a lot of public on the call here. With that, Angel Obert with Parks and Rec, I will turn this over to you, and I believe you do have a slide presentation.

Angel Obert, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, said I will be presenting along with Assistant County Administrator Emerick Cross tonight. We will be taking you through a presentation of the Joe E. Amayo Community Center with the partnership with Metro 24 and their new management agreement proposal.



I also do just want to say that this presentation did go before the Park Board on July 8th and then a community meeting was held on July 15th for anybody wanting to engage with the item.

So, a little bit of history about this project. According to the 2019 County Health Rankings,

History

- According to the 2019 County Health Rankings, Wyandotte County is ranked 99th out of 102 reporting Kansas counties
- The Unified Government of Wyandotte County is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all its residents by meeting their health, living and recreational needs
- Commission voted in July 2016 to move forward with funding necessary upgrades to house a fitness facility
- Administration instructed Parks and Recreation to request a Notice of Need for a proposed fitness center at Joe E. Amayo Community Center
- Notice of Need was posted on August 15, 2016
- Awarded to Metro 24 September 16, 2016
- Contract start date began April 22, 2017

Bonner Springs YMCA	Providence YMCA	Bonner Springs Anytime Fitness	Legends Anytime Fitness	Turner Recreation	Metro 24 Fitness
\$51- \$57/month	\$59.50/ month	\$39.99/ month	\$39.99/ month	\$15-\$20/ month	\$19.99/ month

Wyandotte County is ranked 99th out of 102 reporting Kansas counties. The Unified Government of Wyandotte County is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all of its residents by meeting their health, living, and recreational needs. As you know, the Commission voted in July of 2016 to move forward with funding necessary upgrades to house the fitness facility. Administration then instructed Parks and Recreation to request a notice of need for a proposed fitness center at the Joe E. Amayo Community Center. That notice of need was posted on August 15th in 2016 and it was awarded to Metro 24 on September 16th of 2016. Their contract start date began on April 22, 2017.

It's important to note that Metro 24 Fitness was the only company that responded to the notice of need. To the right you'll see a map of a depiction of the fitness centers currently in Wyandotte County. So, you have the Bonner Springs YMCA with their monthly rate of \$51 – \$57 a month. You have Providence YMCA with \$59.50 a month. The two Anytime Fitness locations

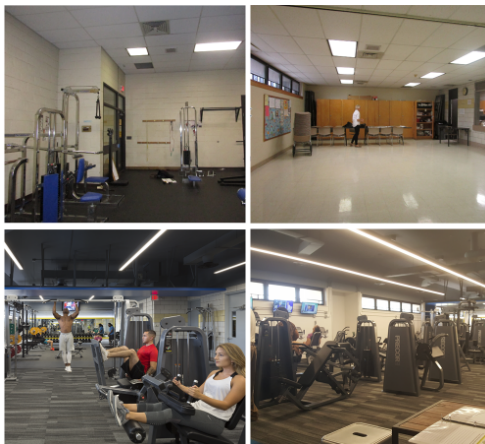
are \$39.99 a month. Turner Recreation is anywhere between \$15 – \$20, and then Metro 24 Fitness at \$19.99 a month.

Overview

- Total sf of community center = 17,132 sf
 - Gym = 7,050 sf
 - Common area (office, restrooms & multipurpose room) = 6,500
 - Metro 24 Fitness occupies 3,300 sf
- Parks and Recreation controls 13,550 sf
- In 2016-2017 major improvements were made to the facility totaling \$812,000

Funding Source	Amount
UG Funds	\$332,000
Outside Funds (ANDA and Wal-Mart)	\$280,000
Metro 24 Contribution	\$200,000

Total Facility Upgrades= \$812,000



A quick overview about the community center and the project. The total square foot of the community center is 17,132 sq. ft. The gym encompasses 7,050 sq. ft. of that. The common area such as your office, restrooms, and multipurpose room is 6,500 square foot, and Metro 24 Fitness occupies 3,300 sq. ft. Parks and Recreation controls the remainder 13,550 sq. ft. So, as you know, in 2016 and 2017, major improvements were made to the facility totaling \$812,000. Those funding sources are listed below and the amounts allocated. The Unified Government contributed \$332,000 to the project. Outside funders such as ANDA and Wal-Mart contributed \$280,000, and then Metro 24's contribution was \$200,000.

It's important to note that these upgrades were done to the entire community center and some of those large upgrades were the new HVAC system, the gymnasium and ADA access through the west entrance. The lobby and multipurpose room were completely renovated. The restrooms were also renovated and upgraded to meet ADA standards, and then lighting was done in the parking lot.

So, to the right, the top two photos you'll see are pictures of what the space looked like previously prior to the reconstruction and then below after.

Metro 24 Performance

- Old fitness room saw roughly 48-55 members/year from 2014-2016
- As of July 1, Metro 24 Fitness has 1,436 members
- 447 members are from 66106 Argentine zip code at 31%
- The studio room is reserved through Parks and Recreation by Metro 24 Fitness for programming, but is a shared space
- Metro 24 Programming



We'll go over some performance metrics by Metro 24 in the past three years of their contract. The old fitness room, that you just saw, when it was under Parks and Recreation, saw roughly 48 to 55 members a year from 2014 to 2016. As of July 1st, Metro 24 Fitness claimed to have had 1,436 members. 447 of their members are from the 66106 Argentine zip code, which is 31%.

The studio room is a reserved space. It's reserved through Parks and Recreation by Metro 24 Fitness for programming, but it is a shared space. It's been a really good partnership between Metro 24. We haven't had any issues and working together on utilizing that space. Some of the programming that they offer is personal and group training, nutrition guidance, yoga classes, boot camps, weight loss challenges, some powerlifting needs and then also some fundraising 5Ks. So, the chart to the right is a depiction of the memberships. In the blue, you'll see that was pre-renovations under Parks and Recreation management. And then in the yellow, that will be the depiction of the memberships with Metro 24 Fitness management.

Initial Management Agreement

- Metro 24 began operations September 1st, 2017
- Responsibilities of Metro 24 Fitness include:
 - Manage and operate the Fitness Center as a full service, first class Fitness Center
 - Provide memberships at \$19.99/month for KICK residents
 - Actively market, advertise and promote the fitness center
 - Provide information, membership, and/or usage reports to the UG
 - Expected to operate and manage the fitness center for at least 18 continuous months after the date it first opened
- Current contract valid until December 31, 2020



August 24, 2020

I will now go over what some of the initial management agreement items were with Metro 24. They began their operations on September 1, 2017. Some of the responsibilities of Metro 24 Fitness included that they were to manage and operate the fitness center as a full-service, first-class fitness center. They were to provide memberships at \$19.99 a month for KCK residents. They were to actively market, advertise, and promote the fitness center. They're to provide information, membership, and/or usage reports to the Unified Government. They were expected to operate and manage the fitness center for at least 18 continuous months after the date it first opened. That current contract is valid until December 31st of 2020 and that's why we're here today.

Right now, I'd like to turn it over to our Assistant County Administrator Emerick Cross, and he will walk you through the new management agreement proposal items.

New Management Agreement Proposal

- Metro 24 agrees to pay \$1,898.13/month total management fee (\$22,777.56/year)
- 3-year agreement with the additional option of two (1) year renewal term(s)
- KCK resident new members will pay the same \$19.99/month for one year (From December 2020 until December 2021)
- Metro 24 may raise new KCK resident member fee up to 3% annually if they choose to do so
- Metro 24 may install (at their expense) an electric lock system that allows members to utilize the shower facilities from 5am - 10pm
- Metro 24 will have continued access to the multi-purpose room, a/a studio room, on a scheduled reservation basis like any other group that wants to reserve the room
- Continue to update and modernize workout equipment



Emerick Cross, Assistant County Administrator, what I'd like to talk about is the new management agreement proposal with Metro 24 and the Unified Government. There are about seven tenets of the proposal that I would like to go through. I consider the major tenants of the new management agreement proposal. The first major change that I would like to point out is that Metro 24 will now agree to pay \$1,898.13 a month for a total management annual fee of \$22,777.56 per year. That's the first major change with the new management proposal, a significant change.

The second tenet I'd like to go over is, we would like to have a three-year agreement with the additional option of two, one-year renewal terms. So, we can extend that agreement for three years and then add on two, one-year terms instead of coming back year-to-year after this year.

For a Kansas City Kansas, resident, the new members will pay the same \$19.99 per month for one year, one more year from December 2020 until December 2021. Now, I'd like to point out,

for the first three years, the fee was \$19.99 for all KCK residents. We've negotiated with Metro 20 for another year and they agreed to having another year for KCK residents to pay that same \$19.99 a month. That's four years with no increase to our KCK residents. Now, if Metro 24 chooses to raise the member fee, we've negotiated the term that they can do that, 3% annually if they chose to do so. For example, that \$19.99, if it was raised 3%, that would be \$.60 more on \$19.99 the first year and obviously, \$1.20, the next year on that \$19.99 fee.

The fifth tenet I want to go over is that Metro 24 may install, at their own expense, an electric lock system that allows members to use the shower and locker room facilities from 5 a.m. – 10 p.m. We've discussed before some folks like to get up really early and go hit the gym, and then they like to shower before they go into work and some folks like to work out later in the evening, and they would like the opportunity to shower before they go home or wherever their destination may be. If Metro 24 is allowed to install this system at their expense, they'll be responsible for cleaning and maintaining that locker room, shower facilities, when UG staff is not on the premises to do so. When UG staff is on premise during operating hours, and they're usually 6 a.m. to about 9 p.m. for the most part, it depends on what time of the year it is, we'll be responsible when we are there.

Also, Metro 24 will have continued access with this management agreement proposal to the studio room, which is right across from their fitness facility on a scheduled reservation basis, just like any other group that wants to reserve that room. I will point out, in talking with Parks and Rec staff down there, that we've had no problems, like Angel said earlier in the presentation, with this issue. It's been working out really well and it's on a scheduled reservation basis.

The last tenet I'd like to go over is that Metro 24 will continue to update and modernize their workout equipment. Metro 24 has state-of-the-art equipment in there and the expectation in the future is that will remain the same. When any piece of equipment breaks or fails, they will be responsible for fixing that as soon as possible and/or replacing that equipment.

With that being said, this is an example of a public-private partnership between government and a private partner. Tonight, we are asking, after all the activities take place, for a vote for or against this proposal. We would certainly like comments or feedback. Mr. Matt Warner, with Metro 24, is on the call, Commissioner, and available for comments. With that being said, Madam Chair, I'll turn this back over to you.

Chairman Bynum said thank you, Emerick and Angel. I appreciate the presentation. Since I see that Mr. Warner was the first individual to sign up to speak on our list, I will hold him until we are into the public comment section. With that being said, we will turn to our committee members, and I'll ask any member of our Public Works and Safety Standing Committee if you have any questions or comments. If you're raising your hand, I can't see that, so I'll ask, Carol or Rocki to help with that. Commissioner Ramirez, I believe that you may have some comments. If you'd like, we can start with you and take it from there.

Commissioner Ramirez said if it is okay with you, this time I'd like to just reserve for questioning and then, after the public hearing, if I would be able to make a closing statement. **Chairman Bynum** said yes, you certainly may do that and other members of the committee. We may all feel that maybe we'll be better equipped with our questions and comments after we hear from the public. **Ms. Mayes** said there are no other hands up.

BPU Board Member Groneman said I don't see anything in here regarding utilities. Emerick, could you address that, please? **Mr. Cross** said yes, sir, I sure can. The total fee of \$1,898.13, sir, is a monthly rent or a monthly fee, management fee, and that is based on \$5 per sq. ft. from the experts I contacted, because I am not an expert in realty, so I came up with \$5 per sq. ft. Then we got the monthly utility bill from BPU and I ratioed that out for 3,300 sq. ft. for Metro 24 and came up with a figure of \$467.25 for electric and \$55.88 for water, and that equals \$523.13 per month for the BPU portion on top of the \$5 per square foot monthly rent.

BPU Board Member Groneman asked, did you talk with anybody on the BPU staff as to what a proper charge would be for utilities? **Mr. Cross** said no, I worked with John Kelly. He works with BPU frequently with Buildings and Logistics, and he contacted them and got this information for me. I did not work directly with him. John stated to me that the BPU utilities are not metered out separately for the separate areas. So, I just went off the total aggregate and then ratioed it out per square foot.

BPU Board Member Groneman said the reason I'm asking is because I was told that the only way to come up with an accurate figure for the utilities would be if they were metered out separately. I was wondering if there was any thought to doing that. **Mr. Cross** said no, sir. That

never came up in any of our discussions to this date. **BPU Board Member Groneman** said thank you for now.

Commissioner Ramirez said, Commissioner Bynum, I do have a couple of questions pertaining to what Mr. Groneman brought up. Part of the utilities that they are going to pay, does that all include all of the UG fees that are placed, the PILOT, all of that? Does that include all of those?

Mr. Cross said yes, that includes what any other utility bill, on any other utility bill, it would have the same items itemized and listed out as well. **Commissioner Ramirez** said okay. The only reason I am asking, and kind of going back to what Mr. Groneman said, I don't see how a facility that operates 24 hours only pays \$467 a month for electricity. I understand that there is a problem that there's only one meter on the building. I spoke to a BPU board member, and they asked how that was calculated and how you could—during the day, it would be hard to differentiate what's Metro's and what's the community center. At night, yeah, I could see where we could tell the difference, but I just don't see how operating 24 hours, you pay \$467.

Chairman Bynum said, Commissioner Ramirez, are you, just as a note on this, would it be something you would like to see a little bit more investigation into the utility side of this monthly fee to try to make sure that we've honed in on a utility amount that's accurate? What, what would you be suggesting? **Commissioner Ramirez** said I would, I guess, if this contract gets through, then administration work along with BPU administration and BPU Board to find out a, a rate that is comparable to what a facility that size and time of operation would spend. **Chairman Bynum** said I appreciate that. Thank you.

Now, other committee member comments at this time? If not, I'm going to move into our public comment. I would like to start that by asking our Clerk Carol Godsil, tonight, Carol, I have a couple of questions for you, please. Was there a cap placed on the number of speakers that we would allow for tonight's comments? **Ms. Godsil** said to my knowledge, we do not cap the number of speakers; however, there is a deadline to sign up, which was last Thursday at 5 p.m. **Chairman Bynum** said so, the only cap placed on speaking tonight was that you make your request prior to the 5 p.m. deadline on Thursday prior, and that's been published on our Clerk's page on our website for a good long while since COVID, correct? **Ms. Godsil** said correct, and it's also noted that there was a three-minute time limit for the public to provide their comments. **Chairman Bynum** said

thank you very much. I would also note that we have a list of speakers and we do have the time and date stamps of when they made their requests. The only thing that stopped the speaker list from coming in was the attainment of that deadline.

I'm going to ask our speakers, since we have so many of you, if someone who has spoken prior to you has made all of your pertinent points with regard to Metro 24, then perhaps you could summarize and be succinct and very precise in the comments that you make.

With that, Carol, I'm going to ask you to go ahead and begin announcing our speakers, please. **Ms. Godsil** said okay, and I will note for the speakers that at the two-minute mark, I will advise that you have one minute to summarize your comments. So, I understand that Matt Warner will speak, last, I'm assuming. So, we have Desi Coleman. If you would go ahead and provide your city of residency for the record.

Desi Coleman said before I start, I do have Vicki Meyer here. She did sign up prior to speak prior to the deadline and she wasn't able to log on, so I would ask if she was able to speak before or after me. **Chairman Bynum** said yes, we have her on the list. Absolutely. **Ms. Coleman** said okay, perfect. My zip code is 66106 and my name is Desi Coleman, and I've been a trainer at Metro KC Fitness since we opened three years ago. Honestly, today I'm, I'm at a loss. I've had the opportunity to speak at every single meeting since—that we've had in regards to keeping Metro in the community center, and I'm just baffled that after all of this time, and all of these testimonies and members of the community that are in favor of Metro, that we're still having this same conversation.

So today, I'm not going to speak on the recent social media posts by Commissioner Ramirez jaw beating, or how he has not yet filed the requirements to hold his current position on the board or any of the senseless online rhetoric and drama. I am over it.

Today I am speaking directly to the commissioners. I've mentioned the many benefits of Metro from mental to physical. My clients and other members of the gym have been real life examples of how Metro benefits Argentine community. So, Commissioners, I'm asking you to take a step back and reflect on the choices that you're making for this community, and if they are really for the betterment of the community, or if it's some part of a political agenda that maybe you were unintentionally got yourself wrapped up in.

I realize a lot of decisions that are made are influenced by hearsay and other board members, but if you're looking at the cold hard facts that have been presented to you just now and investigated, then you need to make an educated, rational decision on whether Metro is hurting the community or if we are helping the community. The health of WYCO residents, more specifically the Argentine community, is in your hands.

I really hope—actually, I need you to understand the gravity of your vote on this matter. Decisions like this can snowball into something great, allowing other small businesses to grow. We can have higher employment rates, sales tax revenue, attracting new homeowners, obesity rates dropping and positively influencing the youth and the list goes on; or it can be more damaged. Quite frankly, I don't think Argentine community can afford it if we're trying to create a healthier living environment.

In closing, our Metro staff and members have made our choice that we'd like to stay right where we are in the community center and continue to make positive changes. Now it's your turn, commissioners. Based on the facts, I want you to ask yourself is Metro truly damaging the community, or are we improving it. Your vote will leave a lasting effect on this community. So please make an educated decision on what's best for Wyandotte County residents. Thank you. Here's Vicki.

Vicki Meyer said my zip code is 66106. Thank you, commissioners, for giving me the opportunity to speak to you. When Metro 24 came to my neighborhood, I looked into it and I joined because I wanted to lose some weight, gain some strength, the cost was great, it was in my neighborhood, the hours were wonderful, and I felt very secure and safe there going alone, even at late at night. What I got after I joined the gym, was I learned, not only how to eat healthy, how to build my strength, and I learned muscles among many things about my body and how to better improve my lifestyle. I also got a sense of family and always been welcomed there. The ages are good. Members there were from teens to the 60 plus, like myself. I never felt intimidated. I never felt like I didn't belong there. It always felt like a community to me.

They've done many things to help us get involved in supporting our community. They had free boot camps on Saturday mornings. There were free nutrition classes offered for the community. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, we were encouraged to donate money and toys for foster children and teens in the foster system. They had a 5K to raise money for the families of

the two murdered deputies here in Wyandotte County. They encouraged us to get involved in the community and to be vocal.

I would ask you, with the visible health statistics for Wyandotte County, please do not get rid of our Argentine rec, our Argentine gym. A few loud voices versus over 1,400 members is telling you that it's working and helping us maintain a healthy lifestyle. This gym has helped so many in our community. It draws us in. It keeps us involved in our community. Please listen to the many and not just a few. Thank you.

Ms. Godsil said our next speaker is Ismael Novas. **Ismael Novas** said I've been working at Metro KC for almost two years now and let me just say that most of my clients speak Spanish only. A lot of them don't know how to work out or ever been to a gym. I love to do what I do at the gym just because I'm able to teach them healthy habits that they can follow at home, healthy habits that they can do outside of the house or whenever they go out and pick something to eat. I'll kind of guide them a little bit more.

It's harder for those Spanish speakers to find someone to show them the healthy habits, because most of us speak English here in the United States and they're not able to get the guidance that they need to be able to live a healthier life. Being a trainer at the gym also let's me show them how to train, workout their body properly, become a little bit stronger physically and then also, working out helps your body stay physically active and mentally positive.

The gym is also a great place for me to be at. I find it a great place for anyone to be at just because you can make new friends, you can make new connections.

The reason I've been at the gym for so long is in sophomore year when I was going to high school at Wyandotte, there was the 8th Street YMCA. I would spend all my time to the school hanging out and working out with friends at the gym. I'd meet new people there and make new connections. Later on, I realized, how good working out makes me feel, and best of all, it was really close to my house. If it wasn't so close to my house, I'm pretty sure I wouldn't have kept going five days a week, four days a week and it would have been a lot harder for my parents to drop me off at the gym. So, that gym got closed down.

Metro KC came up and found out that that was only eight minutes away from my home. Sometimes it's not just the distance that makes people not go to the gym, but it's sometimes it's just the business that's there. So, whenever the gym is in the same location, it brings business to

all the locations around the business, around the gym like the Wal-Mart, the small restaurants that's there.

The other point is that Metro KC is open 24/7. A lot of the people I work with are usually off of work 6:00 or 7:00 and most rec centers that I know of close at about 9:00. A lot of people that I know get into the gym at about 7:00, 7:30, and then they'll have a two-hour session and leave at 11 at night. I know that, like I said, most centers don't offer a 24-hour access to their facilities.

Ms. Godsil said next we have Jessica Gomez. **Jessica Gomez** said I am one of the personal trainers at Metro KC. As we might all know by now, we know that Wyandotte County is amongst the unhealthiest counties in Kansas and has one of the highest obesity rates. So, to me, I cannot come to comprehend why we would want to shut down such a great place that benefits the people and has impacted so many lives in various positive ways that go beyond physical health.

I believe Metro is a great asset for Argentine, being the only successful gym in KCK, as it is convenient, affordable to attend. It deeply saddens me to—just the thought of having this place shut down. The cultural family that has been created is amazing. As a trainer at Metro, I have been allowed to experience this firsthand and listen to the stories of many individuals that Metro has impacted.

For many, it is an escape and a safe haven. As we know, it is no secret that Argentine has mental health issues. As a trainer, I have been able to experience many stories from a lot of the members on how Metro has literally saved their lives. Today, I ask that we come together as a community to reach an agreement, and I asked that we may listen to the residents and focus on what's best for the people. If there's anything that we could do to better or improve on that, we can decide it and improve together without all the fighting and negativity on social platforms. Metro is a great place that deserves to stay. I'm forever grateful for my family at Metro for helping me grow and always being there in times of need.

I honestly could not ask for a better community to be a part of. Thank you. That's all I got.

Ms. Godsil said and then, Jessica, are you also known as Jessica Reyes or is that a separate person? Do we have Jessica Reyes on the line? **Rocki Mayes, Executive Assistant to County Administrator**, said, Jessica Reyes, I have allowed you to speak. I did not see that they are

unmuting. **Ms. Godsil** said, okay, I can maybe go back at the end of the list then. Do we have Destiny Morales?

Destiny Morales said my zip code is 66106. I've been with Metro since my freshman year of college. Jessica Gomez is actually one of my personal trainers. Metro Fitness has always been a very safe place for me to work out. I feel like a lot of people in my community feel the exact same way.

Something that I want to touch on is that Metro Fitness has been a great opportunity for this community that has been thriving for the past couple of years since Metro has been there. It's brought more attention to the Wal-Mart, the gas stations, the schools that are in that area and even the library.

Also, another thing is that like saying earlier, Mr. Novas was saying that Metro can bring mental positivity and that's a very true statement that he made, speaking for myself, someone that does suffer from anxiety case. Metro Fitness has made an impact on my mental health, and I'm probably not the only one that feels that way.

But, honestly, I've gone to other gyms like 24-hour Planet Fitness and none of those places have made me as comfortable as Metro does. They don't even bother knowing your name or remembering you, but when I go to Metro, Cesar, who runs the gym, Jessica, they always say hi like even before I started training with Jessica, they always come up saying like, "Oh, how are you doing," and stuff like that. I feel like Metro is a very safe place and it's very friendly. It's always involved in the community. That's really all I have, like, removing this gym from this community that, which has been helping the community, would be a very big mistake on my part, and that's really all I have.

Ms. Godsil said next we have Geovanni Velazquez. **Geovanni Velazquez** said I've been a member for one year, and honestly, it's the best gym I've been to. Metro Fitness is there. It's a place that really cares about their members and the community too. Metro is not just a gym to go and exercise. It's a place that you can go, get rid of your problems, stress, anxiety and a lot more things. It's a place where young people, and old people can be together, help each other, and learn together. So, I don't think it's fair to take away something good from thousands of people to put like another thing that will be just for a few hundreds. So, let's be honest. What could be better

for the community than having around the corner a cheaper and great place that impacts directly in people's health and lives? Well, to finish, I would say that closing Metro—by closing Metro, you're not just taking that place from us. You will be taking the jobs from all the workers from Metro Fitness. That will be all.

Ms. Godsil said next we have Cesar Sanchez. **Cesar Sanchez** said I am the manager at Metro KC Fitness. I've been working here for a little over three years now. Let me tell you, it's been one hell of a journey, filled with nothing but success stories. So, me and my peers Metro 24 Fitness is our livelihood and a way to provide for our families. If you close Metro, you'll be taken away our careers and potential future careers to members of the community. We have hundreds of members that come from all around KCK and even from different counties to work out here in Argentine.

After their workouts, they shop here local, whether it's just to stop by and pump gas at a local gas station, stop by Wal-Mart or the new El Mercado Fresco just to pick up some groceries. Think about how that impacts the economic side of Argentine. So, fellow commissioners, I want to know how Wyandotte County will benefit by kicking Metro out of the community center, knowing that there's not an option for us to stay in Argentine, what positive impacts would that lead to? A rising of obesity, mental health, and many other battles that Argentine's already fighting. Over the last couple of months, I've been hearing nothing but negative comments from people who oppose the gym, however, I find it confusing that I've never seen this particular group of people in the gym or around the community. The positive impact that we have had in the community just seems to be disregarded, so let me enlighten you.

During Thanksgiving, we adopted 13 families in need from JC Harmon, gave them a holiday to remember. We did the same during Christmas. We put together a 5K and donated all proceeds to the families, and what about all the success stories of all our members around the community, but I won't go on. I think our impact shows for itself. Over the years, the busiest I've ever seen the community center is during bitty ball on Saturdays. During this time, the student room is still available to rent out to anybody who wanted to use it. I just don't see anything ever being scheduled. I'll be happy to work with Parks and Recs if they need any help with renting the multipurpose spaces, or I'll even go as far as helping them market the rooms as well. We have an amazing community here, and we are here to help the community, not just our members but everyone.

I would like to thank our members for the tremendous support during these times, a huge thank you Matt Warner for providing me and my peers with such an awesome career. I'm forever grateful for this opportunity. You pulled me out of rock bottom back in 2017 when I did not see a future and my depression was taken over me. Metro saved my life, and many other members from the gym can say the same. You know, lastly, I would like to end my speech with a moment of silence for all the lives that have been lost this year in the community and the most recent death of a friend Vinny.

Ms. Godsil said next up is Joseph Lalli. **Joseph Lalli** said thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I'll make this brief. I can just echo what's been said there. I can say from my perspective my zip code is 66102 so you know I'm off the beaten path just a minute. The entire community that they have been able to cultivate, grow, and really develop there has just been amazing. I am very proud to be part of it. There is a beautiful sense of community, a beautiful sense of family, cross-cultural, cross-generational and it seems like everyone has the same goal to help to develop each other with better habits and to encourage one another to do the right things. It's beautiful to see the kids or the youth of the community being mentored by people that are older in the community and seeing these things. These had to happen to have just been huge for me.

I'm in real estate. I love it. I specialize in this area. Metro has been a selling point. I've literally seen people make decisions on real estate based on the proximity of the gym. I have, like I said, just the cross-cultural community has been great, a great place to belong and to be heard, even in this setting. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak and just echo what everyone is saying. Luckily, I got off social media a long time ago so I don't see the dirt being thrown, however, I know how politics work. I am—I would just implore you to make a decision that is based on the people of our community and not the political junk that we have to deal with on a day-to-day basis. This is a great place and I don't need another minute because you guys can move on to the next. Thank you and have a fantastic rest of your evening.

Ms. Godsil said next we have Anna Salazar. **Anna Salazar** said I am from code 66102. Today I am speaking in support of Metro KC. The gym itself is an asset to the community. It's helped me work on getting in shape, but also building a healthier lifestyle. It's so close to home that driving

to it does not feel like a hassle, and the staff and the fellow gym members are really friendly and are always very welcoming.

My job, in particular, provides an offsite gym for free, but because it is far from home and it's also going to it, very intimidating, that I don't want to go and I don't make the drive even though it's free, I still prefer my community gym where I know they will always be open, day or night, and where I will always be welcomed. I feel safe and at home.

By removing the gym from the Argentine community, it would impact the whole community. We would no longer have a place close to home to go to. We would have to travel outside of our community just to go to a gym, and for some of us, that's not an option. Please consider keeping the gym at its current home in Argentine and ensuring that we, as residents of Wyandotte County, have a place that we can go to that we feel safe and that we feel welcome and not intimidated by going and working out. Thank you. That's all I have.

Ms. Godsil said Jessica Woodson. **Jessica Woodson** said I'm a KCK resident residing in the 66102 area and I'm also a slim down client of Desi Coleman. I'm advocating for the location of Metro KC to remain at the Argentine Community Center.

The location of the gym being in a community center was a vital part in my journey to living a healthy life. When I first became interested in living a healthier lifestyle, I didn't know how to get started because I was intimidated to attend a gym. I was not knowledgeable about the equipment and I didn't feel like I belonged at one.

One day I drove by the center and saw people working out outside. I stopped and discovered it was free to the community, which I had never experienced before. I began attending these free boot camp sessions, and I wasn't intimidated because there were people from the community that I recognized, and we were learning to use the gym equipment together like a family. Desi, a trainer at the gym, then began to talk about the importance of having a healthy diet, along with working out. They provided us with free Saturday morning nutrition classes in which we learned to cook healthy meals. After attending the free community workout sessions and the nutrition classes, I then felt comfortable enough to make the decision to join the gym and I've been a member ever since.

The Community Center was an essential part of my journey to living a healthy lifestyle, and I'm sure this is true for many others. I say all of this to paint the picture that having a gym in

a community center is less intimidating to a group of individuals like myself in which attending a gym or workout regularly is not a part of our culture. Our children attend the gym for basketball, dance practices and Zumba sessions, and it's important for them to see people that look like them, attending the gym on a regular basis. It communicates the importance of taking care of our physical and mental health.

Metro KC is breaking unhealthy generational habits. Having our gym in a family environment in our neighborhood expresses that we can take this journey together as a community and a family. If the gym was not connected to a community center, this message would not be as clear for me, our children or others in our community desperate for a healthier way of life. For this reason, I advocate for Metro KC to remain at the Argentine Community Center and that's all.

Ms. Godsil said Itzel Soto. **Itzel Soto** said I am a former member, current employee of Metro KC Fitness. My zip code is 66111. As everybody has already said, what I'd like to point out in growing up in the community is that I didn't even know that the community center was where it was located until Matt Warner opened up the gym. I didn't know of any events being held prior, anything, the community was putting on. I never heard about it, never saw any marketing, never got any flyers in the mail and I've lived in the community since I was four years old. The fact that when he opened it, finally realizing that this had been there and nobody was using it. Even once he did open it, realizing that it still wasn't being used. I work out at least averaging five days a week, sometimes on the weekends, and never are any of the other rooms being used. All the events that I've attended and have helped worked have always been held through Metro 24 Fitness.

I just think that the fact that the community center has been there so long and so many people in the community don't know and that Matt, in opening up his gym, has brought the community together, has connected so many people, has given people jobs, and a healthier lifestyle. The fact that it's even being questioned if it should stay open really points out the character and the goals of a lot of the people on the board. If the goals are to keep the community together, healthy, progressing and keep more of our money into the community, then staying open shouldn't be a question and that's all I have to say.

Ms. Godsil said next we have Tara Lindahl. **Tara Lindahl** said I reside and work in 66106. Tonight, I would like to encourage our commissioners to vote in favor of the proposal agreement

presented by the Parks and Rec Board and keep Metro in our community and in our Argentine Community Center.

The two questions I want our commissioners to consider this evening, the first is, is this proposal good for our community? Secondly, what do we gain by not approving this proposal and Metro leaving our community?

Going back to the first question, Is this good for the community? There's three things I want to say to that. First of all, businesses and services such as Metro Fitness are what attract and retain people into our neighborhoods. I know that there were some concerns from people in the community about the original agreement that was made and my response to that would be that this proposal that's coming forth now, I think addresses those concerns. I also want to say that if there are so many businesses and services wanting to come into our community, that there would have been more than one response for a notice of need in order to meet this need and that was not the case. I think that in order to attract and retain residents into our community, Metro is one of those services that we want to see stay in our community in order to do so.

Secondly, I think that Metro meets the health and wellness goals of the Parks and Rec Board which was shared in the presentation earlier this evening.

As an educator I'm constantly encouraged to look and respond to the data. When I look at this data, I think we can overwhelmingly agree that Metro Fitness is meeting those Parks and Recs goals, and it's addressing the health and wellness needs of our community. If we want to be data driven decision makers, I think that we can't help but say that Metro is meeting those needs and it's responding positively to the data; and that by moving forward with this proposal, we're going to continue to see positive gains in terms of health and wellness.

Additionally, I think that by having so many people a part of the Metro family that we're seeing increased participation in the community center in general and in our community. So, again I want to encourage our commissioners to be data-driven decision makers and look at that data critically.

Finally, I understand that there is a concern about having a private entity in a public space. To that, I would say this, if we were asking Metro 24 to leave the public community center, number one, I don't think that we would see them be retained in our community because of the financial investment that was made, and that there additionally isn't a lot of private space in our community.

Why having a private entity in a public space might be a concern for some, I go back to the original question, Is this good for our community? I hope that we can all agree that that answer is yes.

So finally, I leave you with this question, What do we gain by not approving this proposal and having Metro leave our community? I can't say that when we look at these the data, we look at these stories that are being told that that answer is a positive one. So, I encourage you to vote yes for this proposal agreement and keep Metro in our community. Thank you.

Ms. Godsil said Jennifer Polo. (Ms. Polo did not respond.) We can come back to her. **Chairman Bynum** said let's keep her on the list and come back around to her. She might be having trouble unmuting or something. **Ms. Godsil** said will do.

Okay, next we received an email from Joshua Messick, and he asked that his comments be read, which I will do it this time. I have been a member of the Argentine community for almost my entire life. I grew up playing at the Joe Amayo Argentine Community Center back when it was highly utilized. It had a summer camp for youth that was run back in the 90s to early 2000s that I attended, and I played basketball several times a week at the school through middle and high school.

As the years passed, I watched the community center become unused and its gym was nearly a relic with its best years far behind it. The only portion of the center knowingly utilized was the basketball gymnasium. To this day, that portion is still utilized and is not being occupied by Metro KC Fitness as false information would have people believe.

The old multipurpose rooms, that stood in the north portion of the building, were extremely underutilized, outdated and their existence was hardly known to the public. The only thing they were used for was morning breakfast for a group of elders. That breakfast still occurs at the center, now in a different location within the center. The run-down multipurpose rooms now hold a beautiful state-of-the-art community orientated gym. We know this as Metro KC Fitness. Matt and Raymond have provided the community with this quality fitness center, unlike any other in Argentine, or any of the surrounding Wyandotte County neighborhoods. Not only is it high quality, it is low cost.

Prior to the arrival of Metro KC Fitness, members of this community and the surrounding area would travel to Johnson County to get their fitness in, or they would not try to work on their

health and fitness at all. Having this gym in Argentine keeps our citizens here in KCK. It also has given so many people of all walks of life, young, old, wealthy non wealthy in shape, or not in shape, a chance to come and work on their health.

Metro KC Fitness is a direct variable in improving health and decreasing obesity in our community. I state this because as a member I have seen it firsthand. Having a highly utilized community gym keeps adolescents off the streets. In the summers, members, students of the USD 500 are able to use the facility. This allows them to gain confidence and improve on their health and fitness. More importantly, it gives the youth something to do and keeps them out of the streets. We have seen far too much violent crime done by youth in juvenile gangs in our community. Keeping our youth occupied and improving themselves, is something that this facility contributes to. That is invaluable.

Metro KC Fitness holds community workouts, free classes for teachers, does community cleanup, sponsors sports teams to keep members active and has community fitness competitions. These things have shown to, to bring members of the community together. The gym itself is an amazing network for community members. Metro KC Fitness has become a part of the Argentine community and the members of the KC Fitness have become a family. He only had another sentence, but the three minutes are up.

Ms. Godsil said next we have Robin Felman. **Robin Felman** said I'm speaking this evening to tell you what a positive addition that Metro KC Fitness is providing to the Argentine community. I am a kindergarten teacher at Emerson Elementary. My school is right behind the gym. Emerson has a great relationship with Metro KC Fitness. I have a membership to the gym, and I take advantage of my proximity to the gym. Now more than ever, this gym plays an important part in the physical and mental wellness of the community. It provides so much more than weights and machines. It is a place where everyone can belong. I see firsthand on the inclusiveness this gym is to the wonderfully diverse community of Argentine. The positive energy that the gym creates is beneficial to the members and the community. I believe that Metro KC Fitness Argentine is creating and providing a necessary service to the community. It would be a tremendous lost if the gym was not in Argentine. Thank you.

Ms. Godsil said next we have Brianna Talavera. **Brianna Talavera** said tonight I am speaking in support of Metro KC Fitness. I've been a member of the gym since shortly after they opened in 2017, and I believe that the gym is (inaudible). This facility is affordable and the equipment is new, but even better than that, is the sense of community that is present between everyone that uses the gym. The managers and owners have become a positive presence in Argentine.

They're more than just a business. The gym has sponsored sports teams, ran toy drives, and my favorite event was the run for Deputy Rohrer and Deputy King. If Metro Fitness were to be forced out of the community center, then over 1,500 members would be forced to go to Johnson County or Missouri to workout. The gym is fundamental to the health of many members of the community who aren't able to travel out of the neighborhood.

With so many other issues plaguing our community, I find it hard to believe that removing Metro Fitness could be at the top of the list. It's a shame that a place that is bringing commerce, good health and safety is being targeted. Please do not allow a small group of antagonist sway you into believing that this gym is bad for Argentine. There are so many more that want to see Argentine continue to grow commercially and Metro Fitness has started the process.

This gym is in the best interest of the Argentine community and, commissioners, I ask that you support the gym and allow them to remain in the Joe E. Community Center. Thank you.

Ms. Godsil said Raymond East. **Raymond East** said I am one of the owners of Metro KC Fitness. I apologize for any perceptions that we went low during this process. For the most part though, when our detractors go low, we go high. Those who insist on spreading alternative facts I say this, David Price, there are no karate classes. There's plenty of opportunity though, call Parks and Rec. How can we help? Lisa Amayo, nobody pushed veterans out. I am a decorated wartime Veteran and would not condone it. We support veterans and we're proud to serve. Call to discuss how we can do more. Felicia Lockett, Zumba and basketball are managed by Parks and Rec. Perhaps partition was low because there were no balls. Your friends at Metro KC Fitness donated brand new basketballs and volleyballs. See how this works? We choose to go high.

Carolyn Ruiz, you're right about the old library. It's bursting with potential. Let's talk about how we can work together on this. Faith Rivera, why are there fewer parties, clubs, and dance classes? I'd love to see you volunteer. There's plenty of space. How can Metro help? One of you, no idea why you drove up and down my street one night taking pictures of my house. This is just

another example of the harassment and intimidation we face. Didn't think I knew about that one did you?

We were asked to celebrate the opening of the fitness park. Our detractors instantly started rumors that we were taking over, whatever the heck that even means. We went high, they went low. The police were recently called for made up problems. What happened when they came to investigate? They became members. We go high. They go low. We have recovering COVID patients, some of whom were in comas and left for dead. Where will they go?

It's going to take a village to increase participation. I offered to help organize a talent show; nothing but crickets. I was ignored because it means people can't complain, and they would have to work. Some folks were trying to start a tennis program last year. I reached out and offered to help donate equipment; more crickets. Ask the owner of Mercado Fresco who was the first business that welcomed into the community. We've already collaborated on some things and he is now a gym member. See how this works? Ask the wonderful folks over at Community Housing of Wyandotte County or the downtown boxing gym about our support. Mike Aguirre's brother, you organized an amazing event a few weeks ago and asked for help. We stepped up. Ask the basketball kids who gives them rides home when the weather is bad. Ask our physically challenged members who provides transportation. You see how this works? We applaud Urban Outfitters in the 2000 jobs coming to WYCO. Our detractors even complained about this on social media and said that nobody is bringing jobs to the core.

Well, Metro KC Fitness has, right here in the core. See how this works? We're better together. Commissioners, some of you took a risk and voted in favor of Metro KC Fitness last time around. Thank you for your wise choice. I respectfully ask, what has changed? What metrics have we failed? We ask for your vote once more. You will not be disappointed. (Ms. Godsil said your three minutes is up.) **Mr. East** said alright.

Ms. Godsil said next we have Juan Guzman. **Ms. Mayes** said I do not see anybody named Juan Guzman in the attendees. **Chairman Bynum** said, Mr. Guzman, if you're on by phone maybe you could raise your hand. **Ms. Mayes** said I don't believe they're able to raise their hand by phone. **Chairman Bynum** said okay.

Ms. Godsil said next we have Andrew Ramirez and he has requested his info be read into the record. I have been a resident of Wyandotte, County, Kansas City, Kansas, my entire life; specifically, the Argentine area.

I am speaking today in support of Metro 24 Fitness. I'm a former collegiate athlete and always wished to have something like Metro 24 in the community. While growing up, I had to take my money and pay for a facility in Johnson County, nearly 20 to 30 minutes away from home if I wanted to go work out. Metro 24 should be seen as one of Argentine's greatest assets because the environment is welcoming, friendly, safe and clean. Metro 24 serves a large population of minorities who are traditionally at risk for diabetes, high blood pressure and heart conditions, and other morbid issues. Metro has given the people the opportunity to not only better themselves, but make lifestyle changes to live a longer, healthier, happier life at a convenient location and a reasonable price. I ask the Commission this evening to consider the benefits that this facility has provided to our community to become healthier and slowly changing the community rankings regarding Wyandotte County. Those are his comments.

Ms. Godsil said next we have Darae Adriano. **Ms. Mayes** said I do not see anybody with that name in the attendees list. If you are under another name, can you please raise your hand. **Ms. Godsil** asked what about a Michael Adriano. **Ms. Mayes** said I do not see Michael Adriano either in the attendees list. **Ms. Godsil** said Luis Madrigal. I can call him afterwards.

Ms. Godsil said James Wing, he has asked that his info be read into the record. I am writing this letter in support of Metro Fitness. As a lifelong resident of Wyandotte County and having lived in three different areas of our great county, Metro Fitness is one of the only facilities that serves the entire county. Wyandotte County lacks affordable physical fitness facilities and allowing Metro to close would be a disservice to an already urgent need. Statistic after statistic supports more now than ever, compelling evidence that our county's public health lags drastically behind the rest of the state in terms of physical health. If we ever want to reverse course opposing to work with a proven and embedded member of our community today that undeniably invests back into the community in which the facility serves will without a doubt, have long term implications.

When this adventure started, the 8th Street YMCA had just closed, and members of our community wondered if we would ever have access to another facility. I questioned if Metro

would work for a number of reasons but was happy a deal was struck and just hoped that if (again I was not a believer) the facility could make it work. They would not be ran out once their lease was up. I have openly said this to a number of individuals in our community and expect for rational minds to prevail. From donating to little league basketball and baseball teams to sponsoring competitive softball teams located here in our community would just be supplemental to the work and staff does to better our community's health. Those are his comments.

Ms. Godsil asked do we have Sarah Hardeman? Sarah Hardeman had actually changed her mind to speak and only asked that she would go on record that she is in support of the Metro 24 Fitness Center. I, at this time, am going to go back and read the names of those on our list who were not able to speak. So, do we have Jessica Reyes? (Ms. Reyes did not respond.)

Ms. Godsil said okay, then, Jennifer Polo. **Ms. Mayes** said Ms. Polo you are on. **Jennifer Polo** asked can you hear me? (Nothing else was heard.)

Ms. Godsil said okay, let's see about Luis Madrigal. **Luis Madrigal** said I'm a lifelong resident of Wyandotte County. I've proudly served in the communities of Quindaro, Turner, Rosedale, and finally finishing up my firefighting career right in Argentine.

I was a member of the old gym for over 12 years, and I was told that Matt was going to be bringing a new gym, which I couldn't believe, but Commissioner Murguia assured me and next thing you know, a nice beautiful gym pops up and I meet Matt, and all you have to do is talk to him for a little bit and you find out he's good people. To me, the biggest compliment you can have is to be told you're a good person. Knowing that, I started going to the gym with Matt, and it's an outstanding place to be.

The other side of this whole thing is, there was a lot of money spent on fixing the place up. Matt spent a lot of money putting it into the gym. It'd be a shame to shut it down and then have the taxpayers remodel the whole place for other spaces that may or may not get used.

Right now, having a business like Matt's on the payroll, on the tax rolls, is exactly what we need. I truly believe it's the commissioners' job to provide a better quality of life for all its citizens and this gym is doing that. Please keep in mind, there are cancerous people out there that

want to make things go away, but there's a lot of positive things happening now at that gym so it'd be a shame to see it go. So, thank you for your time.

Chairman Bynum asked, do we want to try and see if Jennifer Polo can speak now and then I believe we have one or two more before we're done. Is that correct? **Ms. Godsil** said yes, we still have Matt Warner to speak. **Chairman Bynum** said and then I have one more, Gloria Martinez. **Ms. Godsil** said that is speaking in opposition. **Chairman Bynum** said okay, alright, very good. Let's come around to Jennifer one more time and give her a chance. **Jennifer Polo** said area code 66106. Thank you, commissioners, for your time and for accepting my testimony via email and prior to this meeting. Personally, I think it's ridiculous we are having to have this conversation and fight again for our health to keep our gym. Metro has become the heart of our neighborhood. We have so many other issues we should be discussing, raw sewage, running down Ruby Avenue for months, murders, gang violence, vandalism, sex offenders dropping off the offender list in a year, roads caving in and graffiti; all of which are making our neighborhoods unsafe for our families and costing lives and residents' money to replace and fix. I appreciate the UG staff speaking to the facts of Metro's previous agreement, and the agreement that was—they will agree that it was fulfilled and beyond.

There is a huge miscommunication among a few in our community that Metro has taken over the community center, and the residents are not welcomed. That is not true. The fact is residents can rent rooms on the Parks and Rec's website or call. Just as they always have been able to do, except during the construction period, which is when the gym was outfitted and installed an air conditioner benefiting the entire community center.

Why aren't they upset with Parks and Recs? Parks and Recs is in charge of the programs at the center. It is their responsibility to assist in utilizing the rooms they have and bringing in those dollars to county. What would we do with the space if Metro left? Parks and Recs doesn't have the money to replace it, especially the caliber of what we have now.

I work at KU in KCK and our family has lived in Argentine for over 20 years. My three boys go to schools here in Argentine and have played sports through the KCK Parks and Recs at the community center and are all gym members. I have enjoyed Zumba and fitness classes sponsored by Parks and Recs in an agreement with Argentine members in the basketball gym. I

had a very good relationship with the now retired Ms. Pam who ran a community center for many years. She was a member of the Silver City Elementary School PTA when I served as president.

Metro has felt fulfilled a health need for our residents of all ages, genders and backgrounds. The testimonies you have heard this evening prove we have made great progress with their help. In addition to filling a fitness where they have helped families with food and education classes. You've heard all the different volunteer opportunities that they've given, all the things that they've given back to the community. There's a pattern here. Metro is good for our community. Now they're working on a 911 Memorial event. What gym does that? One that's for our community.

You and I are privileged in the fact that we can get in our cars and drive to work, grocery stores or a fitness facility. Some of our neighbors can't. As a resident and gym member, I support where they are. They are conveniently located. (**Ms. Godsil** said your three minutes are up.)

Ms. Godsil said the last person signing up to speak in favor is Matt Warner. **Matt Warner** said, I'm owner, operator of Metro 24 Fitness. I just want to start out by saying after owning and operating over 10 different 24-hour access fitness centers, I am confident that the near \$500 utilities is plenty for the water and electricity. I can provide old statements from various centers that would show this. So, instead of spending more money to separate the meters, let's just move forward. The lights only stay on at night if someone is working out. So, to me it's a small price to pay for someone to be bettering themselves.

But tonight, I know we had a lot of people talk about how Metro 24 has changed our community members lives, and I want to talk about how we can continue to improve the lives of the people in Argentine and Wyandotte County. As Angela stated, four years ago the UG put out the notice of need. The notice of need was looking for a company to provide fitness management services for the Argentine Community Center. Paragraph one of this notice of needs states, the need is due to Wyandotte County ranking last in the Kansas County health rankings. Paragraph two, states that the Unified Government is dedicated to improving the quality of lives of all its residents by meeting their health, living and recreation needs.

So, the requirements of this notice of need, you need to have experience in managing fitness operations. The next requirement, serve the residents of Wyandotte County. The next requirement, offer affordable membership rates to Wyandotte County residents and lastly, maintain and replace equipment as needed. Then here are my questions, why are we even

considering not renewing this agreement? We have the same amazing professional staff that we hired from day one. We are the most inexpensive fitness center in Wyandotte County. Our membership base consists of 97% Wyandotte County residents.

We're constantly purchasing new and innovative equipment for our members. As moving from number 101 to 99 on the health rankings, is that the overall goal that we were looking for? Then I hear that we took over this community center. This is completely false. There's actually more square footage to rent than prior to 2016. The center is still underutilized. This would be a completely different conversation if there was nowhere to reserve, but in 2018, the multipurpose room was only reserved 11 times and in 2019, the multipurpose room was only reserved 10 times. I've never seen all usable space reserved at one time.

The notice that of need was a creative way to keep from having to make a dedicated sales tax for our underfunded Parks and Recs Department and saving tax money. Maybe these commissioners are the same that helped us get Metro 24 to Argentine, and we would love your continued support. But if you're no longer in support, please help me understand where we failed the community. Why were we never notified if we were not performing to your standards? How can Metro 24 and the UG work together to make this community center? (Ms. Godsil said you're at three minutes.) **Chairman Bynum** said thank you Matt.

I believe we have one final speaker. Is that correct? **Ms. Godsil** asked do you want me to read the one that's in opposition? **Chairman Bynum** said certainly. Was that a comment that was sent in? **Ms. Godsil** said Gloria Martinez, she should be on the phone. **Chairman Bynum** said okay, so in addition to Gloria Martinez is there yet another written statement or are those one in the same. **Ms. Godsil** said we've gone through all of those in favor, and then we just have the one in opposition. **Chairman Bynum** said okay, we're ready to hear from Ms. Martinez then it sounds like.

Gloria Martinez said I'm an Argentine resident 66106. I would first like to say that the Argentine community is not against Metro 24 contrary to all the posts on social media. What I am against is the lack of accountability and continued growth for Metro 24 on the backs of the community. Metro 24 was afforded a unique opportunity to grow their business into a more affluent area while the taxpayers footed the bill; over \$800,000 in renovations for community center that most of the community cannot use. The Argentine Community Center went from an active location that hosted

bitty ball, volleyball, dance, karate classes to sitting empty and only open when it's convenient for Metro 24.

It was also home to other youth and senior directed services that are no longer available to an average population. It is clear now that this experiment has been overall damaging to the community; not only in the sense that the community center is largely unavailable, but also the financial losses in the form of revenue and activity fees that would have gone back to the county. This all the while Metro 24 sits in a prime location free of charge.

Lastly, the use of coercion and blackmailing taxes (inaudible) is a gross use of power and unethical treatment of its members in our community. This is not what the Amayo Center was built for or something, its namesake would have stood for. Our community is tired of being ignored and taken advantage of. We hope our commissioners and the UG are listening and do the right thing. That's all I have.

Chairman Bynum said thank you, Miss Martinez. Clerk, Carol Godsil, is that the final public speaker for the agenda tonight? **Ms. Godsil** said yes, Ms. Chairman.

Chairman Bynum said I want to thank everyone who sat on the call and listened into our meeting, waiting for this item to come up. I want to thank every member of the community who has taken the time to give your input. I want to thank our standing committee members for being so diligent and patient and listening. You know, our standing committee is the primary way for our public to interact so, it's really important that we gave them the time and attention that we did tonight. At this point, we can take committee comments.

Commissioner Markley said this facility is not within my district but as most of you know, it sits right on the border of my district and so my district is within the service area of this gym. I would venture to say that probably a good majority of the 66106 zip codes come from within my commission district.

From day one, years ago when this process started and we were at neighborhood meetings asking the community what they wanted in a community center, discussing the potential to use donated funds to improve that community center, throughout that entire period and up until today, I have seen overwhelming community support for this gym. In addition to that, I have seen the

gym provide overwhelming support to this community and to several of the speakers mentioned their participation in community events, their willingness to get involved in aspects of the community that have nothing to do with fitness, but that has everything to do with being part of our community and supporting the people that live here.

Additionally, so I clearly support this gym and I think this agreement, this lease agreement is the right step forward for us. Additionally, I would say we have seen significant community engagement around this issue, and it's very important to me that this issue move forward to the full Commission because I think there are commissioners who have been monitoring these comments throughout discussions about this lease agreement who deserve to hear this item in full. So, I know Commissioner Ramirez has reserved final comment today and I know that there are probably other commissioners who wish to speak, but I would make a motion in favor of moving this item forward to the full Commission for consideration. **Chairman Bynum** said thank you, Commissioner Markley.

Commissioner Philbrook said I agree with Commissioner Markley. I'd like to second that motion because we do need to move it in front of the full Commission for more conversation.

Action: **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Philbrook, to approve and forward to the full Commission for discussion.**

Chairman Bynum said now, Commissioner Ramirez, I'm certain that you've got comments you'd like to share so I'm going to call on you at this time.

Commissioner Ramirez said I want to thank everyone who's been involved from the administration staff, Mr. Warner, and the community members who have come to voice their opinions on this issue. I haven't had the full opportunity to explain my position and why I support one over the other. For the past six years, I have worked at Johnson County Parks and Recreation in an after-school care program. My number one job in this position is to plan and provide activities and programming for children. Yes, Johnson County has a bigger budget than we do, but why are we letting that stop us. Why can't we provide the best program we can to our children with the current budget we have? Why does Wyandotte County not put our children as a priority?

It would be hard to provide programming, but not impossible. It pains me to see the stark difference in how we prioritize for the well-being of our children.

A community center is the perfect example of how we can prioritize our children in Wyandotte County. The Joe E. Amayo Center has been the focal point of this prioritization in Argentine. Unfortunately, the past several years that focal point has been shattered. Our children need better and demand more than they are given now.

When I campaigned, I was fighting for small business growth and community driven economic development, but this time, I'm only fighting for the children in Argentine and in Wyandotte County. I'm not fighting for myself or one group over the other. I'm fighting to be their advocate and try to give them their community center. Everyone here, we all have the same goal, to make Argentine and Wyandotte County the best it can be, but we all have different ways of getting there. I believe the best way to grow communities is to make sure our children have a fighting chance in this world. They are our future and we must do everything we can to protect that.

And to my colleagues on this committee and those that are not here today, I'm going to be open and frank. Since I have been a commissioner, I feel that we just serve as a rubber stamp sometimes for projects, but I would like us to remember we are the governing and policymaking body, and we must continue to fight for our children. We have many days ahead where we can fight for small business and economic growth, but tonight, I think it's important that we fight for the children of Wyandotte County and that is why I will be voting no to renew just because of our children. They are my priority. They will always be my priority. **Chairman Bynum** said thank you, Commissioner Ramirez. Are there other comments or questions?

BPU Board Member Groneman said I do not see the updated agreement. It's not in the packet other than these few bullet points that Emerick went over. Has the agreement been finalized yet, or is it still being worked on? **Mr. Cross** said, Mr. Groneman, I do not believe so. I will turn this over to Misty Brown. I don't believe that document's been completed yet. These were the negotiating points that you see on the screen that we went over. **Misty Brown, Deputy Chief Counsel**, said that's correct, Emerick. Before we draft the document, we wanted to get direction from the Commission. Once we have the final direction, we will put it into the contract.

Chairman Bynum said, Misty would you say it's a fair statement that the new agreement or this to pass would be substantially the same as the existing agreement with all pertinent bullet points remaining except for the newly negotiated items, such as the monthly total fee, and the option of the two one-year renewals along with the option to raise the fee 3% annually after the first year? Would you say that other than those, it would substantially be the same or no? **Ms. Brown** said yes, that's correct, Commissioner. It would be substantially the same. This is a unique situation because contracts don't typically go in front of the Commission. You have policies and ideas so this contract will be substantially the same. It will only be changed to the extent that the Commission provides direction on what areas they want changed. **Chairman Bynum** said okay. Thank you very much. Are there other comments or questions?

Commissioner Kane said in 15 years, I've never seen anything like this before and it bothers me from both sides. I guess my question is and, and I know Christian is already doing the right thing that he feels. My question to the owner and to Christian is, is there some sort of compromise that we can come up with? I wouldn't mind being a part of to try to get this issue where we need it to get. I've never offered that before, but I think it would be in the best interest of the community that we do some more sitting down and talking and finding out what the real issues are. **Commissioner Ramirez** said, Commissioner Kane, I would say yes. **Commissioner Kane** said okay, and the owner? **Mr. Warner** said yes, sir. I completely agree. That's why I kept saying that there is open space available for these youth activities, and we would do whatever we could to help them get them off the ground. **Commissioner Kane** said okay. I don't know how we facilitate this. I would ask staff to set up a time with those folks and myself and to come up with a resolution that maybe not makes everyone happy, but gets the job done when we can continue and move on.

Chairman Bynum said, Commissioner Kane, I really appreciate your statement and your effort. I know that you deeply care as well about the whole community. What I would like to ask this body is for us to agree to take our vote and the stipulation at this point is that we've got two commissioners that have agreed to sit down with Matt Warner, the owner of Metro 24, to continue—**Commissioner Markley** said I was just going to say, I don't know what the full Commission date is and maybe somebody knows that off the top of their head, but I would be

happy to amend my motion to say that we would still like to forward this to the full Commission for discussion, but with the caveat that we would encourage these volunteers, thank you very much, to continue to meet and discuss opportunities for the contract. **Commissioner Philbrook** said, Angela, I will second her motion.

Action: **Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Philbrook, to amend the motion to forward this item to full Commission for discussion with the caveat that we would encourage these volunteers to continue to meet and discuss opportunities for the contract.**

Commissioner Philbrook said the only question I have, Angela, is do we want to put a timeline on this? **Commissioner Markley** said that's why I was curious. What would the full Commission date be for this to go to full Commission if it weren't fast tracked or anything like that and would that give ample time for those meetings to occur or not? Does anyone know, staff? **Ms. Mayes** said it is September 3rd that it is scheduled to go to full Commission, which is next Thursday.

Commissioner Philbrook said that's too fast. Is it possible, without everybody having a conniption if we put it off to the following commission meeting? Would you be—**Chairman Bynum** said we need Legal to weigh-in because I believe the commission meeting following that would be a Planning & Zoning meeting. Counsel? **Ms. Godsil** said, Chairman, actually, that would be a full Commission, not Planning & Zoning, and that would be on September 17th. **Chairman Bynum** said excellent, thank you so much.

Commissioner Philbrook asked, can I ask that we change it to that? Would that work for you, Angela? What about you, Mike? **Commissioner Kane** said yes, absolutely. **Commissioner Markley** said agreed, full Commission September 17th. **Commissioner Philbrook** asked what about the owners? **Mr. Warner** said September 17th would work great. **Commissioner Kane** asked, Commissioner Ramirez? **Commissioner Ramirez** said that works for me.

Mr. Groneman said I would suggest or ask that before the agreement is finalized, I don't know whether \$400 or \$500 a month in utilities is a legitimate figure or not, but I'd asked that included in this would be that somebody actually meets with the BPU staff and makes sure that the correct

amount of utility charges are being captured, whether that be \$400, \$500, \$300, whatever that figure might be, before the actual agreement is finalized.

Chairman Bynum said what I would like to do right now is ask our legal counsel to step in at this point because we had a motion on the floor and a second, then we amended the motion and had a second to that, and now we're having continued discussion on multiple items that this standing committee would like to see taken up on this item prior to it coming before full Commission for a decision. So, if I could have Legal first of all clarify, number one, that we're still in order as far as the procedures that we're following. Number two, that we can choose to move this item to a September 17th Commission date; and then number three, that we can stipulate within our action that we're going to work with a small subcommittee of Matt Warner, Commissioner Kane, Commissioner Ramirez, and also get more clarity from the Board of Public Utilities about the proper amount of utilities for a space and use this size. Got all that?

Ms. Brown said okay. It is—you know, it got interesting. We had the original motion and a second, and then Commissioner Markley went ahead to amend her motion and Commissioner Philbrook agreed to also maintain her second of that original motion. Then, it was, at that point, to send the matter to the full Commission on the 17th, which I think we could do that, subject to the Mayor's approval since he sets the agenda. The Standing Committee could recommend to do that, to ask that it be set on the 17th.

Commissioner Kane said I would also like to have Lynn Melton, out of the Mayor's Office, there as well. **Chairman Bynum** said that would be great. **Ms. Brown** said I think we could do that.

Then there was the stipulation in there that, certain activities were going to take place prior to the 17th. If you're going to do it like that, I mean, there's two courses of action that I see. One, we could look at tabling the matter for further consideration on staff, or we could ask to maybe clarify the motion and the second that we were wanting to move it forward with the contingency that staff do this—these additional meetings and report back on the 17th, but I think we could do it. **Commissioner Markley** said what she said. That second part. **Commissioner Philbrook** said I'll second what she said. Thank you, Misty, because anytime we start adding something, we've got to modify it, so thank you. **Commissioner Markley** said we'd like to forward it to the full Commission meeting on 17th with the contingency that staff can be in this group to meet as Misty

stated better than I did. **Commissioner Philbrook** said and that we take care of the BPU issue. Right? **Commissioner Markley** said yes. **Chairman Bynum** said correct. **Commissioner Philbrook** said I'll second that.

Action: **Commissioner Markley made an amended motion, seconded by Commissioner Philbrook, to approve and forward to full Commission on September 17th, contingent upon staff meeting with the Metro 24 Fitness owner to discuss opportunities for the contract and utility charges.** Roll call was taken on the motion and there were six "Ayes," Groneman, Philbrook, Kane, Ramirez, Markley, Bynum.

Chairman Bynum said so that motion carries. Thank you all so much for that work. I want to thank the community, again, for your patience with us as we make our way through this.

Adjourn:

Chairman Bynum adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

tpl