STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS SPECIAL SESSION, THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS)

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Session, Thursday, March 12, 2020, with ten members present: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Walters, Commissioner Seventh District; Philbrook, Commissioner Eighth District; and Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District and Mayor Pro Tem/CEO presiding. Mayor/CEO Alvey was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Doug Bach, County Administrator; Ken Moore, Chief Legal Counsel; Bridgette Cobbins, Unified Government Clerk; Melissa Sieben, Gordon Criswell, Emerick Cross, Assistant County Administrators; Terrie Garrison, Interim Director of Public Health, Elizabeth Groenweghe, Chief Epidemiologist in the Health Department, and Officer Jay Doleshal, Sergeant-at-Arms.

MAYOR PRO TEM BURROUGHS called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Bynum, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Burroughs.

SECOND RESCHEDULED & AMENDED NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, that was scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber regarding Municipal ID has been postponed until further notified.

An Amended Special Session of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, that was scheduled after the 7:00 p.m. regular commission meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2020, for an executive session regarding labor negotiations and litigation will convene at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, March 12, 2020 in the 5th floor conference room for an executive session regarding labor negotiations and litigation. At 6:15 p.m. the Commission will reconvene in the 5th floor conference room for an update regarding COVID 19.

CONSENT TO MEETING of the governing body of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, accepting service of the foregoing notice, waiving all and any irregularities in such service and in such notice, and consent and agree that we, the governing body, shall meet at the time and place therein specified and for the purpose therein stated.

Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs said do we have a motion for an Executive Session for consultation with our Attorney to discuss matters related to Litigation and Labor?

Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to go into Executive Session until 6:15 p.m. to consult with our attorneys and to discuss confidential matters related to pending claims and litigation, and confidential matters regarding the status and future direction of labor negotiations, as justified under the Kansas Open Meetings Act; under the attorney/client privilege and the employer/employee negotiations exceptions; and that staff designated by the County Administrator be present to participate in the discussion and that we reconvene in open session at 6:15 p.m. in the 5th floor conference room. Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs asked all in favor to say "Aye." Motion carried.

6:00 p.m.

Present for the Executive Session: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Walters, Commissioner Seventh District; Philbrook, Commissioner Eighth District; and Burroughs, Mayor Pro Tem presiding. **Staff Present:** Doug Bach, County Administrator; Ken Moore, Chief Legal Counsel; and Maureen Mahoney, Chief of Staff in Mayor's Office.

6:15 p.m. – Special Session

Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs said we will reconvene and what I would like to do at this time is call on Administrator Bach to give us an update on COVID 19.

Doug Bach, County Administrator, said throughout the course of the last couple of weeks there have been many activities going on in the community and the region regarding COVID 19. Over the last 24 hours I think we've seen some major changes happening that we're seeing in the region with cancellation of national events and then locally here the same impacts coming on as far as our considerations locally. We've asked the Health Department who is on point in working through this to come over and give us an update on where we are with some items. I will turn this over to Terrie Garrison, Director of Health, and let her proceed.

Terrie Garrison, Interim Director of Public Health, said we just want to give you some points on where we're at, what we've been doing and where we're going from here. First, I would like to introduce our Chief Epidemiologist Elizabeth Groenweghe. She has been really steering us in the right way with the COVID 19 and we have been following her lead. I will turn it over to her.

Elizabeth Groenweghe, Chief Epidemiologist in the Health Department, said I'm the Epidemiologist which means that I'm kind of the primary point person for COVID or Coronavirus activity and all the activities we're doing here at the Health Department.

As you can imagine, we've been very busy these last couple weeks and so I kind of wanted to fill you in on some of the activities that we've been doing at the Health Department working on this issue. We have been investigating a number of individuals, people with travel history or people with symptoms of COVID. We've tested a number of individuals within the last week. We've also been in regular communication with the other departments within the Unified Government to make sure we're coordinating our efforts and putting all the preventative measures into place that we need to put in place within the UG. We've also been in regular communication with schools and school nurses to make sure that they're informed. We've also been collaborating with the state and regional Health Departments to make sure the messaging that we're getting at is consistent across other Health Departments within our region.

One of the new recommendations that we put forth earlier today that you might have seen via the Facebook Live press releases that we are now strongly recommending; no large gatherings, any kind of large gatherings including churches, special events, sporting events, anything like that, we are recommending and strongly recommending, that those not take place because of the risk of this virus spreading within our community. This is going to be a very important measure going

forward as we try to prevent the spread as early as we can. We don't want to look back a week from now and wonder what else could we have done that we should have done. We are strongly recommending no large gatherings, anywhere where you can't guarantee six feet of space between you and another person is what we're considering a large gathering. These are the kind of things I want you guys to think about moving forward within your districts; what kind of events are happening that you need to recommend not happen, so starting to think about those kind of things as we move forward.

Commissioner McKiernan said I've heard people define gatherings as few as 25 and as much as much as a 1,000 or more and what you're saying is, consider the number of people you expect to have and the size of the space and kind of eyeball how those people will fit in that space and if there's that 6 ft. cushion around everybody and then you would say that would seem to be a reasonable number of people to gather.

Ms. Groenweghe said yes, so at this point and time we're not putting like a harden number on that because we really want people to think about—you know the virus doesn't know if you have 25 people in a room or 100 people in a room if it's a crowded room and one person is infected. That's why we're not putting a hard number on it because it doesn't matter. Anywhere where there is going to be a large crowd of people coming together, we're strongly discouraging. **Commissioner McKiernan** said especially if those people are packed close together to one another. Alright, perfect.

Ms. Groenweghe said we did want to mention too that you have to consider the audience of this crowd. So, like a bunch of people that are elderly, getting together maybe for like a church congregation really would be a bad idea because we know the people over the age of 60 are more at risk of having complications. We know that people that with certain underlying medical conditions like heart disease, kidney disease, diabetes are at higher risk, so you have to consider what kind of gathering it is. In general, we need to think about limiting any kind of gathering of large groups.

Moving on from that, we also are really wanting to encourage citizens to take steps to protect themselves. Staying home when sick is going to be so important in these next couple of

weeks and we need to make sure that we're putting that messaging out to stay home when you're sick and making sure that employers are encouraging their employees to stay home when sick. Here at the UG we need to make sure we're encouraging across all departments for people to stay home if they have symptoms of COVID, and again, those symptoms are fever, cough and shortness of breath. Moving forward it's very important that we get that message out that people need to stay home if they are displaying symptoms of COVID.

Again, we're also encouraging basic hygiene; washing your hands or using hand sanitizer when you're not able to, covering your coughs and sneezes, avoiding large crowds, keeping your distance from other people, all those good things that we've been recommending for the last couple of weeks is going to be even more important going forward.

We also want to remind people that if you're sick with symptoms of COVID, again, cough, fever, shortness of breath, make sure you call your primary care provider. We've gotten a lot of inquiries here at the Health Department about testing. We are not testing here at the Health Department because we do not have the capacity to test at the Health Department. When people develop symptoms, they are going to need to call their primary care doctor and their primary care doctors are going to be testing. If they don't have a primary care doctor, then Urgent Cares are also testing, but one of the important messages we want to get out is to call ahead. If you're going to your primary care doctor, if you're going to an Urgent Care, call ahead and let them know what symptoms you have so they can properly triage you and keep you from spreading it to other people at the doctor's office.

Finally, I want to let you guys know that we currently investigating and testing multiple individuals here in Wyandotte County. We encourage people to stay up-to-date. This is a constantly evolving situation. Additional information is going to be forthcoming. I believe we're going to be watching the Governor's press release at 6:30, in 10 minutes here, so there's going to be more information forthcoming about some of these individuals we're currently testing and investigating. Make sure you keep up-to-date as this is a constantly evolving situation. Our website will have information, our social media will have information, the Kansas Department of Health & Environment will have information, so just make sure you are keeping up-to-date because every day this situation is going to evolve, so it's important to keep up-to-date.

Commissioner Bynum said just to step back to the testing briefly; are you saying that our local primary care doctors and urgent care facilities have the test available for those who need to be tested? **Ms. Groenweghe** said yes, that is true. Testing does have to be approved through the Kansas Department of Health & Environment. Once your primary care doctor or urgent care gets approval for that test, that test is available for them. We also have some test kits here at the Health Department that we can give to primary care doctors if they don't have the test kit available. It's not really a special kit. There seems to be a bit of misconception about that, but it's actually similar to the kit that your doctor might have on hand to test for other viral illnesses like influenza, but primary care clinics in Wyandotte County are able to test, yes.

Mr. Bach said I just wanted to kind of add to it from the perspective and the work that's going into this. It's coordinating activity that the Health Department is doing working with Emergency Management, working and communicating with other jurisdictions within Wyandotte County. We're scheduling meetings with the school districts to have a conversation with them about next steps, all steps that are going on.

One thing that I look at is all operational practices that are happening. As you know, about 90% of the employees that we have in our workforce really need to continue working because this is our time where we serve. You know as we're out there from Police, Fire, Sheriff's Department, detention operations, our Health Department employees, our Juvenile Care Workers, our employees that work with Transit Operations, Meals-on-Wheels, delivery of home services from that perspective really covers most of our force facing employees and we need to continue to do that. We are taking steps to provide additional disinfectant, advise them, provide information to our employees about what they should be doing to take precautions when they come into different areas, so those are all steps we're working towards.

We're not in a position to say this is a time we don't show up for work. As Elizabeth said, we're advising people if you're feeling ill not to come, but otherwise, this is really a time when we have to step up and this is when our employees really do work hard and they take care of this community. I know we will be here to serve and go through it from this perspective and we will continue to do what we can to provide the additional resources they need as we go through this time.

Commissioner Kane said I don't know for sure, but somebody said that the Kansas City, Missouri Fire Department is doing something different. Can we check to see what they're doing and see if their Police Department is doing something and maybe we can kind of piggyback off of what they're doing? **Mr. Bach** said they are doing things different. We did some analysis of some of things they are doing and verified the fact toward what is the best practices and we will move forward with steps we think are the most appropriate for us. I don't want to call them wrong versus us or what other communities are doing. There are different steps that are being taken. **Commissioner Kane** said I would like at least to know what they're doing in Missouri, KCMO. **Mr. Bach** said okay.

Commissioner McKiernan said you certainly have recommendations for us in terms of our personal hygiene, in terms of handwashing and not touching face, eyes, nose, mouth, and covering our coughs. Do you have any generic recommendations in terms of workplace hygiene in terms of trying to maintain the cleanliness of keyboards and desktops and other items in a typical office? **Ms. Groenweghe** said yes, the Kansas Department of Health & Environment actually did put out some recommendations and I can email those out or I'm sure somehow get those out to you guys so you can see those recommendations. Anything that you can do to keep things cleaner is going to be a good thing. There are certain cleaning agents that do kill Coronavirus we know and that's part of the recommendations that the Kansas Department of Health & Environment put out that I'll make sure you guys get. You cleaning keyboards, work surfaces, all of that is going to be a good thing moving forward.

Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs said I might encourage you to give that consideration to our website to make sure that information is available for all the public that they will be able to pull that information up directly. **Ms. Garrison** said yes, KDHE has provided a list of different cleaning products and what they have to have in them, a certain amount of Clorox, a certain amount of alcohol in it, things like that; so that list we can make available to you all as well as on our website.

Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs said, ladies, thank you for the information you've shared with us tonight. It sounds fairly simplistic, but this is a very fluid situation, wash hands, avoid large groups, stay home if sick, contact your personal physician; very solid sound advice. If there's not any

other questions, I will entertain a motion to adjourn and we will reconvene at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.

Mr. Bach said we were going to watch the press conference. I don't know that we need to remain in session. **Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs** said I don't know why we would. **Mr. Bach** said I guess if you stayed in session, if you wanted to have some public discussion about it, you could. **Mayor Pro Tem Burroughs** said I will recant the adjournment. We'll stay live and we will watch the press conference and at that time if there are any questions that come forward, we'll address them, but we must adjourn by 7:00 p.m. and reconvene in the Commission Chambers.

Mr. Bach said I will note, Commissioner, while we're waiting for that to come up, if you did not see it, this afternoon when we did do the press conference with the Mayor, Ms. Garrison, and Dr. Greiner, our medical doctor; that information is out there on UGTV that will play back, but it's also on our YouTube. It was recorded so you can go back and watch that. I think you had about a five minute statement or so, Terrie, and then the rest of the session went through from a Q&A where the public came in and asked a lot of questions back to them, so that's available as well as it's available on the Facebook Live account.

The Commission did watch the Governor's live press conference.

MAYOR PRO TEM BURROUGHS ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 6:51 p.m.

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Bridgette D. Cobbins
Unified Government Clerk

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