

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

REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2022

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Regular Session Thursday, February 10, 2022, with eleven members present via Zoom and on site: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second 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; Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO, presiding. The following officials were also in attendance: Misty Brown, Chief Counsel; Patrick Waters, Deputy Chief Counsel; James Bain, Assistant Counsel; Susan Alig and Casey Meyer, Senior Attorneys; Bridgette Cobbins, Assistant County Administrator; Karl Oakman, Chief of Police; Colonel Daniel Soptic, Sheriff's Office; Katherine Carttar, Director of Economic Development; Brett Deichler, Unified Government Clerk; and Monica Sparks, Deputy UG Clerk.

Mayor Garner said before I call the meeting to order, I want to announce that due to COVID-19, some commissioners, staff, and public are attending remotely via Zoom, by phone or onsite. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid background noise.

During the meeting, please make sure that you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so the public that is observing knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and is current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General.

Due to COVID-19 requirements, the public is allowed to participate by Zoom or submit comments by email prior to the meeting. Those comments will be included in the record of the meeting. The public also has an option to provide brief comments from the lobby of the Municipal Office Building.

I'm going to call this meeting to order and ask the Clerk to please call the roll.

Roll call: Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Sites, Garner.

Mayor Garner said the invocation is being given by Commissioner Harold Johnson of Faith Deliverance Church of God in Christ, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Garner said I'll ask the Clerk, are there any revisions to tonight's agenda?

Brett Deichler, Unified Government Clerk, said, Mayor, we had one change to the agenda. It was for the Mayor's Agenda, Item No. 1 under the ordinance, Safe and Welcoming City Act. Public comment on the item number one of the Mayor's Agenda will be limited to a total comment period of one hour. Each speaker, whether in person or online, will be limited to one minute. It is anticipated that 30 minutes will be allocated for those online who wish to speak to the matter, and 30 minutes will be allocated for appearing in person who wish to speak to the matter. Fifteen comments were electronically provided to the UG Clerk before the deadline, and those items were also delivered to the Commission before tonight's session. I would also add that the Clerk received 21 submissions to speak in person, as well.

Mayor Garner said I believe that a change is also in order. **Mr. Deichler** said yes, Mayor, we did. For the sake of continuity, we are going to actually go to the Mayor's Agenda. We're going to read the proclamations which are Items 2 and 3, in succession, before we go back to Item No. 1, which is the ordinance for Safe and Welcoming.

MAYOR'S AGENDA

Item No. 2 – 211344...PROCLAMATION: FEBRUARY 10, 2022, CHEF ANNIE DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming February 10, 2022, as Chef Annie Day, submitted by Mayor Garner.



Action: Proclamation was read.

Item No. 3 – 211345...PROCLAMATION: JANUARY 31, 2022, DR. BERTRAM CARUTHERS JR. DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming January 31, 2022, as Dr. Bertram Caruthers Jr. Day, submitted by Mayor Garner.



February 10, 2022

Action: Proclamation was read.

Mayor Garner said congratulations to those individuals on receiving this well-deserved honor.

Commissioner Kane said I received the blue sheet at my house at 4:41 today and wasn't really able to get ahold of anybody, but you stated in your inaugural speech that you would work tirelessly to do what the people wanted, not what you wanted. Several people wanted to voice their opinion tonight, but with this timeframe they will not be able to. When we worked on the casino, which was a hot topic at the time, we were in the chamber until 1:30 a.m. and listened to all concerns. My goal has always been and will be to be as transparent as possible, and I don't believe this is. The last thing I want to say, just because you can limit a timeframe to a hour doesn't mean you should. I'm very disappointed that a lot of people will not be able to voice their opinion.

Mayor Garner said in light of that, that was a consideration but that is not a mandate, moving forward. We're going to try and accommodate anybody that is listening in sight and sound of this meeting, to be able to voice their opinions, their concerns, their recommendations in light of the pending agenda item on the Mayor's Agenda.

Item No. 1 -211243...ORDINANCE: SAFE AND WELCOMING CITY ACT (REVISED PER BLUE SHEET)

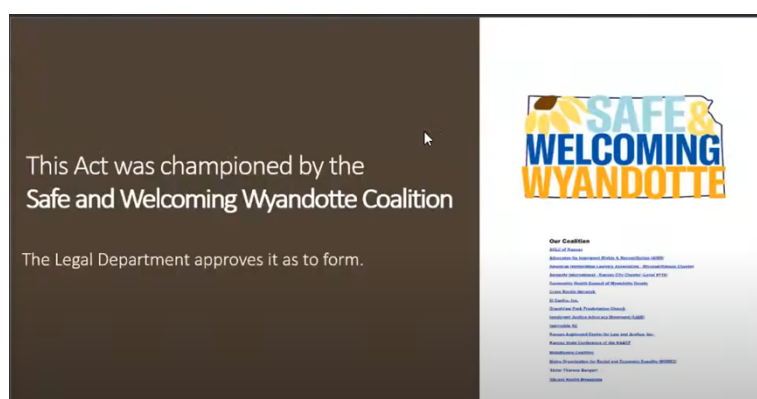
Synopsis: The Safe and Welcoming City Act would ensure that Unified Government resources are not used to enforce federal immigration law, state that the Unified Government is an inclusive and welcoming city for immigrant members of our community, and create a municipal ID, submitted by Susan Alig, Senior Assistant Counsel. On January 24, 2022, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve and forward to full Commission.

Mayor Garner said that takes us to Item No. 1, ordinance Safe and Welcoming Act. Our first order of business is the Mayor's Agenda. This is keeping a commitment that I made to Wyandotte County that I would move the first item, regarding the Safe and Welcoming City Act. This item was approved unanimously on January 24, 2022, by the Public Works and Safety Standing

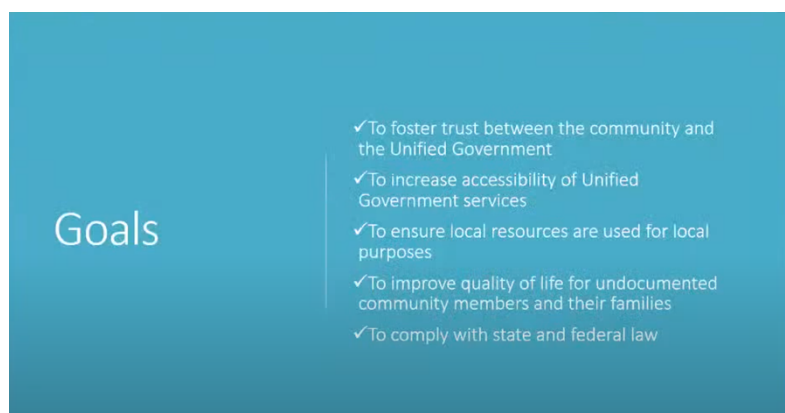
Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum. I'll turn it over to Susan Alig from our Legal Department.



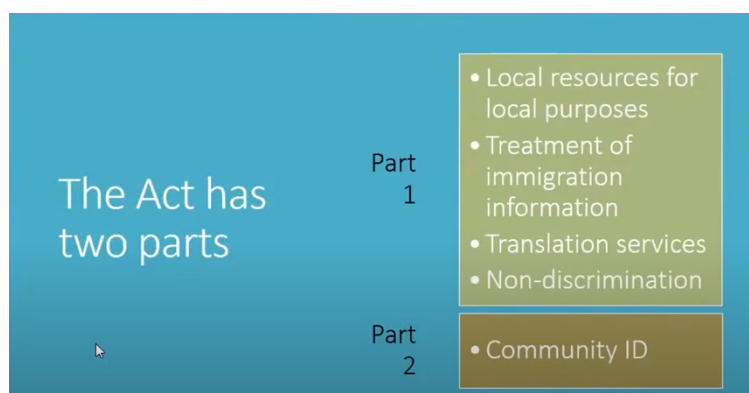
Susan Alig, Senior Attorney, said this act is a proposed ordinance...



that was brought to the Unified Government by a community group called Safe and Welcoming Wyandotte. It's a coalition that came to the Unified Government back in 2018 with a proposed ordinance. There have been two special sessions on this topic. The first one happened in May of 2020 and the second one happened in January of 2021. I just say that to show how long of a process we've been going through. The initially proposed ordinance presented some legal concerns, and that was the topic of the May 2020 presentation. In January 2021, we presented again, and the Legal Department then worked with the coalition to come up with a draft that would not present those same legal concerns.



The stated goals of this act would be to foster trust between the community and the Unified Government, to increase the accessibility of Unified Government services, to ensure that local resources are used for local purposes. That's a reference to using local resources for purposes other than enforcement of federal law, including federal immigration law. To improve quality of life for undocumented community members and their families and also, importantly, to comply with state and federal law.

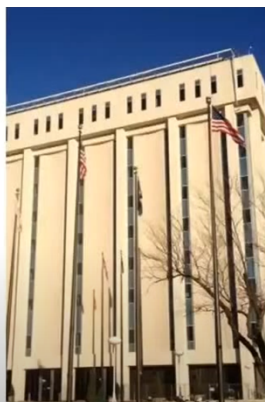


As it's drafted, the Act has two parts. The first part has been colloquially referred to as the Safe and Welcoming City Ordinance, and that is where the statement that local resources should be used for local purposes is found. It also discusses how the Unified Government will collect and handle immigration information. In general, it states that we will not be collecting information unless we have some legal reason why we need it, and then we will not share it unless there's a legal reason why we need to share it. It states that we'll provide translation services, and it states that we will not discriminate based on whether someone is documented or undocumented.

The second part of the act has to do with community ID. Casey Meyer will be talking about that when we get to that portion.

Part 1

- Generally prevents UG resources from being used to enforce federal immigration law.
- Immigration information should be collected when relevant and once collected should only be disclosed as required by law.
- Carveouts to preserve law enforcement functionality, federal grants, comply with federal law, and stay within UG authority.



Just in broad strokes, Part 1 generally prevents the Unified Government from using its resources to enforce federal immigration law. That is somewhat already status quo. That's part of Police Department policy, anyway. It says that we'll only be collecting immigration information when necessary and then that information will be treated as sensitive and only shared as required by law. Part of the process between the last time we presented on this in January of 2021 and now has been adding carveouts that preserve law enforcement functionality, ensure that our federal grants are not placed at risk, and ensuring that we comply with federal law. We've also tailored this ordinance so that the Board of Commissioners doesn't exceed their lawful authority with any provision in it. So, moving on to Part 2, I will turn it over to Casey Meyer.

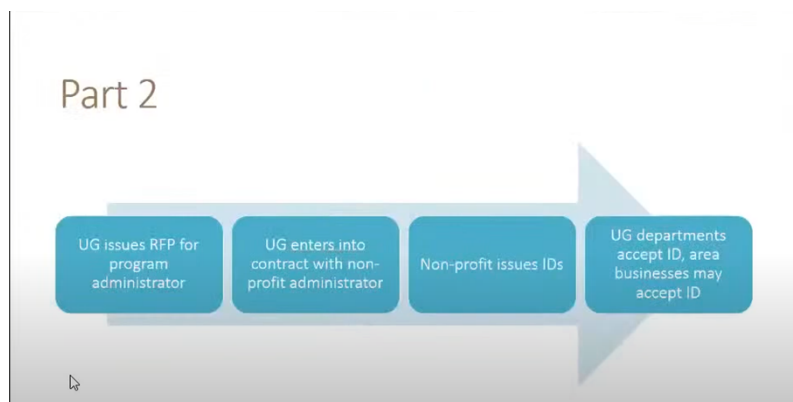
Part 2



- Community ID is designed to assist undocumented immigrants who cannot obtain state-issued IDs and others who lack key documents.
- Distinct program from Municipal ID, designed to assist houseless population with first steps in obtaining state-issued IDs.

Casey Meyer, Senior Attorney, said I'm a Senior Attorney in the Legal Department, I'm also the Police Advisor. Like Susan said, two parts. The community ID is the second part and the process that will be used to go through the community ID process. The Unified Government will issue an RFP for people to apply so that we can then pick a third-party administrator to run the program. This community ID program is completely distinct and separate from the Kansas City, Kansas

Police Department's program. The program that the Police Department runs is primarily for the unsheltered population. The Police Department verifies those IDs and that is an avenue for those people to get a valid state ID. This is completely different. It would be a third-party administrator that is not the Police Department. The third-party administrator would be the one to take the applications, hold any documents related to that. The Unified Government would not have any access to the documents related to those applications.



Once people obtain a city ID, all Unified Government departments would be required to accept those. Local businesses do not have to accept them, but may accept them. I don't think there is anything else I need a cover on that. The Board of Public Utilities can accept additional forms of ID if they need to. If you have any questions, I'm happy to take them. I also think our Chief of Police is on here if you want to ask him any questions.

Mayor Garner asked, does that conclude your presentation? **Ms. Meyer** said yes it does. **Mayor Garner** said as a form of order, we're going to keep this moving.

Mr. Deichler said two commissioners have their hands up. First, Commissioner Stites and then Commissioner Johnson.

Commissioner Stites said I've got a question here. I went to the Safe and Welcoming website, and I printed off from their site, and I'm a little bit confused here about this letter that was sent to David Alvey, Mayor/CEO, on March 6th of 2019. It says in the third paragraph, a municipal ID card is a form of photo identification issued by a city or county government. Then when I just heard, just now that it's not going to be issued by a city or a county government. What happened

there? It's not the same as what's on the Safe and Welcoming website, and I printed it off from their site.

Ms. Meyer said, like Susan said, this process has been ongoing for a very long time. The original discussions and version of things are not the same as they are now. Originally, when this was proposed to us by the coalition, the idea was that the Unified Government would be running the program. I think all parties involved thought that the best and most efficient way to do it was not to have it in-house within the Unified Government, but rather contract with a third party to do it. It's still, I think, considered a city ID, it's just that a third party is going to be running the program.

Commissioner Stites said okay. I appreciate that answer. I think the group may want to remove that form or that letter that's on their site that is inaccurate, just so that people aren't getting the wrong information out there.

The other question that I had regarding the third party issuing the ID, you said they will be gathering the documents needed to possess an ID, and after someone receives their municipal ID, that's not issued by a municipality, no access to the documents by any oversight committee. What checks and balances are there once that RFP is responded to and awarded?

Ms. Meyer said some checks and balances can be created within the contract itself. The coalition, part of the reason it's a third party is under the Kansas Open Records Act. If the Unified Government had those records, they would be open records. If the third party is the administrator, they are not going to be considered open records. Privacy considerations were part of this decision as well. As this is currently written, the Unified Government would not have access to any of the records that the third-party administrator would take in administering the program.

Commissioner Stites said and with that being said, then there would not be—I'm not saying that we need to retain those documents to do a spot check, for instance, you know, if we were just to verify what's going on, quality control, if you will.

Ms. Meyer said I understand your concern. As it's written, that would not be permitted under the ordinance as it's written. If there's a criminal investigation, the Police Department could get a search warrant and get records from the third-party administrator that way, but as it's written, we wouldn't be able to get records from the contracted party.

Commissioner Stites said that's all I have for now.

Commissioner Johnson said I just wanted to get a point of clarification. Will the commissioners have opportunity to speak at the conclusion of the public comment or is this our opportunity now? I just want to get a point of clarification there.

Mayor Garner said yes, you will have an opportunity to speak and ask additional questions as well. **Commissioner Johnson** said after the public comment. **Mayor Garner** said that is correct.

Commissioner Townsend said Commissioner Johnson addressed what I was going to inquire about. Seeing as how you want to give as many people as possible who want to comment, the opportunity to do so, I will withhold any questions I have to a later time.

Mayor Garner said I will now open the public comment. I'll ask the Clerk to provide a synopsis including how many comments were submitted to the Clerk's Office.

Mr. Deichler said as iterated earlier, we did receive 15 comments that were electronically provided to the Unified Government Clerk. Those were also delivered to the Commission before tonight's session. We also received 21 requests for speakers who, I believe, are in the lobby, and that is what we received.

Mayor Garner asked, is there anyone in attendance in the lobby of City Hall here who would like to speak on this item? If so, staff will call your name to come to the podium in the order that you signed up. Once you have been acknowledged, you will be asked to provide your name and city of residency for the record. Thirty minutes will be allocated at a minimum for those appearing in the lobby to speak. Due to more than expected citizens in the lobby, we will allow all those who came onsite this evening to speak and voice their concerns. You will be given one minute to state your comments. Staff will announce you at 30 seconds remaining to give you time to wrap up your comments. This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and if remarks are determined to be out of order, I shall instruct the speaker to stop making such remarks and declare them to be out of order. Derogatory and improper language or actions will not be tolerated. If you persist with such derogatory statements, you may be asked to leave and your comments will not be entered into record. I'll turn it over to the staff in the lobby at this time.

Irene Caudillo said I want to thank Mayor Garner first off for putting Safe and Welcoming on the agenda. I believe we will all gain from Safe and Welcoming, to have a city where people don't fear to report a crime, or fear to go out to spend time in the marketplace, or to visit their child's school. Safe and Welcoming is just one small policy change to respond to the needs of our thousands of poor and marginalized residents. Among them are 14,000 undocumented immigrants. They do some of the toughest and most essential jobs. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Caudillo** said they pay plenty of taxes and it's about time they are welcomed into our community and valued rather than insulted and scorned by people who never get to know them. Safe and Welcoming is looking forward to our 21st Century future as a city full of energy that immigrants bring, anxious to harvest the creativity, entrepreneurial spirit of people who are still looking for the American dream. Let's welcome them and treat them like neighbors rather than tell them you don't care if they are safe. **Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Katie Jones said I'm a licensed social worker and resident of Wyandotte County. Currently I work for Kansas City, Kansas public schools and as a private practice therapist at KU Strawberry Hill Psychiatric Hospital. Every day I work with residents of Wyandotte County who don't have access to an ID and the basic rights it warrants in their community. Being denied basic rights affects your nervous system and leads to chronic stress stemming from feeling unsafe. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Jones** said if the systems within your community deny you your basic rights, it doesn't make sense to trust or participate in them. Denying people their basic rights contribute to systemic disfunctions and a never-ending cycle of trauma. Though I provide much needed mental health services, what many of my clients need before anything else is housing, employment, and consistent social services, all which would be more attainable if they had an ID card. Safe and Welcoming is one simple solution that can make mental health interventions more effective and can build trust. **Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

[Inaudible] Wyandotte County, KCK, said we are a 45-year-old Latino-serving organization, and we believe that passing the act not only affirms, but goes beyond the touted description of this community, it's diversity. Unfortunately, a diverse city community does not automatically mean inclusive, safe or welcoming. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Speaker** said we have work to do to ensure that all members of our community feel valued and respected. This has

no provision that requires any employer or law enforcement officer to break or bend any laws for anyone. Adopting and enforcing this act allows more of our community to contribute to a safe and well-being of us all. Systems and policies do not work without equitable. **Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Rick Behrens, Kansas City, KS, said I'm a lifelong resident and I live in the 5th District and have pastored in the Central Avenue neighborhood for 40 years. Many of our neighbors who have rebuilt our community have lived in fear for 20 years or more because the federal government immigration system is broken and unjust. We can't fix that. None of us here can fix that. Safe and Welcoming City Act is not about fixing our federal immigration system. We have no control over that. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Mr. Behrens** said Safe and Welcoming is about how we're going to treat our neighbors. We do have control over that. Are we going to pay double and ask our law enforcement to do a job for which they are not trained and for which they have no responsibility and don't want to do, or are we going to leave the responsibility where it belongs with our federal government? Are we going to invite our neighbors to help us build a safer community by reducing their fear and inviting them into the public square? Are we going to help law enforcement and the whole community by making it possible for 30,000 people, our neighbors, without adequate identification? **Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Naomi Tolentino, President of Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation, said we are committed to empowering and uplifting the voices of the immigrant community and providing them with the tools that they need to better protect themselves and their families. We believe that all people, no matter where they were born, deserves the chance at a safe and dignified life. Our team has been working to raise community awareness and support the Safe and Welcoming Act for years. Local officials, including majority on this call, have been invited—**Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Tolentino** said and engaged throughout that time. We have seen the support of our community. In fact, you have received thousands of letters of support. It is important that this wonderful city/county considers giving our most vulnerable communities an ID and ensure that they are safe for immigrant families by voting to pass the Safe and Welcoming Act today. Let's show our community, our neighbors, and the world that we are a safe and welcoming—**Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Randy Lopez, President of the Kansas City, Kansas Public School Board of Education, Kansas City, Kansas, said I serve on the Central Avenue Betterment Association Board. Tonight, I come before you asking that you support and vote yes to the Safe and Welcoming City Act. Both the Kansas City, Kansas Board of Education and Central Avenue Betterment Association voted unanimously to support Safe and Welcoming because we've heard the thousands of voices who have been asking for this. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Mr. Lopez** said Safe and Welcoming is rooted in compassion, equity, justice and inclusivity. Now's the time. By voting yes, you will help the most vulnerable in our community, including hundreds of McKinney-Vento houseless students in our district, those aging out of foster care, and our senior community. By voting yes, you can help foster a positive relationship with our police and community. By voting yes, you acknowledge the thousands of residents who have signed petitions and knocked on doors and sent you emails. Let Wyandotte County be a shining example of forward thinking, inclusive community—**Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Victoria Arcano, previous resident of KCK, said I worked for the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department, and I'm the current CXO of a local domestic violence shelter. I'm a social worker and advocate for survivors of domestic violence. I experience the repercussions of the unwritten bias of city employees and the lack of explicit protection of all residents of Wyandotte County. It is not the policy to call ICE, but it happens and the impact on survivors is dangerous. It is also dangerous for the larger communities. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Arcano** said if survivors know ICE will be called as a consequence when seeking protection, the city is cutting off access to safety and limiting the city's ability to prosecute violent crimes. To survivors, safety is not worth the risk of deportation, even if a family member is abusive and unsafe. You need to guarantee that deportation is not a factor weighing on survivors of violence with they seek safety. Vote yes.

Sarah Waggoner, Rosehill Development Association, said every summer, youth who are involved in our Summer Youth Employment Program have trouble receiving the money they earn from their job placements. Why is this? Because many don't have state issued IDs, are too young for driver's license, or don't have bank accounts. By working closely with our local bank, we have

been able to have students use this student ID as an alternative with great success. A community ID used as a similar alternative would make extremely—**Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Waggoner** said useful basic services like check cashing available to all of our residents. Also, KCKPD community policing officers have a long-standing relationship with RDA and the Rosedale community due to their involvement. They attend neighborhood meetings, volunteer with us, and keep our neighborhood leaders informed. In turn, residents feel comfortable communicating and trusting in the police. For a lot of our residents, that trust is challenged by news of deportations and local ICE raids—**Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Thomas Alonzo, Strawberry Hill, Kansas City, KS, said I'm Second District Representative to the Advisory Commission on Human Relations and Disability Issues. Our group studies human relation issues and advises commissioners and other UG officials. We have studied this issue extensively. As a Commission, we unanimously passed a resolution supporting Safe and Welcoming Wyandotte in February of 2020. Dozens of cities across the U.S. have passed similar ordinances. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Mr. Alonzo** said this ordinance will improve public safety providing a safe environment for all citizens to cooperate with local police as well as help improve economic development and a means of building community and increasing accessibility.

Marge Gasnick, Kansas City, Kansas, said I want all of my neighbors to live with dignity and safety. The Safe and Welcoming ordinance strengthens that by providing a community ID that will allow people who are living on the margins a chance to be able to take care of everyday tasks and errands and to improve their quality of life. Furthermore, Safe and Welcoming clarifies the responsibilities of our law enforcement and will provide a sense of—**Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Gasnick** said peace and trust, particularly for our immigrant families. I ask you please to pass the Safe and Welcoming City Act.

Sister Therese Bangert, Kansas City, Kansas, said this evening I am proud and grateful as a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth to join my voice with a team of people speaking up for our neighbors who so often are devalued. In this time of pandemic and before they are told time-after-time that they don't belong, unless it comes to a job deemed essential. Since the late 1990s, I have

been involved with the Kansas legislators and immigration policies. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Sister Bangert** said during these 20 years, despite bill-after-bill for restrictive immigration policies, a bipartisan group of legislatures never supported these bills, and they have become law, because the business coalition knows that they keep the economy going. I would add tonight, they keep Wyandotte County's economy going. I joined the coalition in proposing that we now embrace our neighbors in this community, but only because of matter of birthplace are not citizens—**Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Greg Valdovino, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the Greater KC Chamber of Commerce, said tonight I'm here to support the passage of Safe and Welcoming Wyandotte. The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce recognizes the value of being truly welcoming and intentionally works toward the inclusion of newcomers. They create a culture and policy environment where all residents feel empowered to work with each other in strengthening the social, civil, and economic fabric of our community. As a business organization, the KC Chamber of Kansas City and it's welcoming KC—**Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Mr. Valdovino** said initiatives understand the contribution immigrants make to our community. We know that being welcomed is the right thing to do, but equally important it's makes good business sense. Immigrants are resourceful, resilient, hard workers, entrepreneurs, create jobs, they are great students, and good families. Let's not forget who was there during the COVID pandemic to cover all essential positions. If immigrants have done all of this without the aid of a universal ID—**Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Karla Juarez, Executive Director of AIRR, said we work with our community to advocate for our rights, or immigrant rights. We deserve to feel safe and we deserve to feel welcome. We have knocked on doors and made many calls, and we know the community supports this. This ordinance, if anything, gives clear instruction as to how the police should interact with our immigrant community when they are just going about their day and contributing to society. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Juarez** said it has been five years since we first started these efforts. It is time that you pass this ordinance tonight.

Atenas Mena, former resident, said I was born and raised in Kansas City, Kansas, currently living in Kansas City, Missouri. I'm Executive Director for Cleaner Now Environmental Justice Organization, stationed in Argentine and Armourdale, and expanding throughout Kansas City. I'm also a certified pediatric nurse. Many immigrant families, often times, forego needing healthcare and social services because they fear interaction with public agencies. Families are then left vulnerable of inadequate healthcare due to socio-economic status and undocumented status or limited English proficiency. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Mena** said overall, immigrants have lower rates of health insurance, use less healthcare, and receive lower quality of care compared to the U.S.-born populations. In addition, toxic stress, associated with fear of deportation, has been shown to have harmful effects on an individual's long-term physical and mental health. Children are especially vulnerable to this type of trauma which is a barrier to normal, physical, and mental development. Furthermore, fear of deportation has a significant impact—**Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Louise Lynch, Kansas City, KS, said thank you, Mayor Garner, for being the first Mayor to put this to a vote. We appreciate you keeping your word. This is not a race issue, an ethnicity issue. This is a human issue. This is an issue to keep people safe and welcomed to our community. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Lynch** said we have 63 different languages being spoken in our public school system today. That's 63 different cultures. We need to not oppress them and their families. In 1844, we had the first school building built to educate Indian children and white children under the same roof, in 1844. We do not need to go back. Stand today to your pledge that you gave to the allegiance for liberty and justice for all. Time is up; stop the oppression. Quit the fearmongering. We're not going to have mass exodus. We need to make—**Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Sarah Lynch, Armourdale, said last month my home was broken into on Martin Luther King Day, while my family slept in our beds. We called the police twice, no one showed. I chased after the intruder with a bat. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Lynch** said between myself, my mother and our dogs, we were able to chase the intruder out. An officer came later that night, but they were not dispatched, they were just in the area. The terror we felt, could probably not be matched by someone who's undocumented or someone that does not have

protection that a citizen would have. We need Safe and Welcoming for the safety of all of our residents, because those populations, those—**Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Willie Apala Flaherty, Kansas City, KS, said I live in Strawberry Hill, just down the street here. I attend a lot of neighborhood meetings for Strawberry Hill, and one of the major things we hear about is crime and complaints about crime. I'm here to say that you guys should support Safe and Welcoming because, in large part, as many of my neighbors have said, we need everyone here to feel safe to call the police. We need everyone to be able to call for help and to report the crimes that are happening. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Mr. Apala** said if I don't feel safe calling for help when I'm in my home, I'm not going to report any crimes that are happening around me. When that's the advice that we get as citizens and residents is to call the police, call 311, call 911, if I don't feel safe to do that, I'm never going to do that, and our community is never going to be safer. Please, just vote yes for this. It makes the entire community safer.

Mary Jean Grindel, Kansas City, KS, said I'm a retired educator and I live in the Turner area. I'm strongly opposed to this ordinance. While the immigration system is broken, fixing it the Bernie Sanders way is not the answer. When were all of the citizens throughout all of the Dotte going to be told about this final proposal and given the opportunity to vote on this? Cost for such an election shouldn't be an issue, for something so important that effects everyone in the Dotte. [Inaudible]. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Grindel** said mission to steamroll this ordinance over it citizens without our vote in the matter. You have many, frustrated, angry citizens right now in this county tonight. We know you'll be voting yes because your minds are already made up, and you just want to get this over with. Please know that our eyes are open and we do have access to some very important phone numbers, for when we citizens feel the need to make a call, and I'm not talking about calling the Police or Fire Department.

Kenny Shaw, Wyandotte County, said Mr. Stites brought up several things that I'd seen in the ordinance that the database people, or the city is not responsible for anybody or anything in this information. I believe that the ordinance, everybody should be safe, that's not a question. The question is how do we protect the people that are already here? **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30

seconds remaining. **Mr. Shaw** said when the police do not have the ability to check on somebody, then we put everybody else at risk. One person on this thing that you're giving away could destroy the whole situation, so I ask you to maybe reconsider drawing up the ordinance to a different perspective.

Val Lebato said I ask you to vote no on this ordinance. I believe this ordinance is filled with nothing but loopholes. For example, a third-party entity distributing municipal IDs, if that's not a loophole, I don't know what is. This is a poorly written ordinance, no background checks required to obtain an ID is downright reckless and wrong. At this time, I'd like to offer a suggestion to commissioners—**Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Mr. Lebato** said why not require applicants of the municipal ID to stroll down to the police station and be properly screened and thumb printed. My last remark: all data from municipal ID holders will be stored in a centralized database. What's going to happen to the database when a new administration comes in and wants to do away with the ordinance? Will that database be turned over to ICE? I yield my time.

Debbie Shaw, Wyandotte County, said my great grandparents came here in a covered wagon in the 1800's. This ordinance is lunacy, absolute lunacy. All that's going to happen is that human trafficking will explode more than what it already is, and where, by the way, is my safe and welcoming committee? If I commit a crime, it goes on a record. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Shaw** said people with all this focus on ID cards, they don't get a record if they commit a crime. You are discriminating against the legal citizens of Wyandotte County if you pass this. This ordinance is treasonous.

Henry Chamberlain, Bonner Springs, KS, said I'm a Wyandotte County resident, a businessman. I travel internationally. I'm on the Board of the Economic Opportunity Foundation. I'm the Democratic National Committeeman from Kansas. I travel enough of the world to know that Wyandotte County is a diverse community on a global scale. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Mr. Chamberlain** said look around, we've got more diversity, more people here from different places than almost anywhere else, and the community functions very well. If

there's something that we can do that's simple and inexpensive that simplifies the life and helps the families that live around us, I think we need to be doing it. Please pass this ordinance.

Alberto Lugo, Co-Executive Director of Environmental Justice Organization here in KCK, said just want to echo a lot of the comments of my colleagues here have said today. I just want to share that's it very difficult for community members to access public health and other readily available resources, when local government wants community participation or support on a local issue. Many residents do not feel safe and welcomed, therefore, creating a sense of distrust and disengagement. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Mr. Lugo** said as an environmental justice organization, we are trying to create a healthy community that is environmentally safe from all hazards. By adding the stress or the discrimination against our communities, it creates further divide and disproportionately eliminates access to resources. Immigrants built the city and the local industries that support all of us by advancing economic growth. They are our top workforce. They are the ones that—**Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Brian Matlock, Strawberry Hill, said I'm an Economist and I work at a local community-based non-profit. Couple things. If one of us sees a family member jaywalking, smoking weed or stealing office supplies from work, I would venture to say not a single one of us are going to start by calling the cops and demanding maximum sentences, because instinctively we know that is not helpful, putting them in a dangerous, traumatic situation, separating them from their family. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Mr. Matlock** said for many of us, this is our family, our loved ones, the people who graciously open their homes to us, and allowing them to participate in work in society is one of the best ways they make up for what's going on. And secondly, even if you're totally pro-law enforcement, they want people to have IDs, it makes their job easier. It's a harm reduction measure—**Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Yazmin Bruno Valdez said I am a junior at Rockhurst University, and I am an intern advocate at Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation. I am a long time WyCo resident and I want to tell you a little story about my mother, who was a domestic violence victim, and could not report it to the police because she did not have an ID. Had she had this ID, she would not be so fearful of the

police, and she could have reported the domestic violence that went on in our home. I ask you commissioners to please do the right thing—**Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Bruno Valdez** said and vote to pass the Safe and Welcoming ordinance. We have worked for five years to pass this ordinance, and I ask you to do the right thing. You have all the power in your hands tonight, so please pass this ordinance, for God's sake.

William Barajas, Retired Police Officer, said I served 32 years. I was also President of the local chapter of the Latino Peace Officers Association. Everything they said about the immigrants is true. Hard working, you look at Central Avenue, Minnesota Avenue, a lot of thriving businesses up there. We are one of the most diverse counties, not only in Wyandotte County, but in the State, and somebody mentioned that there's like 64 cultures. I don't know what's not safe about it. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Mr. Barajas** said I don't know because I don't know where the tax money's coming from, or how much it's going to be, and what the cost is. I've been on Mayor Holland's Diversity Taskforce, that went nowhere. I think there should be an oversight committee to monitor the activity and where's the money going. So, I say again, vote no.

Dr. Brenda Andrieu, Retired Psychologist, said I am asking you not to issue municipal ID cards to illegal immigrants. Legal residents have to present legal documents and submit to background checks to prove who they are. It is unfair for illegal immigrants to be given municipal ID cards based only on what they say their name is and what they say their birthdate is. Illegal immigrants should not have more rights and be trusted more than legal residents. I speak in opposition to the Safe and Welcoming Act. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Dr. Andrieu** said you are asking Wyandotte County to harbor criminals, people who have come into this country illegally, have broken the United States of America laws. You further want Wyandotte County to not cooperate with legal officials who want to detain illegal immigrants. Every state and its territory swore to uphold the United States of America's law. People of think nothing of violating the very first law for entering the country would not have a second—**Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Katie Szewc, Wyandotte County, said commissioners and Mayor of Wyandotte County, as a resident of Wyandotte County and a business owner for the past 14 years, I strongly urge that you

strongly reconsider the plans to implement the Safe and Welcoming Act. The ramifications and the repercussions of this ordinance will be the final death spiral of our county in this future. With all this in place, you're planning to bigger businesses, like the up-and-coming Margaritaville and stores and restaurants at the Legends and asks citizens to come from other communities to put their hard-earned money in our community—**Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Szewc** asked, with this ordinance hanging in the balance, how are we keeping legal citizens safe? What are your plans to house these individuals? How can a non-for-profit third-party organization be in charge of municipal IDs to help with background checks? The answer, they cannot do it safely and without fraud. Please consider not passing this. How are you providing the healthcare for these people? How are you making allowances for these people? And, housing, how will this happen? The monitoring illnesses, diseases, vaccination status—**Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Carolyn Caiharr, Wyandotte County, said while I believe written with good intentions, this ordinance is fraught with loopholes and long-term negative impacts on our county. I would like to present facts over feelings. The ordinance not only ties the hands of law enforcement officers, but also municipal courts. The ordinance gives a third-party complete authorization to allow alternative methods approving residency and requires that they keep no record of these applicants once issuing them an ID. This is irresponsible and not looking out for the best interest of the citizens of Wyandotte County. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Caiharr** said the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department already issues city ID card. There is no reason to delegate this out to a third-party, when this is a process already in place with government oversight. Furthermore, although the ordinance uses the verbiage Wyandotte County several times, I've been told by those in the UG governing body that this will not include any county departments, but only Kansas City, Kansas. I would ask if this be the case to specifically exclude all county departments within this organization, including the Sheriff's Department and the Election Office. **Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Ana Duin, Co-Owner of La Mega Spanish Radio Station, Former Wyandotte County Resident, said what will the Safe and Welcoming Act do for the hardworking Latino community? It would allow parents to visit their kids' school with confidence. It will allow parents to their kid

to the hospital and not send someone else to take them because they don't have an ID. It would allow police officers to be able to identify who their talking to. We're not asking for citizenship, we're not asking you for a hand down, we're asking you simply for an ID. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Duin** said Commissioners of Wyandotte County, I ask you to vote yes to Safe and Welcoming. Wyandotte County, please make a difference and be the example to other counties by voting yes to Safe and Welcoming.

Chuck Adams, Edwardsville, KS, said I have two requests of you this evening. The first one is that you set aside the Safe and Welcoming community legislation, the committee legislation and put it to the vote of the community. If you're asking the community to be safe and welcoming, let the community decide that. Number 2, is on the band of—**Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Mr. Adams** said just lost the name of it. I would ask that you withdraw that from the Consent Agenda, set it aside and vote no separately. Please pull that out of the Consent Agenda, and vote no.

Duane Beth, Kansas City, KS, said I was a law enforcement officer in Wyandotte County in Kansas City, Kansas Police Department since 1975. This ordinance, although we totally embrace Safe and Welcoming, is not a good ordinance. This is not a good ordinance. It's not going to be enforceable; it's going to cause more problems than it's going to fix. This is band-aid effect when you need a tourniquet. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Mr. Beth** said we need IDs, but we have a process with the Police Department already. It would be more cost-effective to educate the people to go through that process, help them to get ID cards than it would be to start a whole new process with a third-party administrator, that has no accountability to anybody with a hidden provision that they can waive all criteria for ID cards. **Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Diosseslyn Tot, Kansas City, KS, said I am here today to state my robust support for the Safe and Welcoming City Act because I believe it's past beyond time to have passed and truly to embrace the full diversity which makes our county our home. As a little girl I remember how Kansas City used to look like and it was all grayed out, it was abandoned towns, there was no streets, and there were no lights even at some point. But throughout the years, I started seeing change and things

that were recognizable to me. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Tot** said I saw vibrant colors being painted on the buildings that were once grayed out, I saw signs going up in my native language and foods that I excitedly recognize. It was around the corner, the thing is I understood that my neighbors were contributing to our economic system. They built avenues that we didn't have before and created resources that we didn't have either and brought them here. Now the streets are filled with celebrations, Dotversity, Dia de Las Muertos. We have festivals that celebrate our culture and our food, and it all thanks to our neighbors that have participated in all of this. **Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Cheryl Mendez, Wyandotte County, said I am married to an immigrant for 52 years. I speak from knowing both sides of this being in that family. This ordinance, I just have two questions. First of all, why can we not take this to a vote of all citizens in Wyandotte County having a vote instead of just a selected view. Isn't it an American right to vote? To make our voices heard at a ballot box? **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Mendez** said I have another question. If I understood right, these records of information will be gathered by the third party, will not be accessible in the Kansas Open Act. They'll be covered. Do we have that same right as citizens, that they would have to get a warrant to get our personal information or is this just exclusive to this group under this act?

[Inaudible], said I didn't know I was going to speak tonight, but since I'm here, I'm asking you to take it to a city-wide vote. I don't think 10, 11 people get to decide for all of us what is good for our county. I've lived here 68 years. Just take it to a city-wide vote.

Reverend Adrianne Showalter Matlock, KCK, said I'm a 12-year resident of KCK and a 5th generation Midwesterner. I'm sharing tonight on behalf of Groundwork Northeast Revitalization Group, where I am on staff as Operations Director. Though I'm a fifth generation Midwesterner, I grew up in Houston, Texas. When it came time for me to migrant to this area, the land of my family, I did so with ease. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Reverend Showalter Matlock** said this connected me with the ability to be on my grandmother's side, when she passed away. If you persist in blocking the Safe and Welcoming ordinance, you carry on the tradition settler's outpost. You aid and abet our Colonial Federal Government, and it's efforts for forcibly

relocate displaced and control human beings that our Colonial Federal Government deems unacceptable. The peoples of northeast KCK are—**Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Mayor Garner asked, Ms. Cobbins, did that conclude the comments from those in the lobby?

Bridgette Cobbins, Assistant County Administrator, said we have one more, Mr. Mayor; and after Elizabeth, this will be the last person that signed up in the lobby this evening.

Elizabeth Freeman said I'm a pediatrician in Kansas City. I ask all of you to support this movement to ensure that the children who live here, most of them who are citizens, if that is really the concern of people who are opposed to it, are safe. That their parents can go to their schools. That their parents can sign leases. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Freeman** said that their parents have access to all of the resources that we need to survive and live comfortably so that we can continue to contribute to our communities equally.

Mayor Garner said I'll ask if there's anyone joining us virtually who would like to speak on this item? If so, please raise your hand and be recognized. Once you've been acknowledged, we ask that you provide your name and city of residency for the record. You'll be given one minute to state your comments. Staff will now state you have 30 seconds remaining to give you time to wrap up your comments. Thirty minutes will be allocated, at a minimum, to those joining us virtually to speak. I'll turn this item over to the Clerk's Office.

Donata Pappert, Kansas City, KS, said, Mr. Mayor, in the spirit of transparency and honesty, two of the very things you said we could expect from you in your inauguration speech. I pose the following questions. Can you unequivocally state that to the best of your knowledge, all citizens of Wyandotte County were presented with the complete details of the Safe and Welcoming Act? Would you also state to the best of your knowledge, that if said information was indeed presented, that it was done so in a manner of time that would allow—**Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Pappert** said the citizens the following: the opportunity to education themselves about the act, to voice any questions and concerns that they may have and to receive answers to those questions. If your answer is yes, then I, and a majority of this county, are here to tell you,

Mr. Mayor, that you have been ill-informed, sir, or you are just plain wrong. If you stand by your word and there are no unanswered questions to Safe and Welcoming, then put this on the fall ballot. This is the most important question of the evening. What would be the downside to putting this—**Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Connie Brown Collins, Founder of Voter Rights Network, Bethel-Welborn, KCK, said I'm asking you to support the Safe and Welcoming ordinance. As an added plus, it offers the means of legal identification for seniors, disabled and homebound individuals. My husband was born in Georgia and did not have a birth certificate. Many older individuals in the segregated south were born in homes. Even with separate but equal hospitals—**Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Brown Collins** said records were often sketchy. It took months of filling out forms and sending them back and forth for him to get a cursory record of his birth. My neighbor who is a senior and disabled gave up trying to find her North Carolina birth certificate. If my neighbor is not able to renew her driver's license, having a community ID card through the Safe and Welcoming ordinance will help her navigate legal identification necessities. Please vote to approve this ordinance. A card may have eliminated trials—**Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Lauren Bonds, Attorney, Overland Park, KS, said I'm an attorney that has been working with the Safe and Welcoming Coalition for the past year. I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight and I just like to address a couple of what seems to be, misconceptions about the ordinance. We've been working with the UG Legal Counsel to figure out a way to make sure that this ordinance wouldn't undermine the ability of any law enforcement officers to do their job. Nothing in this bill would prohibit police officers from investigating an individual who committed a crime. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Bonds** said nothing related to the identification would prohibit police officers from investigating that individual if they did, indeed, commit a crime. Just to briefly address the concerns around the third-party administrator. All of their conduct is going to be governed by a Memorandum of Understanding, and the Unified Government does have ways to address any kind of failure to abide by the terms of that Memorandum of Understanding. I hope that you'll pass this ordinance.

Evelyn Hill said we the Justice and Equity Coalition support any ordinance that protects and serves all residents of Wyandotte County. Given our place in history, beginning with Quindaro, Strawberry Hill, and Argentine communities, among others, we believe Wyandotte County has been and should remain a place where people and families from all nations seek a productive, law abiding—**Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Hill** said [inaudible] of Wyandotte County should be permitted to apply for and get approved issued a community ID card offered to all Wyandotte County residents that will unlock many of the services our county or city has to offer. Please vote yes.

Monsignor Stuart Swetland, President of Donnelly College, and Pastor of Our Lady in St. Rose Catholic Church, said I ask you to vote yes. This is the right thing to do. It will help our neighbors. But I have a unique experience of being part of a third-party who ran a similar program when I was stationed in Illinois at the University of Illinois. We issued the IDs and none of the problems that people have raised were any concern, in fact, in that county there was an economic boom to the section that accepted using these IDs. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Monsignor Swetland** said and the part that did not quickly reversed themselves because they recognized how it helped citizens economically and socially. Please vote yes on this, it will help this community grow. It will keep people safe; it will make them feel welcome.

Faith Rivera said I am a 2nd generation Rosedalean, 14th generation Mexican American and I have been in support of this ordinance from day one. I would like to say that it is important that we have the community members that are able to have IDs because then they can go and see their kids and their children. I want to say too, we voted, we knew what was important to get our leaders out that were against this. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Rivera** said we knew how it worked. It's not a vote, we can't take it to a vote. You're the leaders and this is what we did. We united to do this. Vote yes.

Jeff Harrington, Bonner Springs, KS, said I appreciate this opportunity. Although this does not pertain to the City of Bonner Springs, Bonner Spring certainly supports the goals of Safe and Welcoming neighborhoods. But we have not been included in any of these discussions over the last two years, concerning this and recognizing that to be successful, programs such as this depends

on the specific needs of the community it serves. I want you to know that I have received only concerns with this act and do not support it with the flaws that it has in the manner which it's going to be presented.

Alejandra Frias Fraire, Kansas City, KS, said I am a student at UKC. I believe the Safe and Welcoming is the most righteous thing we can do. There is a lot of misconceptions on immigrants and what they can do. But for those who think that they are bad people or whatever they might think of them, I want to ask if they have ever had a deep connection with one or if they are simply speaking on stereotypes they have heard? I think lots of us are religious and I think that you should remember that God told us to love our neighbor. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Fraire** you should love immigrants, houseless, and the elderly population who benefit from the Safe and Welcoming.

Nehemiah Rosell said I am a resident from Kansas City, Missouri, but have worked in Wyandotte County with folks experiencing homelessness for over the past six years. I know from working with these individuals, who often do not have ID, how crucial it is to have one. I've been involved with the current City ID Program through the Police Department. That's been a truly amazing resource but only for a certain select population of houseless individuals. It cannot be utilized by all residents in Wyandotte County. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Mr. Rosell** said but I know from working, from having this program, how important it's been, that we need to expand the access to an ID to all residents of Wyandotte County which will be beneficial for the community as a whole and include them in our community.

Keith Pappert, Kansas City, KS, said I want to commend you guys, and I would tell you that a lot of this is coming as—we think people aren't wanting to welcome people. We do want to welcome, and I think this ID just doesn't get it done. My concern is, if you really want everybody to assimilate and have, as you guys said it, improve the quality of life; then they've got to be able to assimilate into the community and have jobs. This ID is not going to do that for them. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Mr. Pappert** said I would like to know what it's going to do to the resources in the community that are already attached? What is it going to do to the hospitals? What's it going to do to the community college? What is it going to do to the

welfare programs? None of that has been discussed or talked about. We've got enough dividing us, and I think this thing is just going to create more of a divide in the thing. I run a business that requires identification, and I can't accept this identification. So, we're going to have to have something that works better than this. I commend you for trying to do something that helps—**Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Laura Mersman said I am not a resident of Wyandotte County, but I have worked in Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools for nine years. I believe that you should vote yes for the Safe and Welcoming ordinance because the children and families in our community deserve it. The immigrant families as well as homeless families, the elderly, several populations are going to be very positively impacted by this ordinance. It just validates them as residents and our neighbors in this community. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Mersman** said it will create huge impacts as well as allow them to move around the community feeling more safe, knowing that they can call on the police to protect, as well as utilize many other resources in our community, hospitals, and schools, etc. They'll feel more comfortable.

Phill, Kansas City, KS, said I've been a resident and work in KCK for 16 years, and I completely understand why anybody would want to move to this country or this county. I do feel for all the immigrants out there struggling, but giving out IDs, just based on what people give as information, is the easy way out. I think it's much more difficult to help people get their citizenship the proper way. And, although I feel bad for those people having issues, feelings aren't more important than laws. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Phill** said if we don't follow our laws, that's not good for anybody here, and I definitely think it should be a public vote.

L. Huggins, Leavenworth, KS, said I just wanted to say that Safe and Welcoming has been open for anybody in any of the surrounding counties to participate, to attend meetings; to learn about the program. It's been successful in a lot of areas across the United States, and it's legal and there haven't been problems with it. So, I just urge you to support that program.

Ty Gorman, Northwest KCK, said I just want to urge you to vote yes for Safe and Welcoming. Keep people in the community safe. IDs are necessary for all of our neighbors to live and thrive and be safe in our community. Thank you for supporting it. I vote yes.

Alejandra Perez, Parks and Rec Commissioner for the City of KCMO, said I also serve as an educator, working for families on both sides of the state line. I ask that you please vote yes and approve the Safe and Welcoming ordinance. From an educator's standpoint, it is not an immigration issue. It's about accessibility to our students and their families to basic services that as American citizens we take for granted. We're expecting basic rights essential for our community's well-being. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Perez** said it is imperative that our residents including the houseless community and the most marginalized and vulnerable have the dignity of being able to identify themselves properly.

Maro Pinera said I work for the Archdioceses of Chicago, and I'm here to listen to see what decisions are going to be made here, and to support the immigrant community. As you know in Illinois, we have driver's licenses for people who are undocumented and there has been a great benefit to the community. The immigrant community is vital to your economy and I don't think anybody can deny that. **Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Mr. Pinera** said I don't live in your city, but I want to support the immigrant community, because I know their issues.

Raymond Rico, Kansas City, KS, said I'm an immigration attorney here in Kansas City, Kansas, I grew up in Argentina. Every day I have the chance to work with immigrant families, help immigrants legalize their immigration status to continue living in, and contributing to our county. Absent immigration to our county, Central Avenue, Minnesota Avenue, and many of our communities would have remained as they did in the 80s and 90s when I grew up, after many Wyandotte residents moved to Johnson County. The least we can do is welcome our immigrant brothers and sisters and allow them to feel safe.

Beth Seberger, Wyandotte County, said I live in Wyandotte County with zip code 66102. I have sponsored a refugee from Nicaragua. He applied and came over legally, asking for asylum, was put into detention for four months. When he got out, he had only the ID from ICE, which they

didn't even hardly think looked like him when I took him for his first ICE check-in. There is no other ID that they are permitted to have until they get their work permit which—**Ms. Sparks** said you have 30 seconds remaining. **Ms. Seberger** said sometimes takes 6 to 9 months to apply for a work permit. Matt was a fortunate person who was able legally to get a work permit because one person reached out and was welcoming to him. He's an outstanding citizen, he's not a citizen yet. His court case is still three years away, but he will contribute and is contributing to the communities where he's living in this country. **Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Ms. Sparks said there are no other hands raised online.

Mayor Garner said I just want to take this moment to thank all those individuals that made comments tonight on this proposal. Your comments are both valued and appreciated. They go a long way towards helping this Commission make an informed decision on an issue that obviously is of the utmost of concern and for our commissioners, thank you.

At this time the public comment portion of this meeting is closed. I'll ask if any commissioners have questions for staff or any comments?

Commissioner Ramirez said thank you to everyone who came out tonight. I will try my best to keep my questions and comments brief. Before going to my comment, I have some clarifying questions to our Chief Counsel and the other counsels who helped us craft this ordinance. My first question, if this passes, will we be in violation of any state, federal law, statute, rule or regulation? **Misty Brown, Chief Counsel**, said no, Commissioner Ramirez, we will not. We worked to ensure that the ordinance presented would not violate any laws, which is why we are able to approve it as to form.

Commissioner Ramirez asked, does this hinder, limit, deter, or bar any police officer from their duty to serve and protect the community? **Ms. Brown** said the answer again, is no, Commissioner.

Commissioner Ramirez asked, will we provide anyone "welfare" to anyone who is protected under this act? **Ms. Brown** said no, Commissioner, we will not.

Commissioner Ramirez asked, will anyone receive special benefits? **Ms. Brown** said I guess it would depend on how you would define benefits. Some might say getting the ID is a

benefit that's unique to this ordinance. If the documentation could be provided, but I think what you were asking is if there's any sort of financial benefits or services that would be provided unique to this ordinance, and the answer is no, that's not included in the ordinance.

Commissioner Ramirez said yes, that's what I was trying to—my question is, will anyone receive any special benefits that a regular citizen couldn't get? So, thank you. Can people vote with this ID? **Ms. Brown** said no, Commissioner. This is just a community ID that is required to be accepted by Unified Government departments, but it would not be sufficient for the Election Office.

Commissioner Ramirez said okay. Can anyone get a driver's license or drive a vehicle with this ID? **Ms. Brown** said, again, no, Commissioner.

Commissioner Ramirez said those were just some clarifying questions that I heard from people who had concerns about. When I ran for office in 2019, this was something I stated to my community of door knocking, that I would fully support. As fourth generation American, my great, great grandfather came from Mexico. My grandfather contributed to this community by opening a grocery store in my district in Rosedale. To hear the rhetoric that all we immigrants bring is violence, disappoints me, very much so. We don't bring violence. We don't bring disease. We are here already. We provide to this community. Central Avenue is a thriving community than what it was before. Argentine is a thriving community. I abhor the term sanctuary city because it makes it seem that we need to be saved. That's not it. All we want to be is welcomed. This ordinance is something that will make our community better and greater. It's not going to make droves of people move to the city. The reason why droves of people that are going to want to come to live here is because they feel that everybody will be welcomed and cherished for who they are as a human being.

I ask my fellow commissioners to think about it. I fully support this. I know there are people in my district who don't support this and who have asked me to vote against it. I will say, I will stand by my vote and if this vote is the reason why I get voted out of office, so be it. I cannot thank the coalition enough. I cannot thank Misty, our Legal Department, Susan Alig, Casey, Lauren Bonds, everyone who helped in this. This is an ordinance that breaks no law, no regulation, does not hinder our police. It is something that our Police Department is already doing. We're just putting it in policy. We're just putting it on paper. Nothing more, nothing less.

So, I'm just going to end. To Allie, Misty, Susan, Casey, and everyone on staff who worked on this, thank you. I sent an email tonight to the coalition; however, tonight ends, this ordinance shows that the UG and the community can work together. We can put our differences aside and put good policy on paper. And I thank Mayor Garner for taking the courage to put it on the agenda because we have asked for two years to put it on the agenda and we were refused. I'll end my comments, but I ask my fellow commissioners to think, this is only going to make our community greater. Thank you to everyone who was part of this. I look forward to proudly voting yes.

Commissioner Johnson said, again, I echo the comments from Commissioner Ramirez for your courage to put this before the community today. I want to thank the community at large. Whether you were proponents or opponents of what has been proposed tonight, for coming out and voicing your opinions. I think it's been a fair process. In 2019, I stood after much contemplation in front of a packed house of community individuals, most of whom were from Wyandotte County, and became the first commissioner of the UG to publicly support Safe and Welcoming. That night, I pledged to our community that I would present Safe and Welcoming to the UG Commission for discussion. I want to thank my colleagues, Commissioners Bynum and Ramirez, for joining me, and also most recently Commissioner Davis. Our Legal staff who have dedicated themselves to create a proposed policy that speaks to the rich diversity of our beloved community. We had two public Special Sessions where the Commission listened and discussed what we are considering tonight. This was not done in secret. The same notifications were given as were given for this session tonight. Unfortunately, the public in those sessions were not allowed to speak. Finally, at the last Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, the public had an opportunity to express their views and opinions just like they had tonight. It was a lengthy meeting, but it was necessary.

There's been a groundswell of appreciation for the diversity of our beloved community. We proudly tout the fact that we are one of the most diverse communities across this nation. The demographics speak to that, but to date, we have not dignified all of our citizens with the opportunity to properly identify themselves and let me be clear, this is not an effort to become a sanctuary city. This is a means of identifying and protecting the safety and welfare of all of our citizens regardless of whether they are undocumented or not. They are already here. The undocumented, not only them, but persons who are recently released from the correctional

institutions, the elderly; they all support this community. They paid property taxes right now, sales taxes. Some of them own small businesses. Some pay rent, the list goes on and on. They support the economics of this community right now. And I don't need to remind this Commission of the countless persons that come into Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas, work in our community, but spend very little of those wages in our community, and those dollars often go to support other communities. The community has been both patient and persistent with this Commission over the past five years on this matter. I don't want them to have to wait another year, another month, another week or another day. Mr. Mayor, I move right now that this Commission approve this historic ordinance as submitted.

Action: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the historic ordinance as submitted.

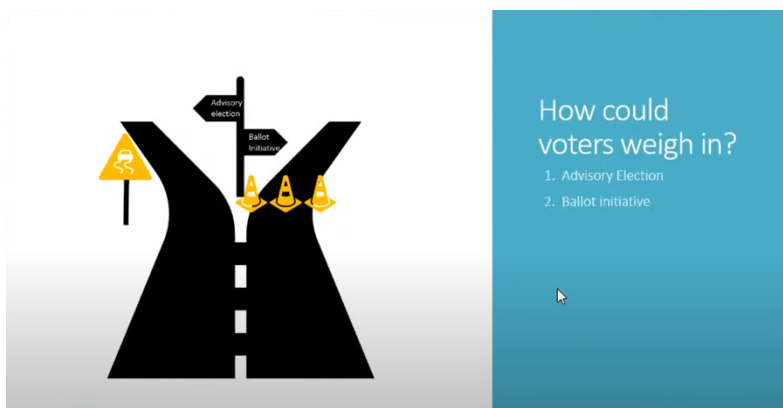
Commissioner Bynum said a couple of brief comments. I've been working with the members of the Safe and Welcoming Coalition since May of 2020. I do stand in support of the ordinance, both components of it, but I want to reiterate some things that I said a year ago, in a public session, when we held a Special Session on this topic, and that is that I am a strong supporter of our law enforcement, Police and Sheriff. I think about all of the years that I have spent working in this community, which is more than 25 in a grassroots way.

In 1995, Kansas City, Kansas Police brought forward community-oriented policing and problem solving. We began in earnest to work with our neighborhoods. The problem-solving portion of that was critical, and it worked. We've seen major gains, major strides within our neighborhoods. I see this work as an extension of that problem-solving that we do hand-in-hand with our neighbors. It is not a surprise to anyone that lives or works in this community that our immigrants have been moving into Wyandotte County for more than 20 years. We are not talking about some unknown population of folks that are waiting in some other town to flood into our community and commit wrongdoing. That is not what we are talking about. We are talking about people who live and work and worship among us right now.

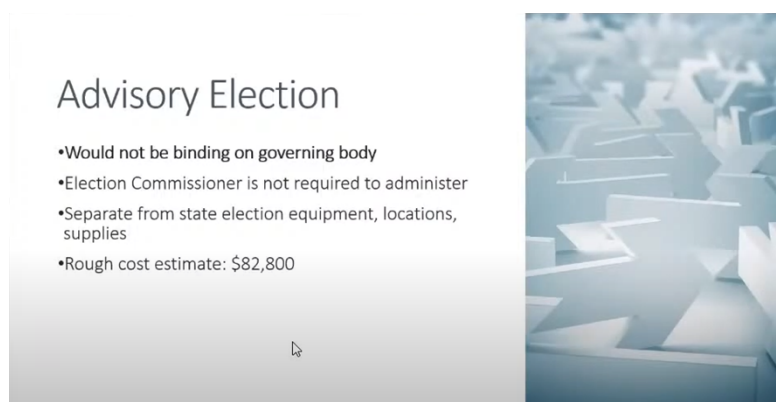
I think this is about taking steps toward building trust in all corners of this community. I've been proud to work with this coalition. Commissioner Johnson is correct, none of the sessions that have been held so far were unknown in any way different than this one. I do wish more people

had more information. But I think that's a shared responsibility among all of us. I do also know that our Unified Government communications staff is working diligently to do more and more every day to open those lines of communication. I commend them. Especially, and including, the fact sheet and Q&A that was placed on our website about this very topic that answers a lot of these questions. A lot of what I've heard in the last few weeks, and heard again tonight, was a request from some of our residents to place this on a ballot. So, my one question for our Chief Counsel, I did ask her this question in an email a week or so ago. I would like her to share the answer, as to the two mechanisms existing for placing this item on a ballot for a public vote. I think it will be very enlightening.

Ms. Brown said I think Susan and I are going to cover that. Susan has some slides associated with that question.



Ms. Alig said thank you for your question, Commissioner. There are two options as you mentioned. One is an Advisory Election. That would go from the Commission to the election stage. And the second is a Ballot Initiative that would come from the community in the form of a petition to the Commission and then the Commission could choose whether to adopt the item that the community petitioned for or put in on the ballot.



I'll start with an Advisory Election since we don't have a petition in front of us. The graphic that I used here is this kind of jumble of arrows. That pretty much represents the issues that we've encountered as we've done some preliminary research into how this would go.

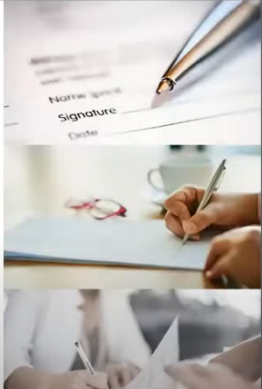
There are a number of logistical challenges. Before we go into those logistical challenges, a key thing to remember here is that an Advisory Election would not be binding on a governing body. It is almost like a very formal, complicated survey, because regardless of the results, the Commission could choose to adopt or modify, or not adopt this ordinance, even after the election procedure.

A key wrinkle in the Advisory Election procedure is that the Election Commissioner is not required to administer an Advisory Election. In our preliminary communications with our Election Commissioner, our understanding is that it's not something that his office would be willing to take on. That's based on direction from the state, as I understand it. So, we would need to find a way to administer this election separate from the Election Commissioner. We would need to identify our own polling places, potentially get our own election equipment. That's why I used that jumble of arrows. I'm not really sure how that would work, but we haven't identified another jurisdiction that has gone through this process before.

Based on what previous elections have cost and what the different components of an election cost, our rough cost estimate is that it would be about \$82K, but that's very rough at this point. If we wanted to go down this path, there would be a lot more work for staff to do to figure out exactly whether its possible and how to do it. I'll let Casey talk about the Ballot Initiative.

Ballot Initiative K.S.A. 25-3013

- Starts as a petition signed by 25% of previous city election's turnout (includes residency requirement and oath)
- Commission can decide whether to pass the proposed ordinance or put it on the ballot
- If majority vote to pass, it becomes law for 10 years.



Ms. Meyer said so the ballot initiative is pursuant to state statute and would require a petition signed by electors in number to at least 25% of the electors who voted at the last preceding, regular city election. I think the numbers from the last preceding election was 16,992, so it would have to be 25% of that. Then the petition would be filed along with the proposed ordinance with the City Clerk. Then the Commission could either pass it as it was written, without alteration, within 20 days, or if it wasn't passed within 20 days, a special election could be called, unless a regular city election was to be held anyway within 90 days. If a majority of the electorate voted to pass the ordinance, the vote would be binding and would not be able to be repealed or amended, unless there was another vote by the electors, or passed by the governing body the ordinance has been in effect for 10 years. That is the way it could get on the ballot.

Commissioner Bynum said I just want to clarify a couple of the items that you shared. In an Advisory Election, were our County Election Commissioner willing to conduct it, it would still not be a binding election because it would be advisory. Is that similar to the vote, we took perhaps 25 years ago when we put a vote on the ballot to simply state as a community that we were in support of gaming. Is that a similar advisory election?

Ms. Meyer said, Commissioner, in response to your first question, yes. Even if the Election Commissioner administered this election, the results would still simply be advisory. I will defer to Chief Counsel on the question of the historical information because I'm not aware of that answer.

Ms. Brown said that is an excellent question Commissioner Bynum, you are definitely putting me through my paces tonight. The answer is, I am not certain on that one. It sounds advisory, but if there was statutory authority in order to address that issue, then it's easier to put that on the ballot. On this particular issue, there is no statutory authority for it. When speaking to

our Election Officer today, he advised that he's not certain he legally could assist with this election. I guess in sum, it's not an easy matter as some would hope that this item could make it to the ballot.

Commissioner Bynum said in the second petition initiative, the Ballot Initiative, I am under the impression that what I'm hearing with regards to this is that this would be citizen driven and, therefore, outside the hands of the Commission. We could not say tonight, for example, as the governing body that this would go to a Ballot Initiative. That would be citizen driven initiative, is that correct? **Ms. Brown** said that's correct, Commissioner.

Commissioner Townsend said I want to thank everyone who participated tonight whatever their viewpoint was. This is a great example of the electoral and governmental process at work. I am going to have some questions that relate directly to what I am reading. You've heard several speakers say tonight that this has been something going on over the last four or five years, and it's had several iterations. So, I'm looking at what is before us right now in terms of language, just so people understand.

You've heard the discussions that this ordinance really addresses two parts, one with an enforcing or not enforcing federal immigration law, and what the police can or can't do under this ordinance. One of the things that I've heard tonight and over the years is that the impetus for this ordinance, one of the impetuses is that people feel safe and they will not hesitate to go to our police if they are in need of service, help, assistance, whatever that might be, for fear that they will be turned over to ICE. I see our Chief of Police is with us tonight or if there is any other person who might address this first question that I have with the first part of the ordinance. That is, do we have any documentation to show how many times our Police Department has actually turned over people to ICE who have come to them for other help or for other reasons? I think that would be something worth knowing.

I'll share with you that I was concerned about, and this would be my concern with any ordinance, that there be an actual need that's being addressed by the ordinance, something that is happening. I, for one, I don't know if this is happening, or if so, in what capacity, what numbers, how often? That would be the first question I have with that part of the ordinance.

Karl Oakman, Chief of Police, said I will try to answer your question. When the Safe and Welcoming initiative was started, once I became Chief, I looked and tried to see—there were two

things I was trying to determine. One: if we've actually participated with ICE in any raids in the last couple of years, and I could not find anything that supports that, as well as I couldn't find anything where victims refused to report crimes. However, that's something that as a Police Department, we actually wouldn't know. But I can tell you this, we don't have any issues with undocumented people coming forward to go through the U-Visa process where they have been victims of crimes and in every one of those cases, they had made a police report and went through the process. Like I said, that's kind of the unknown, but I can say, as far as participating in any ICE raids, we couldn't find any information where we've participating in them, and like I said, all of our U-Visa applications or individuals who are undocumented who had reported a crime. So, hopefully that can answer your question.

Commissioner Townsend said thank you, Chief. That gives me some response. As to what to me sounds like one of the big concerns and the impetus for at least this section of the ordinance. You made mention of a U-Visa, could you explain what that is? That might be something I want to talk about or have questions more when I actually talk about the section of the ordinance that talks about the documentation and issuing the ID. But, since you brought it up, what is that?

Chief Oakman said that is a federal program where victims of who are not U.S. citizens, who are undocumented, if they are victims of crime, they can petition for a Visa to stay in the country legally.

Ms. Meyer said, Commissioner, I want to add that our city prosecutors also issue U-Visas as well, and so we don't have a problem with the city prosecutors with undocumented immigrants applying for U-Visas in municipal court either.

Commissioner Townsend said okay, thank you. I don't want to get too far off the beaten track, but since Chief brought it up, I wanted to make sure for anybody listening including me, it was explained what it was.

The other question I have with regard to the law enforcement segment of the ordinance as it's written—Counsel, please jump in as appropriate. We're talking about KCK Police, what is the Sheriff's role? Why wasn't something more specific to the Sheriff's Department mentioned in this? Would they not be under the same concern by some of our citizens that members of our Sheriff's Department would go to ICE?

Ms. Alig said this is something that we did a lot of research and discussion on. I mentioned earlier that one of our legal concerns was with an earlier version, we wanted to make sure that this ordinance doesn't exceed the authority of the Commission. Our research showed that the Sheriff is the elected official who could make a policy for the Sheriff's Office. The Board of Commissioners is limited in the policy decisions that they could make that control the Sheriff's Office. So, that is one reason why the Sheriff's Office is excluded from this ordinance. Additionally, we focused on city services, services that are under the control of the Board of County Commissioners. The ordinance doesn't control what happens, for example, in the Register of Deed's Office or the Courthouse, because we're only dealing with departments that are under the direct control of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Townsend said okay, I appreciate that distinction. I do see Sheriff Soptic is with us, so I wanted to give him the same opportunity, if he wanted to take it, to answer the question similarly that I asked of Chief Oakman, if there is any documentation that he could share with us about the Sheriff's Department involvement with rounding up residents and taking them to ICE; if you choose to share or have any stats on that.

Sheriff Daniel Soptic said to the best of my knowledge, at least that's 2009 when previous Sheriff Ash was in office, there's been no time when we've went to work with ICE in any type of raid or round up, as you called it. And back to your other question, like Susan answered, the Sheriff's Office is governed by state statute. Since this is a municipal ordinance, it doesn't directly apply to the Sheriff or my operation. That is the big distinction when it comes to this.

Commissioner Townsend said okay, appreciate that. Let me move on to some questions that I had about the ID portion of the ordinance. I think this was raised before, but just so I'm clear, we're calling it—in the document that I'm looking at, municipal ID. But it also says in the ordinance that a third-party contractor would actually do the work so-to-speak. What is the Unified Government's role, are we backing; is this a city ID or not? Is it a municipal ID, or what is it really?

Ms. Meyer said, Commissioner, it's considered a municipal ID. It's just that we are going to go through the RFP process to hire a third party to contract with that business or entity which is going to be a 501(c)(3) to run the program. It's still going to be considered a municipal ID.

Commissioner Townsend said we'll have a contractor. What, if any, oversight or regulation would this Commissioner have or the Unified Government to tell that third party what to do, how to do, how to proceed with issuing the ID? **Ms. Meyer** said usually the Commission has no authority when we issue contracts under RFPs. The County Administrator would be the one to approve a contract.

Commissioner Townsend said so, there would be a contract issued between this third party and the Unified Government? **Ms. Meyer** said that's correct. It would have to comply with the terms that are included in the ordinance already. There would be additional terms in the contract, but it would also have to be consistent with the terms that are included in the ordinance.

Commissioner Townsend said I don't recall that I've heard anybody talk about money. Do we have any cost estimates or figures at all of what going through a third party to issue an ID would cost the Unified Government? **Ms. Meyer** said we conducted some research on how much it would cost to run internally. However, because we're trying to use 501(c)(3), the cost is supposed to be very little. They would be in charge of getting their own equipment and hiring their own personnel. The goal in going out to a third-party administrator who is a 501(c)(3) was to minimize the cost. I can't tell you exactly how much it would be, but the goal was to make it very minimal.

Commissioner Townsend said not trying to put you on the spot, but are we talking minimal like \$1.0K or \$50K? Do we have any way to know; and related to that, do we have any way to estimate how many people in the city may even take advantage of that, because that might be a factor that would impact cost, possibly. Do we have any idea of how many people in our community might avail themselves of that? With this is there a minimum age? Would this be for the 99-year-old and the 9-year-old? **Ms. Meyer** said originally this was going to be for a broad population; juveniles, elderly, people who have recently gotten out of correctional facilities, the unsheltered population. Although the unsheltered population has access to the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department ID program. Then, of course, the undocumented population. I really don't know, I don't have an accurate estimate to provide you. I don't want to provide any misleading information. I don't have a great answer for you on how many people would avail themselves.

Commissioner Townsend said this might be a good time also—thank you, Sheriff, for not leaving us yet. Between you and counsel, can you talk about what the difference would be in the program for IDs that are issued under Chief Oakman’s department versus what we’re considering tonight? What’s the difference and who could use it, and what’s being issued?

Chief Oakman said well, I can talk about our program. We’ve so far issued approximately 200 IDs. Our program was a minimal cost. We had to purchase a industrial printer, and then the ID cards. We had minimal cost with our program. The difference is that our program is geared towards individuals who at one point had some form of ID and through sometimes circumstances in life put them in difference situations, they no longer had access to those documents or able to obtain those documents. Through the Police Department and our vast network of databases, we were able to get them verified municipal IDs. What our program does is put them on track to get a state ID. Within a year, they then qualified to get a state ID. And plus, our IDs are verified through verifiable different information. Even with our IDs, there are some banks that are looking at using our IDs as valid identification. We’re in the process of getting in that direction. Really, that’s the difference. We have verification and it takes them on course to get a Kansas State ID, whereas the other program would not be part of that.

Commissioner Townsend said when you say your program verifies, we’re not verifying who people are who they say they are in this? I’m thinking why don’t we just go to the Police Department? I know you don’t want to hear that, but I’m really trying to understand the difference here.

Chief Oakman said I think some of the arguments that we heard is that basically if they’re undocumented and they go to the Police Department, we’re going to call ICE and ICE is going to get them, which we wouldn’t do. Just like with some of the unsheltered population, some of them do have minor warrants and we don’t take them to jail, we work with them and get them their ID. Community Policing does an excellent job. It’s our program, we’ve actually had people who’ve had Kansas driver’s license that just wanted a municipal ID because they thought it was a cool thing to have. We told them no, you’re not who we’re trying to get ID’d, give them IDs. Like I said, our program is verified because we do have access to databases that do verify the information. I can’t really comment on what a third-party administrator would be able to do because they are CJIS laws in each state where some personal information is not available to private entities.

Commissioner Townsend okay, thank you, Chief. Let me move on to kind of like the last questions I had about this. In reading the language of the proposed ordinance, it seems to me, correct me if I'm wrong counsel, there's two banks of types of documents that a resident could present to get a municipal ID. In bank one, it's to establish proof of identity, it says to establish identity, an applicant should be required to produce one of the following documents. Then there are about 20 documents listed that the resident could come forward with. I mean, it includes right off the top a U.S. or foreign passport, a U.S. State driver's license, state identification card, U.S. permanent resident card, counselor identification; there are about 20 items here. So, my first thought was if someone has this, which they're going to need, why would they even bother to seek a municipal ID in the first place? That didn't make sense to me. If they are trying to alleviate or gain comfort, one of the examples used quite frequently tonight, a parent loved one, grandparent, aunt, whoever that wanted to see their child in school. If you've got one of these documents, which you would need to get the ID, why would you even worry about getting the ID? I'm kind of perplexed by that. Similarly, if you didn't have one of those 20, then you could present something that showed a current photograph that had your name, the applicant's date of birth—there were about 18 items or pieces of documentation, including a birth certificate, a Tribal Bureau of Affairs, affidavit of birth, I mean there are about 18 things here, some military base. Why would someone not use that and be comfortable with going forward in doing what they wanted to do in the community? I just didn't understand that.

Ms. Meyer said I think some of that was addressed by the coalition. The proponents of the ID, I think would say, and I don't know if they're available right now, would say that having a city ID, even if they needed to use one of these other forms of ID to obtain to a city ID would make them feel more inclusive. If there were any services that required a city ID within our Unified Government, they could use that rather than use one of these other documents that are listed in these two different categories.

Commissioner Townsend said I guess I'm still perplexed that if someone has this information, and they're going to have to have some of it to even get the ID according to this ordinance, if you don't feel safe with that, I'm not sure how a municipal ID is going to help you. It requires trust on both sides for sure. This is something I'm going to have to ponder, there are still quite a few unknowns here.

I applaud what the goal is to make everyone in the community safe, but in terms of why and some of the things that are the driving force behind this, like with what Chief Oakman said, I'm not sure there's a real basis for that. But I want everyone to feel welcomed. This has been the case in Kansas City, Kansas, Wyandotte County for the last several years. Certainly, since I've been in office. The growing diversity in our community, which is a good thing. Thank you for those in the community and the coalition who are working to build a better Wyandotte County, and thanks to our Legal team.

Commissioner Davis said may I have permission, Mayor, to promote attorney, Raymond Rico. He's an immigration attorney and could offer just some insight on the U-Visas and I think he would offer some expertise given his professional experience. **Mayor Garner** asked, is he available? **Commissioner Davis** said that's what I am told. Can somebody in the Clerk's Office let me know if he's available? **Mayor Garner** asked, can you repeat that name, Commissioner Davis? **Commissioner Davis** said Raymond Rico.

Commissioner Davis asked, Mr. Rico, first can you just obviously state your name and your profession? What do you do for a living? I think that will speak to some of the professional experience you can offer this Commission.

Raymond Rico said I am the owner of the law office of Raymond Rico on 14th and Central Avenue. I've been an immigration attorney practicing for the last 12 years here in Wyandotte County area representing many different clients that have requested U-Visas or police assistance. I keep the victim from services unit of KCKPD very busy. I do focus quite a bit on the U-Visa.

Commissioner Davis asked, can you just tell me about the experience, well first, can you define the U-Visa? I'm learning a lot here. What is that and then what is the process by which someone would go about obtaining it? **Mr. Rico** said the U-Visa was established in the early 2000's to assist those that have been victims of crimes, serious crimes, that have assisted the police or the prosecutors, or the court system to bring the suspects, the perpetrators of crime, to justice. Many people who have legalized under the U-Visa will be able to become residents of the country and remain in Wyandotte County. And, yes, we have had great working relationships with the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department. There have been some instances where those who have

been victims of serious crimes either did not get response previously, but I think with our new Chief, we've seen a bit of a turnaround on that.

Commissioner Davis said so, to get clarity, in order to access the U-Visas, you have to be a victim of a serious crime? Do I have that correct? **Mr. Rico** said that's correct.

Commissioner Davis said I just want everybody to know this. The access to this visa, you have to be a victim of the crime? So, Mr. Rico, in your experience, if someone wanted to obtain an ID through this visa and they were not a victim of the crime, would they still be able to get access? **Mr. Rico** said no, there's no way. If you're not a victim of a crime, ultimately your case would be denied by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and there would be no way to get an ID.

Commissioner Davis said okay, thank you so much, Mr. Rico. Chief Oakman, are you still there? **Chief Oakman** said yes, I'm here.

Commissioner Davis asked, can you concur the information that Mr. Rico is saying, that in order for you to get access to that visa, you have to be a victim of a crime? **Chief Oakman** said yes. I heard you mention like the ID. Most of the time they're not pursuing IDs, they're pursuing that citizenship. That resident status through that offer that the U-Visa offers them. But correct, you have to be one, you have to report the crime, you have to be a victim of a serious crime, and then you have to cooperate with the investigation.

Commissioner Davis said how long, Mr. Rico or Chief Oakman, you all can answer this. How long would it take to get that U-Visa? **Mr. Rico** said it would take around six years currently, and you cannot get a state ID, or any ID unless you get granted the U-Visa. Because when you get granted a U-Visa, you are given a work permit, which is a work authorization which allows you to request with the DMV and the State of Kansas, an ID.

Commissioner Davis said so you have to be a victim first, and then go through that process, and then we're looking at roughly six years to obtain that. I don't have anymore questions for you, Mr. Rico, but I appreciate you.

Chief Oakman, forgive me if I'm being redundant, you all, it's been a long night. Does the Police Department through their ID program offer IDs to non-citizens? Can you speak to that particular program?

Chief Oakman said no, that is for members who have had IDs at some point and through life's situations have lost their documents, haven't been able to get their documents and are not eligible to get a Kansas State ID, but we're able to verify the information. So, it's usually geared towards our unhoused population. Are you there, did I lose you?

Mayor Garner said, Commissioner Davis? It looks like he may be having technical difficulties. We can't hear you, Commissioner Davis.

Commissioner Davis said I wanted to ask a question for our law enforcement personnel, so either Chief Oakman or Sheriff Soptic. There are questions about the raids, but I want to ask about information, and I want to—kind of provide some context everyone, so I have sent some emails out and this is data from ICE, and it has Wyandotte County jail on it. The State of Kansas is on it. It says that 1, 889 folks have come from the Wyandotte County jail. So, maybe this is just specifically a question for Sheriff Soptic. Has any information been shared with ICE regarding immigration status?

Sheriff Soptic said so, I don't know what report you ran or what you asked for. What I can tell you is our process. Which is, if somebody comes into the facility, we obviously run records checks. If somebody does have a judicial warrant through ICE, we will detain on that warrant, signed by a judge. If there is a hold and detain or notify by ICE; we will let them know the person is there, but we don't hold on those. Once the local charges, either state or municipal charges have been satisfied, and that person's been released, then we release them through our normal bonding and release procedure.

Commissioner Davis said okay, so just to get some clarity there. There's a question on the raids and the answer was no, but when it comes to sharing information, the answer is yes. Do I have that correct? **Sheriff Soptic** said we notify them, if they're in custody, if there's a request, yes.

Commissioner Davis said so, if they're in custody and if there is a request. Now, I bring that up because there's this question of why the non-ICE compliance? And, there's this question of whether or not deportations are happening? Thank you so much, Sheriff Soptic, I don't think I have any other questions for you.

I just wanted to make sure that the Commission and Mayor, everyone knew about these facts. Because when we are saying folks are scared to go to the police, these are some of the facts and these are some of the things that we are seeing. Let's put it in the perspective of folks that may not be familiar and may not be able to differentiate between oh, you're the City Police, or you are the County Police. Sheriff or KCKPD. The overall arching idea of having to interact with law enforcement, given that ability has created some discomfort. That's not to say that there hasn't been any collaboration. I just wanted to provide some evidence and some information that could help on this.

I ran on Safe and Welcoming. If you are in the 8th District, this is no stranger. I did not hide about this. I was very, very frank; very, very open; very, very honest from the beginning. This is one of the top campaign issues that I ran on. My social media posts and my mailers and my door hangers, I was very explicit on my intention. I had every intention to pass Safe and Welcoming. My district has multiple, large, and growing immigrant communities. They are not bringing crime. There's no evidence that I have seen that our cities are more dangerous, or that our county is more dangerous because of their mere presence. I do not believe that this particular ordinance would add to that.

I will also add Quindaro, Central Avenue, Strawberry Hill and Argentine, among many others, are being revitalized by these very folks. I also want to add that there are cities, like Lawrence and Roeland Park, who have adopted similar measures and no data, no nothing that I can draw from those experience—we actually got, so the public will know, we got an email from a City Council person on Roeland Park, who passed a similar measure saying this was great for their city. Not that this is deteriorating, this is actually better for their city. That is a peer city within our state that is saying the opposite of what some folks are saying.

I want us to pass this. I will also say this, if you are not Native American and you're not a descendant of enslaved Africans, your family migrated here. That is the absolute truth. Your family migrated here. So, to say to some, we're going to put some process, and then to others, no you cannot, is simply not fair. It is not fair.

The last thing I will say, there was a comment that some woman made, very uncomfortable, Mayor, she had said that was going to make calls and wasn't going to be the public safety. In light of events like January 6th, to me, that is absolutely unacceptable. I don't know what you meant by that threat, but let me tell you what this commissioner will not do. We will not allow the guise or

the masquerading of public comment to be an open invitation to threat racism or white supremacy. I will stand against that. We'll be following up with that, but she made those comments and no one said anything. I do not feel comfortable, nor do I feel safe about nobody checking her on that because that is absolutely unacceptable, absolutely unacceptable. As I said before, we need to pass Safe and Welcoming. I hope that these questions have brought clarity on what we need to do. We cannot allow fear, racism, white supremacy, nativism or ethnocentrism guide our principles for governing one of the most diverse counties per capita in this country.

Commissioner Bynum said I wanted to circle back around to some of the comments, questions that Commissioner Townsend had put forward. One of the questions was do we have a notion of how many people might avail themselves of such a municipal ID? Of course, we don't know an exact number, but there's a tracking mechanism migrationpolicy.org estimates that in Wyandotte County right now, there are approximately 14,000 undocumented adults. That's not factoring in the youth. So we have to factor in our young people, we have to factor in older adults that might need to secure a municipal ID in order to conduct some business. Those that are aging out of the foster system, those that are experiencing reentry; we did spend time with officials at the Salvation Army, I think over the summer. They were pretty enthusiastic about the municipal ID program. Simply because of the many anecdotal stories they were telling about trying the efforts and links and number of trips that they made with their constituents trying to get them IDs. So, I think that number could factor upward of 30,000, you know potentially for seeking a municipal ID, whether all that could avail themselves of it, would. We do not know that, but to me that number could be between 14,000 upward when you factor in the other populations.

Another question that had come up was, if it's already in police general orders, what problem are we trying to solve? I would say, not speaking for the coalition members, but speaking for those of us that tried diligently to work with them all this time, the ordinance codifies that and makes it into a law. It takes it far beyond the general orders of the Police Department, in our opinion, and that's why we found it important to try to bring the ordinance forward.

Then another question was, if I have access to all of these other forms of ID, why do I need a community ID? My answer to that would just be, this brings a verifiable form of identification. This brings a uniform form of identification. This is an identification card that then is used, our law enforcement knows what it is, our Unified Government Health Department knows what it is,

our schools know what it is, we know that USD 500 has endorsed this measure. Businesses, certainly we don't dictate to them, but non-profits, I do know that our mental health center has said that they would have no problem utilizing the community ID as a form of verified ID for services. There are many other non-profit and cultural organizations that could then recognize and accept a uniform, verifiable form of identification so that this ID card could be presented without question. Whereas any number of other forms of ID might—I might receive that at some job that I'm working on and have no idea whether it's real, not real. What is it supposed to be telling me about that individual? Some of the documents on the list cannot be used as ID. They can be used to help verify who a person is, but they are not photo ID, things like a utility bill.

I wanted to circle back around to that because those are fair questions and they're questions that I don't think we took the time to address here tonight. I would also like to say that there's a motion on the table made by Commissioner Johnson quite a while back, and I'd like to make a second.

Action: Commissioner Bynum seconded Commissioner Johnson's previously motion to approve the ordinance as submitted.

Commissioner Kane asked, can Legal show the deal where it requires 25%? Does Legal know what I'm talking about? **Ms. Alig** said yes, Commissioner, I'll get that right up.

Commissioner Kane said if this is such a good idea, I don't know why we wouldn't require them to go out and get the 25%, which isn't that much, but while they're out there, they should be educating the community. What the people asked today, or a lot of them asked, and asked for the last several days is, why can't we bring it to a ballot? So, I don't know why we cannot require them to go get the 25% and while they're out there, educate the community. And, as you saw, and as you read in some of these emails, and on both sides they're passionate. We're going to pass something that this group has been very aggressive, they gave staff a hard time, and then we're going to say, alright, well, three or four commissioners think this is the greatest thing since sliced bread, but we're not going to require them to go out and get 25% of the signatures that it would take to put it on the ballot. I guess I'm a little frustrated on that.

I don't support this. I wouldn't of run on this, I didn't run on it. Talking to some of their members the other day, they made reference to multiple things that were untrue. So, I questioned,

not all, but some of the people that are pushing this, what are they really trying to do? This is what they're showing now, what are they going to try to show later? And I oppose this issue.

Commissioner Stites said could you put the view of the lobby back up on the screen, please? So, as I look out, in this audience; first off, I want to say thank you to everybody that's out there. Everybody, every one of them. Guess what? I can't tell you, which one of you have an ID or which one of you don't have an ID, or which one is undocumented, I have no idea. This is an issue that we have in Wyandotte County. It bothers me to think that some folks are saying that it's an immigrant problem. We need everybody, we need everybody working together and I'm glad for each and every one of you guys. My problem that I have is with the ordinance, is what I have a problem with. I will tell you, I'm a newly elected commissioner and I've been in office less than 60 days. I unfortunately have not been brought up to speed regarding the Safe and Welcoming ordinance. I haven't been contacted by Safe and Welcoming. I wish I had so that I could get more educated about this ordinance. I'm not here to point fingers, but I wish somebody would have reached out, they hadn't.

I went through a three-day orientation, and this was never brought up. An ordinance that affects all of us in this magnitude, I would have thought that this would have been something that I would have been brought up to speed on. So, as others have mentioned, Commissioner Kane was one, that over the last several days, emails, calls, texts, you name have come in that have said that they were, quite frankly, unaware that this was even an ordinance that was going to be put on the agenda, didn't know anything about it.

One thing that I wish would have happened is that we would have required, if we can require, I don't know if that's the right word, but that Safe and Welcoming did presentations out in all of Wyandotte County, even though that it doesn't affect Bonner Springs and Edwardsville, I represent a portion of Kansas City, Kansas also. I see that there are folks that are saying how many times they've been out. I was not involved. I was not a commissioner at the time, so I understand. I wish that we would have just been more informed about what was going on regarding Safe and Welcoming.

I'll go back to what I had said before about when you go to the website and it says that a municipal ID, and this is on Safe and Welcoming's website, and I quote "A municipal ID is a form of identification issued by a city or county government." Not a third party 501(c)(3) with no

oversight that we're not able to go check, we're not able to validate. Quite frankly, they could just do these things, and we not ever. One of the things I'd like to ask Legal is, on Section #9 of the ordinance, I won't read it, but if you could pull it up. Could you explain to me what does that mean? I'm not an attorney, and I just would like to know what that language means.

Ms. Alig said, which section was it? I'm sorry.

Commissioner Stites said Section 9, yes. **Ms. Meyer** said is it the "In the event of litigation," or is it—**Commissioner Stites** said Section 9 is what I have.

Ms. Brown said "In the event of litigation, the Unified Government shall require the Program Administrator to defend against the disclosure of such information to the maximum extent possible under the law. This protection shall extend to the municipal ID card application forms, information contained on those forms or obtained through the card application process, to the lists of individuals who hold or have applied for a municipal ID card, and to the fact of any individual's participation in the ID card program."

So, Commissioner, this section is specifically limited to the third-party administrators and who would be issuing the card. And in the event that anyone had issued litigation in order to require that the records that were provided to get the ID be turned over, the ordinance would require the program administrator to basically raise a defense to not turn over those records.

Commissioner Stites said okay, so where it says that in the event of litigation, the Unified Government shall require the program administrator. Is that a legal function that we would be involved with, or would we just say the administrator of the ID, this is your responsibility. I guess, are we off of the hook if there's an issue with it, is what I'm asking.

Ms. Brown said that is the reason for putting it in this ordinance, Commissioner, and it's an excellent question. Typically, when you do an RFP, we have standard terms and conditions that we include in our RFP, one of which is to indemnify the Unified Government, and this is putting it in there that it would be a provision included in our contract with the third-party administrator. So, if one did try to do a KORA request to the Unified Government, those records would not be kept by the Unified Government, they would be kept by the third-party administrator. If a suit was issued, we would be asking the third-party administrator to defend and indemnify the Unified Government, that would be a clause within the contract. Further we would ask them, per this ordinance, to defend against the disclosure of the records. In essence, yes, this is the clause to take the Unified Government out of that situation.

Commissioner Stites asked, does the third-party administrator, are they required to hold documentation when an applicant comes in to seek a municipal ID? How long do they hold it and where is it kept and for how long?

Ms. Brown said no, the ordinance does not speak to that, Commissioner. That is something when we were formulating how this would work, that would be up to the third-party administrator. What they would be required to do is to comply with the contract that would ultimately be issued by the Unified Government and to comply with the terms of this ordinance. But it is silent on how long they would keep the records and what they would do with them.

Commissioner Stites said my problem with this is that it is, again, it is a municipal ID that's not issued by a municipality. If we are saying that folks can come to the Police Department to get this ID, and we've already had the Chief of Police say that they will not be subject to ICE being contacted, what would be the reason, and maybe the coalition could answer this, but would be the reason that they wouldn't want to go that route, and then it is an actual, in my mind, when I say municipal ID, it came from a municipality. It's us that issued that ID.

Mayor Garner asked, is there anyone in the audience that is available that represents the coalition that worked on proposing this ordinance, in collaboration with the Unified Government's Legal Department, that could answer, briefly, Commissioner Stites' question? Specifically in the lobby?

Judy Ansel, Resident of Argentine, said, so if I understand your question, why is it called a municipal ID when it is not given out by the city, is that correct?

Commissioner Stites said well a municipality, yes. What would be the opposition to having it issued by a municipality, the Police Department, other than a third-party 501(c)(3).

Ms. Ansel said the reason is, and we've had extensive discussions with a non-profit organization called Faith Action which issues IDs. They call them community IDs, not municipal IDs. They've done this in a number of communities across the country. These are very well accepted, and they are recognized by municipalities. This is actually what the intention was in this ordinance that it be a community ID. The reason why the coalition preferred this was because we felt that people who are in fear of the police would not go to the police to get an ID and turn over all their information. They may also have a fear of going to the city government, so having a third-party, which was under contract and had definitely stipulated conditions for how this was going to

be issued, some of which is in the ordinance, and some of which would be in the contract with them, would be preferable in order to build trust. We feel very strongly that our undocumented community will not make use of a municipal or a community ID if we also don't pass the ICE non-compliance sections of the ordinance, because they would have fear that showing such an ID to a police officer could get them deported. And, I have to say that we have instances of this which have happened in this city within the last 10 years.

Commissioner Stites said and if you would stay up there, I would appreciate it. Can you stay there? I didn't catch your name. **Ms. Ansel** said my name Judy Ansel and I live in Argentine.

Commissioner Stites said so with that being said, and I appreciate that answer, but if we are truly trying to build this safe and welcoming, wouldn't that be a great step forward that we build that trust with our Police Department by getting that ID through the Police Department. The ordinance says that ICE will not be contacted regarding your immigration status.

Ms. Ansel said well, probably in the best of all possible worlds that might be great. We have a community with 14,000 undocumented people living among us, who have a deep fear of the police and of reporting crimes. Even DA Mark Dupree has endorsed Safe and Welcoming because he knows that its going to be build trust in the police. So, let's start this. If we get to a point where we have a community that looks at a policeman as their best friend, then maybe that might be a good thing to do, but we're not there yet by any means. We have so many people who fail to report crimes because of fear of the police.

Commissioner Sites said, Legal, I'd like to ask, can the administrator of the ID, can they waive all criteria if they don't have any of the items listed that Commissioner Townsend referenced? Is there a mechanism for the administrating agency or 501(c)(3) that they can waive the needed documents and receive an ID?

Ms. Meyer said well the ordinance says one of the ways is to produce any other documentation that the administrating officer/agency deems acceptable. In the second section, Proof of Residency, and that is also included in the first section for Proof of Identity. **Commissioner Stites** said so the answer would be yes, then?

Ms. Meyer said we would construct a contract to protect the Unified Government, but also, we have to comply with the terms that are already in the ordinance. Those two sections are fairly

broad, as you've noted, and so as written, they could use any other documentation that they deem acceptable.

Commissioner Stites said does anyone else not see a problem with that? I mean, it's going to be up to a third-party 501(c)(3) with no government oversight at all and we don't do spot checks, we don't do quality checks. That they can just issue an ID that is not required on this list or any form of a documentation and issue an ID. I think that this ordinance needs to be looked at again and changes made to it, and narrow that scope up. Another thing I would like to point out is, I know we have heard tonight that there's not going to be this huge influx of people coming to Wyandotte County, good people, or bad people, but immigrants. Does this ordinance prevent or prohibit that from happening, at all? If people did just show up to get IDs, they could, is that correct?

Ms. Brown said so, I believe your question is could people come just to get an ID. Yes, folks could come into the community to get one of these IDs and they would have to show one of the documents. Something you spoke about; we have two lists of documents. I think the first list which Commissioner Townsend pointed out are things that if you had that you're in pretty good shape, and that's why you only had to get one of those. The second list of documents that one could provide, you could take two or more documents when taken together, they would have show a current photo of the applicant and their name and display a date of birth, and they can't be expired more than 10 years. So, yes, there is a provision under that section that says any other document that the administrating agency deems acceptable; that was there to add some flexibility if they presented something that wasn't thought up by the group while we were drafting this. But still they would have to have two documents taken together that would show a photo, date of birth and their name establishing the proof of residency. It is a bit easier to do that and it's somewhat easy to get a paystub that shows something, or a bill to establish residency, and so in that regard, yes, there is this other provision that allows them to come up with something else that may not have been anticipated in the ordinance to establish their residency. So, knowing that they would have to provide something to establish residency and something to show their identification at least with picture and their date of birth and name, folks could potentially move into our community to get the ID. Does that answer the question?

Commissioner Stites asked so, are you saying proof of residency is a requirement to get this municipal ID? **Ms. Brown** said that is correct, sir. **Commissioner Stites** asked, proof of residency in Wyandotte County? **Ms. Brown** said yes.

Commissioner Stites said alright, well that answers that question. Roeland Park was mentioned earlier that they have enacted an ordinance similar to this or mirrors this. Would you be able to tell me who is the issuing ID party for Roeland Park? **Ms. Meyer** said they don't have a municipal ID component to their ordinance.

Commissioner Stites said alright. I will get to this by wrapping up by saying we have eight law enforcement agencies within Wyandotte County, and we've identified, we've talked about two, the Sheriff's Department and the Kansas City Kansas Police Department. There's USD 500, there's Kansas City, Kansas Community College, there's Edwardsville, there's Bonner, there's Kansas Highway Patrol, there's KU Police, and I mentioned the Sheriff's Department. And nowhere in this ordinance at all does it address those agencies that work within Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas. How are they to address this? And are they accepting this ID? I know we're saying that the Unified Government and Kansas City, Kansas Police Department are going to accept it, but have we reached out to these other agencies that will also be doing work within Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County and see how they're handling this and if they will be accepting this ID?

Ms. Brown said, again, they are not required to accept the ID. I do not know that anyone reached out to them to ask if they would be interested in accepting the ID component to it. Since this ordinance was restricted to Unified Government departments under the exclusive control of the Commission, there is no requirements for these other entities to accept it.

Commissioner Stites said okay. I think that's all I have for right now. I wish that this ID was issued by a municipality and not a 501(c)(3).

Commissioner McKiernan said I was going to let some of my colleagues make some comments, but I will make some.

I share Commissioner Stites' frustration at this. In early December of last year, I went on record and stated my position that I didn't believe we had done a sufficient job of community outreach regarding the specifics of the new stormwater fee structure that was about to be voted on.

Now those who were in the know, at that time, protested we've done lots of public meetings. I disagreed then and I disagree now. I think we could have, and we should have, done more. Having said that, I'm generally in favor of this ordinance, as frankly, it is pretty benign and it simply codifies current practice, which has not resulted in our local agencies calling federal immigration authorities in the last few years, at least by their report. But Commissioner Stites brought up one other thing that I've been concerned about from the very beginning. If you take the metropolitan statistical area, the MSA as defined by the Mid-America Regional Council, there's nine counties and 119 cities in that MSA. I hope we're not selling a false promise that this non-compliance in Kansas City, Kansas, and this ID in Kansas City, Kansas, is going to carry any weight in any of the other eight counties, or any of the other 118 cities in the MSA.

At this point in time, thank you so much, I appreciate it. I yield my time.

Commissioner Burroughs said thank you, Mayor. But I do believe Commissioner Johnson or Commission Townsend had their hands up, or at least Commissioner Johnson had his hand up for a while. I'll wait my turn, Mayor.

Commissioner Johnson said well, Commissioner Burroughs, I was going to respectfully ask for the vote. We have a motion and a second, and I was going to respectfully ask from the Mayor for a vote.

Commissioner Burroughs said well, if that's the case, I believe we had an opportunity, Mayor. I really find this process a little cumbersome this evening, in the fact that we had a motion and a second time for discussion. Then we went back to the audience. Two of the members that were asked to speak were pro the ordinance. That is something that I have very rarely seen, if I've ever seen it. We don't do that under Robert's Rules that I've been associated to. But, that aside, if we're going to allow discussion, then I think we should have at least two members that are opposed to the ordinance have an opportunity to speak in reference to what they find offensive in reference to the ordinance. We've been very kind about the rhetoric, but one of the commissioners found some language was pretty offensive. A number of the emails that I've received from both sides have been pretty offensive. I've refused to respond to almost every one of them. They've gotten very inflamed, name calling, racists, race-baiting, and that's the sad part of this discussion.

So, those that appeared here tonight, I want to thank you for the comments you made and the conduct in which you've handled this discussion this evening. Not until it was made by a commissioner, the comments that were made about white supremacy, did racism become an issue. That is not what this discussion should be about. This is about a lawful ordinance. Requested by multiple groups of people, of all colors and ethnicities in our community. That comment was out of line. I want to go on record saying it was out of line. I'm embarrassed that someone would raise that issue to that extent when we've had quality discussion and professional discussion throughout the evening. And if somebody finds something offensive, then they should deal with the individual and talk about.

Mayor, I would just like to say that we're asking for an ordinance when it's been stated all night long that our law enforcement hasn't been doing this. But, yet, there's a group of people who say that they don't trust them not to do it. The law enforcement has come out publicly to this community with an olive branch, saying we have not continued to this. But, yet, that's not good enough. That's not good enough yet to build the trust. We have a 501(c)(3) which will—we will take their word that everything is above board, no malfeasance, no opportunity in which to print false documents, or retain information that might be sold to a second market for marketing experiences. We don't know, we don't know what that RFP is once it gets into a person's hand. I'm not going to go back through this ordinance. I've got about 15 things within this ordinance, that I'd like to talk to Legal about. For all practical purposes, I would just state that we are going to have expenses with this ordinance, when presently, we don't have expenses. We have ID possibilities. We know they're out there. Our community is one that many of us live here by choice. When I hear people coming from other communities, coming in here and putting comments on social media, that belittles our community, belittles our community leaders, and yet they hold their hand out, they come to the very Commission requesting funding for those organizations that they run. I find that a little hypocritical.

But, let's get to the real issue here. The real issue is we've had an opportunity to educate the entire community of Kansas City, Kansas, in reference to Safe and Welcoming. I represent, as a Commissioner At-Large, the entire community. And I have heard overwhelmingly through a larger portion of this community out in the west, that they have very little knowledge, if any knowledge, about this information. This goes back to Commissioner McKiernan's comments about the stormwater and wastewater issues. That is an issue that's been out there a while. But,

many of us are not privy to all the information, or any information at times. It is right and just to have meetings like this that are tough to have and we are a better community for it. But name calling, race-baiting, hate is what has started this. I felt tonight there was a few moments that we contributed to that. That disappoints me greatly. I love this community. I love the fact that people are passionate about their positions. If you would have asked me three years ago where I was on this issue with a municipal ID, you would have had my support. But after the comments I've heard, and after the actions I've seen by outside entities coming into our community, the comments that have been made by both sides, Mayor, I'm going to make a motion, I'm going to make a substitute motion that we table this issue for 90 days. If those that want a municipal ID and this ordinance passed, want it passed, get out in the community and hold meetings in every commissioner's district and have that public discussion. Mayor, I'm moving a substitute motion to table the issue this evening.

Action: Commissioner Burroughs made a substitute motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane to table this item for 90 days.

Mayor Garner said thank you, Commissioner. Your motion is noted.

Commissioner Kane said, I second that motion, Mayor. **Mayor Garner** said duly noted, thank you, Commissioner Kane. **Commissioner Kane** asked, what does duly noted mean, Mayor? **Mayor Garner** said I'm going to circle back to you.

Commissioner Burroughs, you had a question in regards to the equity or fairness in getting the response from the proponent in the audience, in the lobby. That proponent was only allowed to come forward at the request of Commissioner Stites in regards to a specific question he had, otherwise that would not have been allowed. If you have a question with an opponent of someone in the crowd that you would like to pose a question to, you're more than welcome to make that question in all fairness at this time.

Commissioner Burroughs said thank you, Mayor, for recognizing that fairness. I do believe Commissioner Davis also requested a proponent of the program with Mr. Rico, whatever his name—I'm sorry, I don't want to get the name wrong—I wrote his name down. The gentleman,

Raymond Rico. There were two individuals that were asked questions that were supportive of the issue. Mayor, in most instances when there's been a motion made and it goes to discussion, public discussion is finished. They had their opportunities. What we have done is kind of tainted this discussion this evening in one direction and that's why I'm asking, Mayor, that we table it and have an opportunity to have the community weigh-in by having a community-wide effort to get those that support Safe and Welcoming out into the community and educate some of those that may be opposed, and some of those that are opposed, may be able to help guide some of the Commission in finding a way to make this ordinance work, that they find some comfort level with. That's my motion, Mayor, and that's why I stated it. I do appreciate your olive branch for fairness, Mayor.

Mayor Garner said thank you. In the interest of time, I'm going to wrap this up with the remaining questions of—I believe we have three commissioners. Then I will get back to entertaining motions. I believe that Commissioner Ramirez had a question.

Commissioner Ramirez said it's more so for the municipal ID. I know several commissioners have had questions. Other community members have had questions about the enforcement mechanism or our ability to oversee or provide any oversight on this. In Section 1, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas, shall promulgate all rules necessary to effectuate the purposes of the municipal ID card program. Second section: that organization, which is the program administrator shall follow all rules promulgated by the Unified Government for the operations of the program. Misty, when it mentions the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas, does that include the County Administrator's office? **Ms. Brown** said yes it does, Commissioner.

Commissioner Ramirez said okay. And within our charter, the County Administrator, or in our instance the Interim County Administrator, by our charter as full authority on contracts and RFPs. If we, as a Commission, want to provide some form of oversight, let's provide those opinions to the Administrator, as if this passes, that during the negotiation of the contract, she can provide and negotiate some form of oversight with what it shall be. It's up to the Administrator, but we can provide her some direction in that manner, if that is what the Commission chooses because we don't have that ability, that is the Administrator's prerogative. Built in, there are

mechanisms for us to provide that oversight. So, I just ask that we keep that in mind, that is a possibility. Us, as a Commission, provide direction to the Administrator, as that is our job. She follows what we direct, our policy's direction to her, and that could definitely be one.

Commissioner Townsend said I'll keep it brief. This is for counsel. Maybe I overlooked it. Is there a stipulation with regard to renewal of the IDs that have been issued. And, by that, I mean, will someone everyone five years or upon the—let's say they move—so that the information shown on the ID is kept current at any particular time? The other question is, and this may be for the state because the state controls driver's licenses, is there any restriction on using these as proof of residency or who you are? It kind of goes back to issues that Commissioner Stites raised. So those are the two. And last thing, I will need clarification on the two motions, because we got two motions on the floor. Thank you very much to all.

Ms. Brown said, Commissioner, that is a good question about the renewal. No, the ordinance is silent on anything regarding the renewal of the municipal ID. This is something that you would expect the program administrator to take care. But I think it is a fair question, I'm glad you asked it.

Regarding using this ID for proof of residency, no one other than Unified Government departments would be required to accept it to show residency. If the state choose to accept it to prove residency, they could, but there's nothing that's going to require that. If I've answered your questions, I could move forward on clarification on the two motions that we have on the floor. **Commissioner Townsend** said, please do.

Ms. Brown said we started with a motion to approve by Commissioner Johnson and was seconded by Commissioner Bynum. Then Commissioner Burroughs has come in and made a substitute motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane, in order to defer this matter for 90 days, and to have additional meetings and discussions in the community about this matter. Commissioner Burroughs, if I'm misstating it, please correct me on that.

Regarding the provisions for the substitute motion, a substitute motion is allowed, as long as it's not being done to confuse the issue, which on this one, I do not believe it is, and if it's not directly contrary to the original motion.

Looking at this, we have a motion to approve on the floor, and then we have a motion to defer it. I do not believe a deferral is directly contrary to the motion to approve.

Unless there's further discussion on it, the next steps would be if it came to a vote, is there would be a vote on the substitute motion to defer it. I would note that Civil Rules of Procedure, Section 7-18 talks about disposition of matters without action, which would mean we are going to dispose of a matter that's on the agenda without actually voting it up or down. It does limit that motion to defer, which is debatable is not to exceed a four-week time period. A motion to defer this this would not be for 90 days without suspending the Rules of Procedure. It can be for a maximum of four weeks.

Commissioner Townsend said thank you, that helped.

Mayor Garner asked Commissioner Stites, did you have one last, brief comment?

Commissioner Stites said I don't know if it's my last one or brief. What I would say is I'm not in favor of voting or approving an ordinance and then writing the rules later. If we're going to change what happens regarding this ordinance, I think that it needs to be done before we vote on it. Not approve it and then come back with the rules. For example, just what we were talking about on the oversight. Does the Interim County Administrator—we can give her suggestions of what we would like to see. Why can we not just go ahead and put that into the ordinance and then it's done, and it's clear for everyone out there, not to be at the discretion of a County Administrator. I think that anything that we vote on needs to be in the four corners of this contract and not later on.

Mayor Garner said question on procedure from Commissioner Ramirez.

Commissioner Ramirez said Commissioner Burroughs' motion can only go for four weeks, not 90 days. **Ms. Brown** said that's correct, Commissioner.

Commissioner Ramirez said okay. So, then he would need to amend his substitute motion, correct, to reflect that? Because his original substitute motion was to defer for 90 days, but by our rules, we cannot, so he would have to amend his substitute motion to stay within the four-week

timeframe. That is in our rules. **Ms. Brown** said that's correct, Commissioner. He could amend his motion, or I would almost call it, he could correct his motion to do four weeks and also we would have to get Commissioner Kane's approval as well, since he seconded the original motion. I need to note, that this is a rule of procedure that we have not typically utilized and that we've had items deferred before, they just haven't always specified the time period. But the Rules of Procedure do state that it's a four-week period. Based on what you're saying, before we proceeded on the vote for the substitute motion, it would be appropriate to ask Commissioner Burroughs to speak on it and Commissioner Kane to agree that his second would be for four-week deferral.

Commissioner Kane said I would agree with four weeks.

Commissioner Ramirez said that gives a whole month to do education as what some commissioners are wanting. I just ask those commissioners, is a month enough for us to go out into the entire community? **Mayor Garner** asked, does that conclude your comment, Commissioner? **Commissioner Ramirez** said yes.

Mayor Garner said Commissioner Burroughs, in light of that information, you made a motion that extended beyond the legal ability based on the Rules of Procedure. Would you like to amend that motion?

Commissioner Burroughs said usually, there's three processes involved. You can table—a motion to table, which just lays the bill on the table. Then there's a motion to table to date certain, which then we would agree on what date we would want to bring it off of the table. When you do make a motion to just straight table, it can be brought up at anytime by another commissioner. The Commission would then vote to take it off the table, or again leave on the table.

If my second supports the four weeks, Mayor, it is my intent this evening—there's been a tremendous amount of passion pleas this evening in reference to his issue. Overwhelmingly, I have received communications that areas of the community knew very little or anything about this issue. Education is key. We can take this issue up in 30 days if the Commission, that it chooses to go 30 days, that's fine. I would like to see a commitment from those that support Safe and Welcoming to go out to each commissioner's district and hold an educational event. Not just show up with one or two people, but go out and post it and communicate to the community, come, listen to what Safe and Welcoming is. And, I would like to see it done in the evenings, or on a weekend when most people can show up. If we're going to spend resources of time and energy on this issue,

it is a public issue of great magnitude on both sides. I respect the passion of both. If my second is willing to go 30 days, I'll also support and change my motion, Mayor, to the 30-day time limit within the rules. **Commissioner Kane** said I can adjust my amendment to 30 days.

Action: **Commissioner Burroughs made a motion to amend his substitute motion to be for 30 days. Commissioner Kane seconded the motion.**

Mayor Garner said I'm going to move this proceeding forward in the interest of time. I just want to say that this issue has been in the public arena for five years. I can list, and I'm going to name several organizations, including Central Avenue Betterment Association, Avenue of Life that has already spoken, ACLU of Kansas, Advocates for Immigration Rights and Reconciliation, American Immigration Lawyers' Association, Amnesty International, the Kansas City Chapter of Local 115, Committee Health Council of Wyandotte County, Cross Border Network, El Centro, Inc., Grandview Park, Presbyterian Church, Immigration Justice Advocacy Movement (IJAM), Invincible KC, Kansas Apple Seed Center for Law and Justice, Inc., Kansas State Conference of the NAACP, Mainstream Coalition, Metro Organizations for Racial and Economic Equity (MORE2), Sister Therese Bangert, and Vibrant Health Wyandotte. This issue has been in the public arena for five years. I found out about this. The information has been out there. Unified Government staff has worked diligently and tirelessly with these groups, not only to get the information out, which they've done an awesome job doing. But, also to come to—and everybody didn't get what they wanted—but to come to something that everybody could agree on.

I've allowed an unprecedented amount of time to have a robust discussion and debate about this. We cannot continue, in my opinion, to keep kicking this can down the road when the information has been out there for five years. I respect every commissioner, and I respect the motions presented by Commissioner Burroughs and Commissioner Kane. I'm going to move that forward. But before this Commission votes, remember this has been out here for five years. I campaigned to bring this issue forward, I stand by that. Here we are today. So, it should be no secret to anybody in Wyandotte County, when other people outside of Wyandotte County knew this was an item of interest and great concern for the people of Wyandotte County. I say that respectfully. There's a motion, Clerk, and a second by Commissioner Burroughs and Commissioner Kane, roll call.

Commissioner Stites said Commissioner Johnson has his hand up.

Mayor Garner said at this point, I'm going to go ahead and entertain these motions.

Mr. Deichler asked just to Chief Counsel to make sure we're voting on the second that was updated. **Ms. Brown** said the motion that is on the floor now is a substitute motion to defer this item for four weeks.

Roll Call was taken and there were five "Ayes," Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, Kane, Stites; and five "Nos," Davis, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Markley.

Mr. Deichler said 5-5, Counsel, correct me if I'm wrong, Mayor Garner needs to vote. **Ms. Brown** said that is correct. **Mr. Deichler** said Mayor Garner. **Mayor Garner** said to break this tie, no. **Mr. Deichler** said 6-5.

Ms. Brown said now that the substitute motion has not passed, you have the original motion to approve that was seconded that is on the floor.

Mayor Garner said before we get to that, I'd like to make statements in regards to the original motion presented by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Bynum.

I made a commitment to this community that I would not sit on this and I would bring it forward. We owe it to the people of Wyandotte County that we make these hard decisions. I appreciate everybody that was involved in this debate. When I looked at this, this initiative, I'd seen it as something that would foster unity, opportunity and hope in Wyandotte County, especially being the most diverse community, or one of the most diverse communities, in the United States. I'm going to ask the Clerk to read the tenements of or the basis spirit of the Safe and Welcoming Act.

Mr. Deichler said an ordinance relating to creating the "Safe and Welcoming City Act" Chapter 18 adding Sections 18-162 through 18-168 to the Code of Ordinances for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.

Whereas, Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas are an inclusive community that values immigrants and the diversity they bring to our cultural fabric, economic growth, and global competitiveness; and

Whereas, the Unified Government is committed to building a welcoming and neighborly atmosphere in our community, where all people, including immigrants, are accepted and able to access all Unified Government services regardless of their immigration status; and

Whereas, the Unified Government recognizes and upholds the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution, guaranteeing the right of all persons to due process and protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, and is committed to upholding those rights for all even when presented with illegal or improper orders from federal agencies; and

Whereas, the Unified Government recognizes that under the Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution states and local governments have the right to be free from mandates or financial obligation to perform the duties of the federal government, or to be threatened or coerced to do so by withholding federal funding; and

Whereas, residents need to feel safe and protected by law enforcement when they seek services and that they will not be exposed to immigration enforcement, and

Whereas, the Unified Government recognizes that this Safe and Welcoming ordinance is necessary to build a community for all residents, without regard to age, race, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or immigration, housing, or financial status, and

Whereas, many residents of Wyandotte County, including the elderly and indigent, the homeless and the immigrant, as well as youth, especially those leaving foster care and ex-offenders lack photo IDs, making it very difficult for them to conduct normal daily activities.

Mayor Garner said I just want to say we're a united Wyandotte County. We're a united community. I care about people. I believe that this Commission cares about people. I believe that most people in Wyandotte County care about anyone that wants to call Wyandotte County home. That's a message of love. Love that we need to have for one another in Wyandotte County because we are a unified community. No one should be left behind when we talk about people and people's lives. No one should be disenfranchised or feel that they're being disenfranchised in Wyandotte County, especially those that want to call Wyandotte County home. There was a statement written at the founding of this great country that we call the United States of America. It said, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

My opinion is passing this ordinance is the right thing to do, not just for Wyandotte County but it's the right thing to do for people's lives. I strongly support and stand behind this Safe and

Welcoming proposal and I ask that my commissioners follow me and join me and reflect that in their vote tonight.

Clerk, if you would give me a roll call on the motion presented by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Bynum.

Action: **ORDINANCE NO. O-19-22:** “An ordinance relating to creating the “Safe and Welcoming Act” Chapter 18 adding Sections 18-162 through 18-168 to the Code of Ordinances for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.” Roll call was taken there were six “Ayes,” Davis, Bynum, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Markley; and four “Nos,” Burroughs, Townsend, Kane (Commissioner Kane said I will not follow you on this. Answer is a definite no), Stites.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Garner said does any member of the Commission or County Administrator wish to set aside any item on the Regular Consent Agenda? If an item is not set aside, all items on the Regular Consent Agenda will be voted on by one vote. I believe there was an item.

Brett Deichler, Unified Government Clerk, said there was. Item No. 4 – The approval of the Honorary Street Sign for Dr. Vernard Johnson was requested to be set-aside.

Mayor Garner said outside of that set aside item, I’ll entertain motion for the approval of the Regular Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Kane said I raised my hand, Mayor. **Mayor Garner** said I’m sorry.

Commissioner Kane said I want to take off Consent Agenda Item 7. **Mayor Garner** said thank you and I apologize for that. Clerk, which items have been removed? **Mr. Deichler** said Item No. 4 is tracking number 211237, The approval of the Honorary Street Sign. Item No. 7 is an ordinance for Conversion Therapy, which is tracking number 211240.

Mayor Garner said outside of those two items, I'll entertain a motion for approval of the regular remaining items on the Consent Agenda.

Action: **Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve the remaining items as submitted.**

Mayor Garner said there's a motion and a second. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, roll call.

Roll call was taken and there were ten "Ayes," Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Stites.

Item No. 1 – 211273...REPORT: 2021 COMMISSION TRAVEL

Synopsis: A report on 2021 Commission travel, submitted by Reed Partridge, Senior Audit Manager.

Action: **For information only.**

Item No. 2 – 211292...APPROVAL: REVISIONS TO COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Synopsis: Request approval of proposed revisions to the County Emergency Operations Plan (CEOP), submitted by Matt May, Emergency Management Director. (Documents may be viewed at <https://xfer.wycokck.org/public/folder/LOSLOzTawEKuWUqPbj6POQ/2021%20County%20Emergency%20Operations%20Plan>). On January 24, 2022, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve, and forward to full commission.

Action: **Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve as submitted.** Roll call was taken and there were ten "Ayes," Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Stites.

Item No. 3 – 211236...APPLICATION: TRAVEL, TOURISM, & OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT

Synopsis: Approval of an application for the Economic Development Administration - Travel, Tourism, & Outdoor Recreation Grant for the KC Levees & Riverfront Project, submitted by Jeff Fisher, Director of Public Works. On January 24, 2022, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve, and forward to full commission.

Action: Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve as submitted. Roll call was taken and there were ten “Ayes,” Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Stites.

Item No. 4 – 211237...APPROVAL: HONORARY STREET SIGN

Synopsis: A request to approve a street sign honoring Dr. Vernard Johnson, submitted by Jeff Fisher, Director of Public Works. On January 24, 2022, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve, and forward to full Commission.

Mayor Garner said I’ll recognize who set-aside the item. I believe that was on my behalf. **Mr. Deichler** said it was, sir.

Mayor Garner said I have a comment that reflects the support of that street sign, and I’m going to move to see if there are any comments or questions in that regard.

Mr. Deichler said we do have Commissioner Johnson. I also believe we have Dr. Vernard Johnson still in the lobby.

Mayor Garner said okay. We will start with Dr. Vernard Johnson.

Dr. Vernard Johnson said [inaudible] so much to our beloved Mayor and to all of the commissioners. I want to just say that it's quite an honor to be there. I've had a lot things happen to me in my life, but I consider this probably the greatest honor I've every received. Most people are dead and gone when this happens. But I want to just thank our Mayor and all of you commissioners for even considering this for little ole me. I appreciate it very, very, very much. My mother taught me that if you can just say thank you. I may not have all the flowery words like a beautiful woman, but when I just say thank you, it comes from my heart.

I realize I'm standing on the shoulders of the people here in Wyandotte County. I take pride in that. I was born here in Wyandotte County. I know in Kansas City, Missouri, they have the jazz legend, Charlie Parker, who was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and they alert that many times. But I was born here in Kansas City, Kansas. Many places around the world. If I've done anything, I've been standing on your shoulders. Yes, I want to—after being born here, I went to Dunbar Elementary School and Northeast Junior High School and Sumner. I left here and went to Texas to become the first black to get my Doctorate Degree from the largest seminary in the world, but I'm still standing on your shoulders. A lot of things have happened to me.

I just came to say thank you. They told me I could of done it virtually, but I wanted to be present to say to you I appreciate it. Much obliged. I know that's from the country, but I might be a country boy, but I appreciate very, very much. I can say, every time we give the address of our church and say 2955 Cissna, people want to know where is Cissna. They've never heard of Cissna. I don't even know the background of it too well, but I tell you one thing, if I do bring anything to the table, I try. I think a street name change, I would welcome it, very, very much. I think it would probably give some notoriety to where Cissna is in the next 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 years or whatever. I just came to show you that I'm supporting this. Thank Mr. Jeff Fisher, who suggested this, along with Reverend Melvin E. Brown. Thank you, Mayor. You came out to our church, looked us over and I appreciate that very, very much. All you commissioners, got to mention Commissioner Johnson because that's my namesake. I appreciate all you. Thank you, thank you, thank you so much.

Commissioner Johnson said for the reason that Dr. Johnson has already laid out, I ask if I may be recused from voting. **Mayor Garner** said yes.

Action: Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ramirez, to approve as submitted. Roll call was taken and there were nine “Ayes,” Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Kane, Markley, Stites. Commissioner Johnson recused himself from voting.

Item No. 5 – 211286...RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE: AUTHORIZING SURVEY & DESCRIPTION OF LANDS TO BE CONDEMNED

Synopsis: A resolution and ordinance declaring the necessity and authorizing a survey and descriptions of lands necessary to be condemned for the reconstruction of 47th Avenue from Mission Road to Rainbow Boulevard, submitted by James Bain, Assistant Counsel. On January 24, 2022, the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Bynum, voted unanimously to approve, and forward to full commission.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-9-22**, “A resolution declaring the necessity and authorizing a survey and descriptions of lands necessary to be condemned for the reconstruction of 47th Avenue from Mission Road to Rainbow Blvd., including the reconstruction of eastbound and westbound driving lanes; a center turn lane; eastbound and westbound bike lanes; sidewalks on the north and south sides of the road, and an upgraded storm water collection system, street lighting, and traffic signals (KDOT Project No. 046-N-0697-01).” **Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to adopt the resolution as submitted.** Roll call was taken and there were ten “Ayes,” Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Stites.

Action: **ORDINANCE NO. O-21-22**, “An ordinance condemning land for the reconstruction of 47th Avenue from Mission Road to Rainbow Blvd., including the reconstruction of eastbound and westbound driving lanes; a center turn lane; eastbound and westbound bike lanes; sidewalks on the north and south sides of the road, and an upgraded storm water collection system, street lighting, and traffic signals (KDOT Project No. 046-N-0697-01).” **Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve the ordinance as**

submitted. Roll call was taken and there were ten “Ayes,” Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Stites.

Item No. 6 – 211256...ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION: ARPA SUBCOMMITTEE ALLOCATION RECOMMENDATION

Synopsis: An ordinance and resolution approving ARPA Subcommittee allocation recommendation for UGPHD additional needs for 2022 and beyond, submitted on behalf of the ARPA Subcommittee by Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer, and Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator. On January 24, 2022, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Markley, voted unanimously to approve, and forward to full commission.

Action: **ORDINANCE NO. O-20-22/RESOLUTION NO. R-8-22**, “An ordinance and resolution for the approval of Federal Local Fiscal Recovery funds to be used for additional needs by the Unified Government Public Health Department to continue the fight against the spread of COVID-19 and other eligible uses as part of the American Rescue Plan Act.” **Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve the ordinance and adopt the resolution as submitted.** Roll call was taken and there were ten “Ayes,” Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Stites.

Item No. 7 – 211240...ORDINANCE: CONVERSION THERAPY PROHIBITION

Synopsis: An ordinance adding Section 22-44 to the Code of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, KS establishing a prohibition on conversion therapy of minors, submitted by Christian Ramirez, District 3 Commissioner, and James Bain, Assistant Legal Counsel. On January 24, 2022, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee, chaired by Commissioner Markley, voted unanimously to approve, and forward to full commission.

Mayor Garner said I’ll recognize at this time individual, I believe that’s Commissioner Kane who set aside the item for comments.

Commissioner Kane said I've never done this before, but I want to send it back to the Standing Committee so I can better educate myself on this issue and get some input from some others that are concerned about this. So, I would like to send this back to the Standing Committee.

Commissioner McKiernan said second.

Action: **Commissioner Kane made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McKiernan, to send this item back to the Standing Committee for further discussion.**

Mayor Garner asked, any comments or questions? There's a motion and a second to send it back to the Standing Committee. I'll entertain roll call.

Roll call was taken and there were nine "Ayes," Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Stites; and one "No," Davis.

Commissioner Ramirez said I just wanted to quickly explain my vote. And to the community members who are listening, I know I brought this forward. I fought two years, or since I've been elected, to get this on the agenda. I will agree that I had not done my part in educating. Now we're talking about education tonight, so this isn't a topic that we had not had much discussion other than being brought to committee and going forward. So, that is why I want the community members to not think that I don't support this, I completely do. I wouldn't have fought two years for it. But, as we have heard tonight, we need to do some education. I pledged to those community members. I pledge tonight that this ordinance will be back before the Commission, but I agree with Commissioner Kane that we need to do some education.

Item No. 8 – 211235...APPLICATION: UG VISTA PROGRAM AND PUBLIC HEALTH AMERICORPS APPLICATION

Synopsis: A presentation about the UG VISTA Program and request for approval for new AmeriCorps program, Public Health AmeriCorps, submitted by Tory Anderson, Health Department. On January 24, 2022, the Administration and Human Services Standing Committee,

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

Action: Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve as submitted. Roll call was taken and there were ten “Ayes,” Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Stites.

Item No. 9 – 211325...NOMINATIONS: BOARDS AND COMMISSION

Synopsis: Nomination for Boards and Commissioners:

- Barbara Ikerd for the Alcohol and Drug Fund Advisory Board, 1/27/2022 to 12/15/2026, submitted by Mayor Garner.
- Susan Martin to the Wyandotte County Library Board, 2/10/22 to 12/11/23, submitted by Commissioner Ramirez.
- David Meditz to the Landmarks Commission, 2/10/22 to 12/15/25, submitted by Commissioner Kane.
- David Patton to the Law Enforcement Advisory Board, 2/10/22 to 12/15/25, submitted by Commissioner Townsend.
- Raul Saenz Escarcega to the Housing Authority, 2/10/22 to 12/15/25, submitted by Commissioner Davis.

Action: Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve as submitted. Roll call was taken and there were ten “Ayes,” Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Stites.

Item No. 10 – 211336...PLAT: ESTATES OF CONNOR CREEK SOUTH

Synopsis: Plat of Estates of Connor Creek South located at 10401 Hutton Road, being developed by Maderos Property LLC, submitted by Brent Thompson, County Surveyor, and Troy Shaw, County Engineer.

Action: Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign said plat. Roll call was taken and

there were ten “Ayes,” Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Stites.

Item No. 11 - 211337...ORDINANCE

Synopsis: An ordinance rezoning property at 13310 Leavenworth Road, (COZ2021-028) from AG Agriculture (WYCO) District to R-1 Single-Family District, submitted by Gunnar H. Hand, AICP, Director of Planning and Urban Design. (RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.)

Action: **ORDINANCE NO. O-22-22**, “An ordinance rezoning property hereinafter described located at approximately 13310 Leavenworth Road, in Kansas City, Kansas, by changing the same from its present zoning of AG Agriculture (WYCO) District to R-1 Single Family District.” **Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve the ordinance as submitted.** Roll call was taken and there were ten “Ayes,” Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Stites.

Item No. 12 - MINUTES

Synopsis: Minutes from Special Session of January 6, 2022.

Action: **Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to approve as submitted.** Roll call was taken and there were ten “Ayes,” Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Stites.

Item No. 13 - WEEKLY BUSINESS MATERIAL

Synopsis: Weekly Business Material dated January 13 and 20, 2022.

Action: **Commissioner Bynum made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Markley, to receive and file as submitted.** Roll call was taken and there were ten “Ayes,” Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Stites.

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 211333...PUBLIC HEARING: LEGENDS 267

Synopsis: A public hearing regarding the proposed issuance of industrial revenue bonds to finance the costs of acquiring, constructing, improving, and equipping a 267-unit commercial multi-family facility, located generally adjacent to the Legends Shopping Center on the south side of Parallel Parkway, east of 110th Street, submitted by Katherine Carttar, Director of Economic Development.

Katherine Carttar, Director of Economic Development, said this is an item that came before the Commission back on March 11, 2021. Nothing has changed about this project. The fee schedule, the amenities, the number of units. This is just for those that were not part of the Commission at that time. This is an apartment complex that is at the corner of Village West Parkway and Parallel Parkway. It is providing a number of amenities for the public, including 350 public parking spaces that will be connected to the current parking garage that is out at the Legends currently, as well as an apartment complex on top of the parking garage that will have 267 units and additional parking spaces for that garage.

There was a process by which we did a, what's called a certainty industrial revenue bond. What that means is we estimated what the projected value of each unit would be. In this case, \$65,000 per unit. And what that property tax would be per unit to come up with that fee that they would pay annually. That has not changed. The UG will collect approximately \$3.7M in payments in lieu of taxes over 10 years.

You may ask, why are we here then? The answer is because the actual project cost has changed. It's gone up approximately \$10M. The only reason, again, I mentioned that the actual unit value has not changed, so this has not changed anything about, speaking with our appraiser, what they will appraise the property for. The increase in, and again, no difference in the actual materials or anything like that. No material difference. The only thing that has changed is purely the cost of materials due to the labor shortages, also the kind of delay in some labor. So, supply chain shortages, labor shortages, and increase material costs have increased that price from that \$54M, we had it bond. This is the resolution of intent to issue bonds, previously not to exceed \$54M, now we're moving that, requesting a move to \$65M. Again, this is not as in industrial revenue bonds. The Unified Government is not fronting any of this money. This is 100% the financing mechanism by which the developer will buy those bonds. We are just truly the pass-

through which is what this resolution is requesting tonight. Happy to answer any questions. I know the developer also is here if there are any additional questions that he could answer.

Mayor Garner said I will now open public hearing and ask the Clerk if he's received any notification from the public who wish to express their comments in favor of this item? **Mr. Deichler** said no comments were received by the Clerk.

Mayor Garner asked, is there anyone joining us virtually who would like to speak in favor of this item? If so, please raise your hand and be recognized. Once you've been acknowledged, we ask that you provide your name and city of residence for the record. You'll be given up to three minutes to state your comments. **Mr. Deichler** said we do have one comment in the attendees section.

Mayor Garner asked, is there someone? You can speak,

Aaron March, Attorney, Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile Rhodes, P.C., said I'm here today on behalf of the applicant. Once again, we're proud of this project and have enjoyed working with city staff. We're happy to answer any questions which you might have about this resolution.

Mayor Garner asked, is there anyone joining us in the lobby who would like to speak in favor? If so, please raise your hand to be acknowledged. Once acknowledged, you may state your name and city of residence for the record. You'll be given up to three minutes to state your comments. **Mr. Deichler** said seeing none.

Mayor Garner said I'll ask the Clerk if he received any notification from the public who wish to express there is opposition. **Mr. Deichler** said no comments were received, Mayor.

Mayor Garner asked, is there anyone joining us virtually who would like to speak in opposition of this item? If so, please raise your hand and be recognized. Once you've been acknowledged, we will ask to provide your name and city of residence for the record. You'll be given up to three minutes to state your comments. **Mr. Deichler** said seeing none, Mayor.

Mayor Garner asked, is there anyone joining us in the lobby who would like to speak in opposition? If so, please raise your hand and be recognized. Once you've been acknowledged, we will ask to provide your name and city of residence for the record. You'll be given up to three minutes to state your comments. **Mr. Deichler** said seeing none as well, Mayor.

Mayor Garner said I will close the public hearing. Do any members of the Commission have any questions or comments? **Mr. Deichler** said Commissioner Davis.

Commissioner Davis said if you all would just indulge me for a bit. Katherine, can you explain what IRBs are, just so the public has some basic knowledge.

Ms. Carttar said happy too. Industrial Revenue Bonds is a tool by which the project actually kind of uses the Unified Government tax exemption status. The way that this basically works is that the developer or project owner purchases—we bring forward the staff, a resolution of intent for the Commission to issue bonds. In this case the \$65M, that's the total project cost. Then, the project is actually built and then the developer then purchases the bonds through—again, we're kind of a pass-through, through the Unified Government. In that way we provide them with the tax exempt status. So, they are technically, and stick with me here, technically paying zero property taxes. However, functionally, they are paying full property taxes. So, what we do is, as I mentioned, we determine what we believe each unit would be at value, work with the appraiser on that, and then figure out what that cost would be. We put together a schedule. I can bring that up on the screen if that's desired and with that schedule, that provides certainty. That's really the primary benefit, is the certainty for both the developer, because they can look at their proforma and know exactly to the penny what they're paying in taxes every year for the next 10 years. Again, it's a payment in lieu of taxes, but functionally a property tax. Then also a benefit to the Unified Government as we can look in our revenue models and know exactly again what is coming to us for that next 10 years without getting BOTA involved and that kind of thing.

Commissioner Davis said I appreciate that. I just want us to kind of know what's going on here. And even with those payments in lieu of taxes again, we're not referencing BPU, we're talking about this? Those payments aren't necessarily subject to kind of the market rate, or kind of the full property taxes that they would pay, if that certain deal was not there, because there is a fee schedule. It's different than what, you know, myself as a homeowner or what others would

pay for property taxes, correct? **Ms. Carttar** said, correct. They will be paying, starting their first year over \$350,000. This is a piece of property that we are currently receiving next to nothing in terms of property taxes. So, this will be a significant benefit to the Unified Government.

Commissioner Davis said this development, will they be paying full BPU payments for utilities as well? **Ms. Carttar** said yes.

Commissioner Davis said so they will be paying BPU. There are local, women and minority requirements attached to the payments in lieu of tax payments, correct? **Ms. Carttar** said there are indeed. So far, we had, just so you know, this project is already underway. The garage is almost complete. If anyone drives by, you'll see they're almost done and anticipating to start the apartments here in about a month or two. I have had meetings with Sharon Reed of our Procurement Department pretty much every month since they started. It's been almost a year and we've been tracking those LMW goals and they've been doing very well in that regard.

Commissioner Davis asked, are they any other community benefits beyond the payment in lieu of taxes? **Ms. Carttar** said a big one is that over half of the parking garage actually will be public parking. So, free in public parking for the Legends. The way that they're doing it is, they will actually be connected to the current parking garage, as well as you can enter the normal way you would enter a parking garage. They will have the first few floors, or a portion will be free and open to the public. Then there will be a gate and the remainder will be the reserve spots for the residents. That's a pretty significant one. I would certainly say all the taxes that they will be paying as well as this is 267 units, so a minimum of 267 people, I'm sure more than that, who will be living literally steps from the Legends. That is restaurants, stores. That is the type of thing that when we're looking for very consistent sales in that area, having residents out there is invaluable because that really draws kind of that every single day sales tax that we look for.

Commissioner Davis said you brought up the units. Now, and I guess the developer or whoever will be the landlord could also answer this, will you all be accepting housing vouchers? The reason why I say that is because we are in the middle of a housing crisis, affordable housing crisis, and as that someone that's going to kind of kick off this committee and we've been having questions about using ARPA dollars, I'm a little uncomfortable with kind of giving over these tax incentives and these tools without getting some help on solving this housing crisis that we have here in Wyandotte County. Will you all be accepting any affordable housing vouchers

within 267 units? And Katherine or whomever is on, can answer my question. **Ms. Carttar** said if their attorney wants to answer, Mr. March?

Mr. March said in all candor this is an issue that is coming up for the first time to us tonight. I don't know that we have thought one way or the other. Now that it has come up, we can look at it and get smarter on the issue. That's about as honest and direct as I can be rather than make something up and be wrong.

Commissioner Davis said I appreciate you. My assumption is that this was passed prior to me being inaugurated. So, nice to meet you virtually Mr. March. These are some of what I would consider upstream issues that this Commission needs to consider. When we're going to give over these large tax incentives and they're going to be the large housing developments, but we're not going to have conversations on whether or not they're going to accept housing vouchers, that is a grave concern. If you all have not had time to at least process that or really think through how that would go into your development, and then we're about to give you \$65M in IRBs; Mayor, Commission, I think sending this back, giving the recently, newly elected folks that are on there, myself and Commissioner Stites, letting us get our eyes on it. Our community's focus on housing issues and kind of looking at the available options and giving the developer the chance to work with us to really renegotiate this contract and codify some of these efforts. Now, it that's not doable, that's not doable. But at the very least, I would like to have that conversation before we go ahead and grant this \$65M in IRBs.

Mr. Marsh said so, Commissioner, if I could respond. We have all of our financing, all of our private financing is in place. We are spending the \$65M. The \$54M in IRBs has already been approved. So, our proforma is based upon receiving rents at whatever level. If there is capacity to integrate a voucher program, this developer has worked tremendously well with the city and with staff and we would ask that you approve this resolution and we will in good faith explore the opportunities. But, changing something significant since we've already signed our loans and having all of our equity in for 65 minutes—if we'd had this discussion before we went on the hook for the debt, before we put the equity in, and we're building the \$65M facility, that would be a different issue. But we didn't. But that doesn't mean that we won't entertain the conversations and get smart and see what we can do just because we are good corporate citizens. But we ask

that you not hold this up because it's integral to moving the project forward and we're at risk for the \$65M. Nobody else is right now.

Commissioner Davis said I appreciate that. I think it would be helpful for you to get my perspective. I ran on fair development and making sure that our tax-paying citizens who do not have the benefit of predictable payment in lieu of tax schedules, that there are property taxes, we don't have that benefit, so we have to pay it by the market. And, therefore, we're not necessarily getting that benefit that you all are getting. I think from a negotiation perspective, we need to make sure that it is a good deal for everybody. I see where you all benefit. I'm trying to figure out how I can go to my district and defend it to folks that are complaining about the property taxes. Because if you were to pay market rate, it would be, I would assume in the millions of dollars that would contribute to our property taxes and would help pay for public safety, public works and some of the other services and maintenance to your development. The fact that conversation is not necessarily happening is what kind of concerns me.

What I'll do is, this kind of puts us in a tricky situation. I may need Misty's help. I will make a motion to approve with mandate that there be a conversation in an agreement on whether or not some percentage of these units are made available to receive housing vouchers. I don't know if that's doable or not, somebody from Legal help me out here, but I do think we need to have this conversation before we continue to pass contracts like this. I see Patrick, so I'll yield the floor.

Patrick Waters, Deputy Chief Counsel, said I would just note, so in this case we already do have a development agreement with the developer. I understand your concerns. I think that would require reopening the agreement that we've already signed with the developer. I think this is an important conversation to have on a future development, but I don't think we can really tie it to the vote tonight.

Commissioner Davis said so in the event that we send this back to committee, could we include some provision if the developer were to agree it's included; could we include it and bring it back at a later date?

Mr. Waters said the problem is we have a development agreement that we entered into with them, I guess a year ago now, and none of these provisions were in that agreement. We're not here opening up the development agreement tonight. I think that's an important conversation

to have on future developments, but with this developer, it's not a stipulation that we can add it at this point.

Commissioner Davis said I see what we're dealing with here. I do have reservations concerning that and I know timing, everything. I do want to be fair to you, Mr. March, but this is an ongoing issue that we have these large projects where the citizens here, the residents that do not get these payments in lieu of taxes, they do not get those benefits. I'm not picking on this developer. I've had similar conversations and I try to be as consistent as I can, but we need to solve upstream issues. I would hope that the Commission would really consider how we go about approving these contracts moving forward.

Commissioner McKiernan said I was going to say that given the number of years that this agreement has been discussed and planned and given the fact that we do have a signed development agreement, I move to approve this item as submitted.

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-10-22**, "A resolution amending Resolution 21-21 previously adopted by the governing body of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, determining it's intent to issue industrial revenue bonds to finance the costs of acquiring, constructing, improving and equipping a commercial multifamily facility for the benefit of Legends 267, LLC and it's successors and assign." **Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to adopt the resolution as submitted.** Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Bynum, Burroughs, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Stites; and one "No," Davis. Commissioner Townsend did not respond.

STANDING COMMITTEES' AGENDA

No items.

ADMINISTRATOR'S AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 211338...RESOLUTION: DESIGNATION OF ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Synopsis: A resolution providing written notice of designation of an Acting County Administrator during any temporary absences of the Interim County Administrator, submitted by Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Interim County Administrator.

Mayor Garner said I'll ask Cheryl Harrison-Lee, our Interim County Administrator, to make some remarks.

Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Interim County Administrator, said Section 2-102 of Code of the Unified Government states that a written report shall be filed with the Commission subject to approval for an Acting Administrator anytime that the Administrator is absent temporarily or for disability. This resolution serves as notice of filing that report. What would take place would be we have Acting County Administrators on a rotation basis. One of them would serve as Acting if there were any temporary absences. And may I answer any questions?

Action: **RESOLUTION NO. R-11-22**, "A resolution providing written notice of designation of an Acting County Administrator during any temporary absences of the Interim County Administrator." **Commissioner Johnson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ramirez, to adopt the resolution as submitted.** Roll call was taken and there were ten "Ayes," Davis, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Stites.

Item No. 2 – 211332...UPDATE: \$15/HOUR BASELINE SALARY

Synopsis: An update on the \$15/hour baseline salary initiative, submitted by Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Interim County Administrator.



February 10, 2022

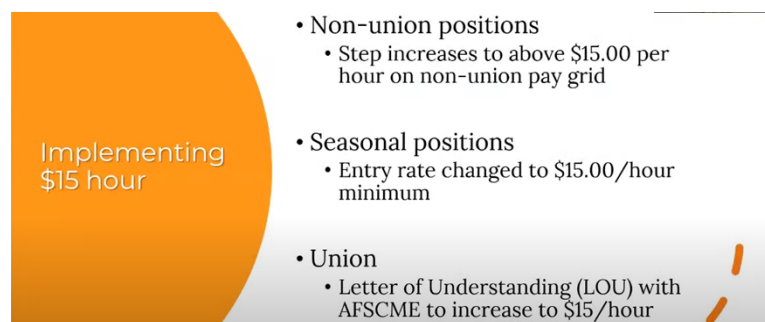
Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Interim County Administrator, said tonight we're providing an update on progress towards achieving a \$15.00 minimum wage across the Unified Government workforce. The \$15.00 an hour minimum wage is a priority for Mayor Garner and this administration, as we try to provide a livable wage and competitive workforce. The existing minimum wage at the federal level and the State of Kansas is \$7.25 an hour. Last month, the federal government announced that the federal civilian employees will be paid \$15.00 an hour minimum wage. It is increasingly challenging to hire people in the public and the private sector and if we are going to continue to attract and retain talent, we need to move to \$15.00 an hour. I move to looking at how the employee compensation is being increased.



Employee Compensation Being Increased to \$15.00/hour

- Full-time Employees: 14
- Summer/Seasonal: 68
- Fiscal Impact: \$150,000 per year

We have a total of 14 full-time employees. In asking staff to assess looking at our workforce of the 2,300 employees, 14 of them earn less than \$15.00 per hour. It is evenly distributed between the non-union and union. Sixty-eight part-time and seasonal employees would make less than \$15.00 per hour and so moving to the \$15.00 per hour minimum wage reflects a commitment and appreciation of the workforce. It makes the UG more competitive of other markets and the anticipated fiscal impact to move to \$15.00 an hour is less than \$150,000 per year.



Implementing \$15 hour

- Non-union positions
 - Step increases to above \$15.00 per hour on non-union pay grid
- Seasonal positions
 - Entry rate changed to \$15.00/hour minimum
- Union
 - Letter of Understanding (LOU) with AFSCME to increase to \$15/hour

And finally, as we take action to move all positions to \$15.00 per hour, the non-union positions can be moved via administration and the Administrator's prerogative to set compensation.

The seasonal and temporary employees are vacant, so when these positions are filled, they will be filled at \$15.00 per hour. With the union positions, our Human Resources Department has reached out to AFSCME to establish a Letter of Understanding that will move those AFSCME employees to \$15.00 per hour. We anticipate having all positions moved to \$15.00 per hour in March. That concludes my presentation.

Mayor Garner asked does any members of the Commission have any comments or questions?

Commissioner Kane said McDonald's is paying \$19.00 an hour. I would think that we would increase it to at least \$18.00 an hour. The \$15.00 an hour sounds good, but our employees, in order to retain them and keep them and bring more people here, I would think it would be a better investment in our employees to pay at least \$18.00 an hour.

Commissioner Ramirez said I would 100% completely agree with Commissioner Kane, if that is something the Interim County Administrator can look into and come back with to the Commission on what that price tag would look like. You know, we always talk about how wonderful our employees are, well, let's show that. They work hard every day to provide the services to our community, to provide services to this governing body, so that we can do our job, and they should be paid what they should be paid for. They do a lot of good work and so I completely agree with Commissioner Kane and ask that the Interim County Administrator come back to us with that fiscal impact at a later date.

Commissioner Davis said I'm going to go one up. I think it would be good for us to look at the overall budget impact of \$15.00, \$18.00 and \$20.00. The reason why I'm saying that is because inflation is through the roof, the cost of living is through the roof and to be quite honest, we're late on \$15.00. I'm thinking about some of the folks that, you know, I was at KU last month in class talking to them and if we're wanting to get high quality employees, educated employees that are going to bring their lives and their expertise, we really have to and obviously I want to be responsible. We can also talk about a ladder in which we kind of set it up maybe in a three-year

increment in which we increase. But we have to deliver on this, we have to. Our people are our most important asset. That would be my request, I don't mean to one up, but 15, 18, 20 looking at just the financial implications. If we can get some data on cost of living, inflation, what other cities are doing, things of that sort, it would really, really set us up nicely to make a great decision here.

Commissioner Johnson said and maybe to bring just a little bit of balance, I guess, to the conversation, as we are looking at those potential options, I'd like to know what, if any, impact that would have to our overall fund balance and our goals as it relates to that as well.

Mayor Garner said any other commissioners? I'd just like to comment, thank you Ms. Harrison-Lee and thank you, commissioners. Having been a one-time employee of the Unified Government, we do know that our employees are our most valuable assets and if we can continue to do things to champion them, reward them for their service and encourage those that want to work here at the Unified Government, and be good public servants. We want people to know this is the place to come and work and give back to this community. So, thank you, Administrator. I know she's going to do a good job of making sure that whatever decisions are made, it's reasonable, it's responsible, and it's actionable.

Commissioner Bynum said I was just curious; do we have a motion? **Mayor Garner** said this isn't a motion, this is an Administrator's action and it was for information only.

Commissioner Kane said I think that we should look at \$18.00 and \$20.00 an hour. If I can make a motion or whatever, because our employees deserve to make more.

Mayor Garner said thank you, Commissioner. This item was just information presented to the Commission from our Interim County Administrator. It would be an action taken on her part as she walks through making sure that this is done in a responsible manner. I can assure you at a later date, we'll circle back with an update on the questions in regards to the \$15.00, \$18.00 and \$20.00 an hour, and the decision that she's made as far as the fiscal impact that will have on the Unified Government. Are there any other comments or questions in this regard?

Action: For information only.

COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA

No items.

LAND BANK BOARD OF TRUSTEES' CONSENT AGENDA

No items.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

No items.

**MAYOR GARNER
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 11:10 P.M.
February 10, 2022**

Brett A. Deichler
Unified Government Clerk

am

February 10, 2022