

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

SPECIAL SESSION, THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Session, Thursday, July 28, 2022, with ten members present: 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; and Garner, Mayor/CEO, presiding. Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Interim County Administrator; Patrick Waters, Deputy Chief Counsel; Bridgette Cobbins, Assistant County Administrator; Brett Deichler, Interim Assistant County Administrator; Monica L. Sparks, Acting Unified Government Clerk; Gunnar Hand, Director of Planning and Urban Design; Alley Porter, Commission Liaison; LaVert Murray, Economic Development Advisor in Mayor's Office; Reginald Lindsey, Budget Manager; Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works; Daniel Soptic, Sheriff; Emmett Lockridge, Undersheriff; Nancy Burns, Director of Register of Deeds; and Susie Nelson, Chief Deputy in Register of Deeds Office.

Mayor Garner said before I call this meeting to order, I want to announce that we have individuals attending remotely as well as on-site. 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 participating knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and is current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General.

MAYOR GARNER called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Stites, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Garner.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL SESSION of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be conducted in a hybrid format on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of the Municipal Office Building for presentations from Wyandotte County Elected Officials and Urban Planning & Zoning.

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

Mayor Garner said this evening during our Special Session we're going to hear several presentations from several of our Wyandotte County elected officials and welcome to the chambers here at the Unified Government. It will also be followed by a presentation from Mr. Hand who's our Urban Planning & Zoning Department Director. We're going to start this meeting off with Mayor Carolyn Caiharr with the City of Edwardsville here in Wyandotte County.

Carolyn Caiharr, Mayor of Edwardsville, said as Mayor of Edwardsville, thank you for allowing me to advocate for the needs of the people in our part of Wyandotte County for your consideration for the County budget planning process. I would first like to explain the perspective of the residents in the southwest part of Wyandotte County. A large portion of our annual tax bill goes to pay for services from the Unified Government of Wyandotte County. These services include the Health Department located in downtown Kansas City, Kansas, the DA's Office and District Court located in downtown Kansas City, Kansas, Appraiser's Office and Department of Motor Vehicles located in Kansas City, Kansas, the Election Office located in downtown Kansas City, Kansas, the Sheriff's Department and Jail located in downtown Kansas City, Kansas.

We've not only requested an advance voting site accessible to the people of Edwardsville, but even offered our ADA compliant and accessible community center for use after hearing concerns from some of our seniors with disabilities. About a year later we found out the Unified Government was excited to announce a new advanced voting site, and you guessed it, Kansas City, Kansas. Residents have to drive quite a distance to access nearly every county service making some of these inaccessible to those most in need in our community.

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It is so discouraging to see county tax money being funneled into messy consolidated funds providing maintenance, manpower and equipment to not only our three county parks, but our county dollars and resources are being used in over 50 Kansas City, Kansas parks while not one dollar is invested in our area to improve the health and quality of life for residents in our part of Wyandotte County.

We see millions upon millions of dollars being poured into the Health Department that isn't even accessible to those most in need in our community while the Sheriff's Department isn't prioritized enough to keep jail or the district shared between Bonner Springs and Edwardsville manned on a consistent basis.

I cannot express to you how disheartening it was to hear the great disparity and allocation of CARES Act funding sent to assist all of Wyandotte County during the COVID shutdowns. With nearly identical enrollment numbers, Piper School District received nearly \$380K while the students of the Bonner/Edwardsville School District received only \$56K. The Unified Government of Wyandotte County received \$37M in CARES Act funding, \$25M was set-aside for direct aid to local municipalities. We heard of park improvements and trail expansions in other parts of the county. Over \$6M in Public Safety reimbursements, but not one of those dollars was sent to assist the Police Department or Fire Department in Edwardsville. Of the \$25M set aside for local municipalities, \$449,400 came to the city of Edwardsville, less than half of what was given to the shutdown, then online Kansas City, Kansas Community College.

Out of \$37M, only \$449K was sent to our entire city to run our City Hall, our Public Works, our Parks & Recreation Department, our Municipal Court, our Fire Department and our Police Department combined.

The people of Edwardsville have been charged a PILOT tax through BPU by the Unified Government for decades. This tax on the residents of Edwardsville is applied directly into the Kansas City, Kansas budget. The one county service that directly assisted our part of Wyandotte CIFI which was a program that was given one mill from the county as funding allocated dollars based on a formula consisting of population and lane miles. This program invested approximately \$120-\$150K each year into the care and maintenance of our roads. This program was eliminated in 2008. The people of our part of the county feel, by design, that we are underrepresented in our county. This is displayed in the lack of investment in our part of the county, reflected directly from not only CARES, but also the annual budget year after year.

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I would not come before you with a list of concerns without presenting not only clear requests, but solutions. While I know each commissioner has Kansas City, Kansas in their district, only two districts even include Edwardsville. The people in our part of Wyandotte County feel that we are not a priority. I am asking that you all advocate for all of Wyandotte County as our commissioners and not only your section of Kansas City, Kansas.

Please bring back CIFI helping fund the repair and maintenance of roads in our part of the county. Please consider reimbursing the citizens of Edwardsville the money taken to fund Kansas City, Kansas directly through the PILOT, or at the very least, eliminating PILOT from our BPU bills.

We have applied for multiple ARPA Grants. As a representative of large portions of the population, I implore you to give Edwardsville and Bonner Springs priority over the other applications, just as you would with other Unified Government applications or Kansas City, Kansas projects. One of our applications is for a computer lab and small library. During COVID it became more apparent than ever that internet accessibility in our area was lacking at best. Unlike Kansas City, Kansas, Edwardsville was left out of the deal with Google fiber offering fiber speeds at affordable rates. We had people working from home and parents either working from home or forced to quit their jobs to care for their students now attempting a virtual education at home as their schools were shut down. Many families had multiple students trying to stream their classroom at the same time in one household which was not a possibility. People who had lost their jobs were trying to find employment, fill out applications and resumes from their cell phones.

While Bonner Springs and Kansas City have wonderful libraries, it would best serve the residents in our part of the county to have a library and computer lab within walking distance. This would allow the most disadvantaged in our community to access high-speed internet, improving education and workforce development in our part of Wyandotte County. We ask the county to invest in this initiative giving access to education and workforce development for those most in need by assisting in the funding to get us started in removing Edwardsville from the PET (Piper, Edwardsville, Turner) District keeping tax dollars in Edwardsville to continue funding this great assistance to those in need in our community for years to come.

Another application was for a splash park. The Unified Government of Wyandotte County has already installed three of these throughout Kansas City, Kansas and are greatly enjoyed by the youth in those areas. Edwardsville doesn't have a pool or any other place to cool down on

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hot summer days. The splash park would be like the computer lab, located within walking distance of low income and subsidized housing as well as by the large mobile home park which includes many residents who rely on income-based subsidies and food assistance. Whether it be through ARPA, regular budget, or included in \$11M reimbursed revenue replacement, I would ask that you help me in finding solutions to get these initiatives funded.

I'm not advocating for an increase in county mills to pay for these investments, but for a reallocation of county funds. I'm asking for accountability and transparency by auditing and possibly eliminating messy consolidated funds. I've been advised not to ask for additional services at the same time as a tax decrease. To be clear, I'm not asking for additional service, but equity of service and to not be charged as a taxpayer for services we are not getting. There are so many county tax funded services, investments, and programs that are either not accessible to the residents in our part of Wyandotte or we would not even qualify for these based on our location census tract or demographics.

I am asking that there be an audit done of the consolidated funds, Parks and Health Department initiatives, to ensure that if a program is only eligible to the residents of Kansas City, Kansas, it be funded by Kansas City, Kansas, not the entire county.

In summary, I'm asking that you as our CEO and our County Commissioners would advocate for investment in our part of the county and lower the tax burden. With the nearly 10% bump in assessed value and several million in county reserves, there is room for relief. Take this opportunity as millions are coming into the county to fund our ARPA requests, whether it be through using discretion to enumerate the ARPA applications, funding done through the regular budget, or by reallocating county tax dollars or using a small part of the \$11M out of the county for revenue loss reimbursement. Add the removal of the KCK PILOT Tax from the Edwardsville residents to an upcoming Commission agenda and audit consolidated funds and county programs to ensure county revenue is only being used to fund programs and improvements that are available and eligible to all county residents. Show Edwardsville residents that this CEO and Board of Commissioners sees us and cares enough to invest some of the money that we have entrusted to them back into our part of Wyandotte County.

Please email me with any questions. I look forward to working with you to serve the people of Wyandotte County.

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Mayor Garner asked, are there any questions for Mayor Caiharr from commissioners?

Commissioner Ramirez said thank you Madam Mayor for coming before us. This actually has been on my mind because a couple days ago—I chaired the Mayor’s Task Force on Government Efficiencies for the City and I met with Chairman Eilert in Johnson County to see how Johnson County achieves their efficiencies and the overall theme I got from everything that he told me was communication and collaboration between the County Commission, the County Administration, and all of the 21 cities within Johnson County and that’s something we here do not have very often is that communication and the collaboration.

I will say I fall victim to just focusing on KCK because yes, that’s where my district resides, but I also serve not just as a City Commissioner, but also as a County Commissioner for Edwardsville and Bonner. So, I’m willing to work with Commissioner Kane and Commissioner Stites of making Bonner and Edwardsville more part of the picture and part of the conversation and create that communication and that collaboration. You’re correct when you say that—you know, a lot of people come to us for tax decrease, but more service. You just want equal service of what Bonner and Edwardsville is not getting, but KCK residents are. I will say I do apologize that I fall victim to that, but I will work with Commissioners Kane and Stites to correct that wrong.

Commissioner Burroughs said, Commissioner Ramirez, I would hope you would work with the Commissioner At-Large that represents Bonner Springs and Edwardsville being myself. Mayor, thank you for being here. I do remember a few years back appearing before the City Council in Bonner having a respectful conversation in reference to their disappointment in the allocation of the ARPA funds and also meeting in reference to the IT backbone broadband discussion as well a few other issues that have come to light. What I really want to bring to the attention of both you and Mr. Harrington—Mayor Harrington, when the first ARPA funding was being discussed, I had requested that a commissioner from those areas be on the committee and that did not occur and I even suggested it again when the last allocation came forward because of what was considered the inequities that you clearly pointed out this evening in reference to how those ARPA dollars were distributed. So, we have commissioners that are listening and I’m pleased to hear other commissioners are willing to work with us that represent your areas to do what is fair and equitable to both Bonner and Edwardsville, so thank you for your comments.

Commissioner Stites said I echo what you say Commissioner Burroughs regarding the committees for ARPA funding. We in Edwardsville—I was on Edwardsville City Council for six years and when this committee—we asked and asked and asked why are we not being represented on this and we got nowhere. I really do appreciate the comments by Commissioner Ramirez and the willingness to listen to what Mayor Caiharr brought to us. She didn't just come to us with problems, she came to us with solutions and how we can get this Unified Government truly unified because it has not been since inception. I look forward to, hopefully, increased services, tax reduction, and equal and fair treatment to Bonner Springs and Edwardsville. Thank you for being here.

Mayor Garner said by chance as the Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government I've made it known, I'll make it known again, I support the equitable delivery of goods and service from this Unified Government to both Bonner and Edwardsville and the good folks that we know are part of this county. What you put out as far as your recommendations to the Unified Government, if you could get to each commissioner and myself and Administrator, that would really be of value as we work through our budget process and it would lend heavily on the consideration so, hopefully, our commissioners can make an informed decision. **Mayor Caiharr** said I'll follow up with an email.

Mayor Garner said next we have Bonner Springs Mayor Harrington and Mayor Harrington volunteered to actually lead the search committee for our Administrator, so thank you for that as well, appreciate that.

Jeff Harrington, Mayor of Bonner Springs, said greetings from west of 635, west of 435 and a good portion west of Kansas Highway 7 so we're all the way out to the edge of Wyandotte County. We're a full service city, Bonner Springs is home of the brave. You all may know where Bonner Springs is. We have about 8,000 people that live there, about 5% of Wyandotte County. I highlighted that as a little golden area out there in the southwest portion of Wyandotte County and you're all familiar with it. For a long time Wyandotte County, Bonner Springs has felt as though Wyandotte County has considered them the golden section of honors of Wyandotte County. What is so difficult is, I'm going to stand on Mayor Caiharr shoulders, the fair and equitable distribution of the county services.

Kansas City, Kansas, beautiful place; Wyandotte County beautiful place. You are our Wyandotte County Commissioners and our Wyandotte County CEO and we appreciate all that you have helped us with in the past and we stand ready to assist in any way.

I have been Mayor of Bonner Springs since 2013 and on the City Council for 12 years before that. Twelve years before that I was a member of the Planning & Zoning Committee in Bonner Springs, so I come with a long history of the actual—what has actually been happening in Bonner Springs. We appreciate this change. I don't know of any time before that the Mayor of Bonner Springs has been called to address prior to the budget and I appreciate that. Thank you, sir. I don't know the last County Administrator search Mayor McTaggart and I attended. I don't think we ever had such a position, but I will do my very best to assist in Wyandotte County finding the very best Administrator that we can have.

Not to toot my own horn, but we have our City Manager here this evening, Sean Pederson, and this young man we were able to find through a search that we did shortly after I was elected and Bonner Springs has benefited greatly from his professionalism. He's brought a youth perspective to Bonner Springs that we have benefited from greatly, but with that comes a maturity. He has supported us through building a new City Hall. This City Hall is in a 100 year old building. A part of our city—an icon in our city, our City Hall in an old 1918 building.

Bonner Springs stands ready. I recognize I'm not the old head here. I know that Commissioner Kane and Commissioner McKiernan have far more seniority than I do and I bow to that as well. I would like to thank our commissioners, Burroughs and Stites, for their communication. They stand at the ready to assist Bonner Springs and our constituents and I myself called them on occasions when I need to have a helpful ear or just a shoulder to cry on and I appreciate you gentlemen putting your name on the line and being elected to be our County Commissioners. I appreciate that.

There are a few things, a few bullet points that I would like to go over. My presentation—I don't have near the solutions for you as much as I have some of the concerns that Bonner Springs has. Some of the concerns that were brought up, maybe having an Extension Office for those in western Wyandotte County to handle county health services and vehicle registration, titles, early voting. We have adaptable space in this 1918 new government services building that could certainly house that and has been offered before. Within the intersection of Kansas Highway 7 and Kansas Ave., Bonner Springs may only have 8,000 people population, but there are 40,000

people that live within 10 minutes of that intersection, 20,000 of them are Wyandotte County residents, so we have a good portion that can support that and needs those type of services.

The Loring service area specifically, fire and EMS services for that area of Wyandotte County, it's outside of our city limits, but years prior we have helped provide services out there on a limited basis on contract to the Unified Government. There are not enough rooftops out there to make it feasible for a small town like us to extend—over extend our services and provide that for them out there and we did it through a contract with the Unified Government. We provided that contract to the Unified Government and look forward to being able to serve them again if that's of your desires.

The dispatch services in Wyandotte County, I know we are working through that with our Police Department, but this is a vital area that has to be dealt with IT and Personnel. The dispatch services can be a huge significant part of a response time and we need to have that supported across all of the IT formats as well as the data metrics that we can garner from that. The equipment and radios and other purchases that should be using, the e-911 fees and leveraged by all the cities in the county.

The fiber that Mayor Caiharr made mention of that, Bonner Springs is not connected to the UG's fiber network which has been a concern for economic development as well as public safety and county-wide operations. Although there was a planned installation as a part of the COVID Emergency Recovery Grant awarded to the UG by the State to specifically extend the fiber to Bonner and Edwardsville, that project ultimately was not completed as designed. We would like to see the IT and those services provided.

The recycling and hazardous waste drop-off location or transfer station for western Wyandotte County, we have a recycling center at our Public Works that can accommodate that and we would like to be a part of that Wyandotte County initiative for a hazardous waste drop-off, residential hazardous waste drop-off. Sorry, I'm not getting known to the big stuff.

We would appreciate increased cooperation between the Tiblow Transit, our public transportation authority we have in Bonner Springs and the UG transit to assist with trip dispatch, coordinate routes and stops. We could greatly increase the services that we provide to both Bonner Springs residents as well as Kansas City, Kansas residents with increased cooperation.

Domestic Violence cases; right now they are currently handled in our Municipal Court as I'm sure in Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County is likely the only one where the county

doesn't handle these matters in District Court. We think with the sensitive nature of these domestic violence cases, they should be heard in District Court and that's something that should be looked into.

The Jail and the Sheriff's Department, one of the things that keeps coming up is the significant amount of time it takes for processing prisoners. The wait times can be significant for Bonner Springs officers that take a prisoner into the jail, the same for Edwardsville and on top of the drive time which is at least 20 minutes each direction. I understand parts of Kansas City, Kansas the Sheriff's Department is able to service them with a paddy wagon. If that paddy wagon could make a stop in Bonner Springs and Edwardsville and save our officers 20 minutes one-way, 40-45 minutes round trip, that could mean increased safety for our citizens with another officer on the street.

Sandstone Amphitheater, right now it's Azura Amphitheater. All us old heads may remember it as Sandstone, but we need to continue to invest in that amphitheater. That's a community asset that needs to be cared for. I know we had a joint venture that worked on some of the facility a couple years ago, but we need to do that, notably the height of the stage. The acts that are able to come into this facility are limited because of the height of the stage. It's what I'm being told and so I think there needs to be some investment in rehabbing that facility and I know it's a group effort with both, the city, county, state, and the promoter, but those are things that should be considered and budgeted for.

I will also reiterate the CIFI fund programs for the streets. Bonner Springs since I've been elected, we have had a commitment of improving the roadways in Bonner Springs. We average almost a million dollars a year over the last 10 years of investment in the biggest asset we have and that's our hard surface streets. We, like you, have a professional engineering study done to best serve the citizens of Bonner Springs and not just a windshield tour, oh, that's a bad road. We go through it in a professional manner, but having those funds from the county that should go to all of the Wyandotte County for street and highway improvements—street and road improvement, sorry.

Charter Ordinance review that was mentioned earlier, we need to be a part of that. It's been 20 years and this charter ordinance—anything needs to be reviewed every 20 years, at least every 10 years and so having a part of that, like was mentioned, I think is mandatory. There's just

no way about being able to continue and being a Unified Government without reviewing those mechanics.

With that it would include a continued audit. I applaud you for starting that process. It's a hard job. Digging into the minutia of the budgets and what that pays for and how it's done and where the efficiencies are and where the waste is, that is the hard part. Just because we put our names on the line doesn't make it easy, so I appreciate you going into that and not stopping, keeping up with the audits of all Wyandotte County's services.

I saved the best for last. We're a part of the Unified Government trash contract with Waste Management and we don't have a lot of control over that. We're a party to it, but we're kind of—we're down the feeding chain a little bit. We're kind of like a cousin, we don't have direct say in it, but it is a benefit to our citizens. The expense that it costs is very reasonable and I just want to make sure that we're charged the same as everybody else. That's one of the questions that I get from other people and I would like to think that we're being served as well as everyone else.

We have roads, 142nd Street, Riverview, Macgrantwood that get missed regularly for weeks on end. That makes a difference. That makes the Mayor want to go out in his pickup truck and pick up trash. It's hard. It's hard to stand there and see Mr. Steven's come, practically crying, about the trash that he's had to put up with and it's got to the point to where our City Council—I'm sorry, City Clerk, has had to manage those complaint calls and on the front end will ask, is there any large items in your trash, nope. Is there any construction material at all in the trash, nope. Those are the questions that Waste Management most often ask or will close the ticket because they assume that's the case. Oh, it must be new construction, nope. These are homes that have been there forever, I'm sorry, not ever, I don't want to be dramatic, but these are homes that have had trash missed for months and I do have those numbers here and they've been provided to the Unified Government time and time again.

With that, I don't like to end on a low note, but the trash is really significant and we need—I know there's legal situations going on, but if we can't maintain what we—if we can't continue the way it's going, we need to go a different direction. I appreciate all of you and stand ready to help however you need.

Mayor Garner asked, are there any questions from the Commission for the Mayor?

Commissioner Bynum said I appreciate all that you've said, but I'm honing in on the trash and my comments are more really for our staff. Several of us sat on the Solid Waste Review Committee and we spent multiple years doing that together because we're required to submit the plan to the state. We do have issues with trash and with our contract. My question for you and our staff, Mr. Deichler can probably answer this, our 3-1-1 system, is it for Bonner? Does Bonner use our 3-1-1, okay, because it is our—God bless you for taking the trash complaints. Our current understanding of the accountability mechanism for missed trash is the owner of the property, not you, not me, not Commissioner Kane, submits to 3-1-1 and the other ways don't count.

Mayor Harrington said absolutely right and we have counseled all of our citizens each time they have to call that number and make that complaint. This has been ongoing for over a year. **Commissioner Bynum** said and I'm sorry that it's that way, but that's the mechanism that's in play right now, so I was just hoping to make sure you were counseling your residents on missed trash that is the one way, the one way, that we hold Waste Management accountable. I appreciate all your comments, but you really got my attention with that one because, of course, we all deal with that all week long. **Mayor Harrington** said it's every trip to the grocery store.

Brett Deichler, Interim Assistant County Administrator, said I will say 3-1-1 a few years back, I went to Waste Management, built the filters, installed the application and gave them their own access to our system in dynamics, so there is a call that's encouraged to call 3-1-1 and the reason why is it's real-time information. So the data gets put into the system immediately. If you receive a call on a Tuesday and they say you just missed this entire block of 142nd, they'll come back out because they can turnaround and see that immediately right there and issue an order while their trucks are still in their neighborhood whereas before it would take a close of business type of report, follow the next day, now they're on Wednesday's field duty and they're not coming back and they're trying to do it as a backup behind. The benefit of getting it into 3-1-1, it is a closed loop system in that perspective, we can track it that way, but it gets into the trucks in the hands of dispatch immediately allowing your constituents to put that complaint straight from us to them. So them being Waste Management can view that immediately and take care of their service while they're still in the neighborhood.

Mayor Harrington said I appreciate that. I just wish it would work that well. **Mr. Deichler** said that makes two of us.

Commissioner Kane said thank you, Mayor, for coming and thank you for reminding the couple that are long in the tooth here. I literally had to call Alley this week to ask her if 3-1-1 was outsourced and when you're asked a question like that I'm like—I'm not a huge fan of 3-1-1, but there's a process we have to use. It's frustrating when my constituents say, hey, is this outsourced, are we really doing this here or what, so it's frustrating, so that's one part.

The other part, Sean, you just got a heck of a recommendation to take the opening we have, so you're more than welcome to apply for it. He said he was great. I thought, let him apply for the job. I don't want to steal him from you, but we'll take him. **Mayor Harrington** said yeah, over my dead body.

Commissioner McKiernan said Mayor Caiharr, Mayor Harrington, thank you for being here. You know that our door is always open to you, always has been, always will be. Mayor Harrington, you said you wanted to have trash pick up as good as we have. Well, let me tell you, you have trash pick up as bad as we have and it is bad and I make phone calls and I send emails every single week about missed pickups. We pay our fees, your citizens pay their fees, and we're not getting service. I think you and I know that correcting that so that we have constituent good service is probably going to end up costing us a little bit more than it does now and we're going to have to prepare for that because it is in the future. I look forward to working with both of you on that issue and as many others as we can tackle.

Commissioner Stites said I want to say thanks to both Mayors for coming in. It was concerning to me when I was out and decided to run for District 7 County Commission and it was brought to my attention that we have the budget process in the—how do we do our budget accurately if we don't ask the needs of the two other cities that are in our county, Bonner Springs and Edwardsville. They weren't included in the process. We don't know what their needs are, but yet we vote and push this budget through, vote on it and approve it, and have not contacted either city, so I'm not sure if it was Mayor Tyrone, if it was your doings there, but I appreciate it because they need to be involved in the process.

A couple different things that were brought up was—and I made the note of the Tiblow Transit and the paddy wagon not to be used as the same because I don't want you to use the Tiblow Transit as the paddy wagon, but we definitely need to address those. CIFI, you guys, we've heard

that program was yanked out from under Bonner Springs and Edwardsville with not yet an explanation as to why. That was just dollars that was pulled out that they counted on. I believe at the time when it was pulled out, it made up over half of Edwardsville's Road & Maintenance Program, their annual budget.

The UG Newsletter is another example where Bonner Springs and Edwardsville are not represented. I would like to see them be able to call up, add things that are happening whether it be our parades that are happening in Bonner and Edwardsville, the Tiblow Days, trash pickup, whatever it may be. They need to have access to the UG Newsletter because UG means Unified Government, not just Kansas City, Kansas.

Trash pickup is a little bit different how I was going to approach this one, but we have community trash pickup and those sites are consistently within Kansas City, Kansas. They never get put out in Bonner Springs and Edwardsville. They have trash that needs to be picked up, the large item trash pickup, so I would like to see us on occasion bring those dumpsters out that way.

I will tell you I'm very proud tonight to have—be the commissioner that represents both Bonner Springs and Edwardsville. Thank you both.

Mayor Garner said thank you and I'm going to ask you to do the same if you don't mind, just as Edwardsville Mayor Caiharr, if you could get your requests to the elected body and our Administrator, that would be great. I just want to say thank you for your service. If you didn't know—I'll let you announce it, I believe on your political future in Bonner. **Mayor Harrington** said my political future in Bonner, I have a year and a half left in my tenure, I'll serve, hopefully, if everything goes right for the next year and a half for about ten and a half years and it's been an honor. I never conducted myself as a Mayor in order to get reelected and I'm not doing that now or this isn't a swan song, but I'll continue to serve as best I can and to invite all of you out to Tiblow Days which is our family-friendly festival at the end of August. I think it starts on the 26th with the carnival and all the day before I think and then the parade, so you're all welcome to come out and join in the parade. It'll be a new type of parade this year. A little bit of change never hurts anybody and then if you haven't had the opportunity to visit our Government Service Center and our new police station, please come out and I'll give you a personal tour. I appreciate all of you that have been out there. I'm very proud of that.

Commissioner Burroughs said, Mayor Harrington, I've had the privilege of representing Bonner Springs on the Commission-At-Large, but also in the State House and I have enjoyed the opportunity working with you and Sean and other city administrators and getting to know Mayor Caiharr and the prior administration. I'm pleased that Commissioner Stites having the experience in Edwardsville and the voice from Edwardsville joining me here on this Commission, but I can't state enough how proud I am of the community out there and how welcoming they've been.

Even when I came out under the ARPA funding, and I know that was a tough meeting to attend, but I, as your voice here, wanted to be there to hear the concerns and I remember making the comment that night that you have a right to be upset because I was upset too over what had occurred. I can't thank you enough for your graciousness, your hospitality, and working with you over the last 10-12 years and as a former resident I'm pleased to see the growth in Bonner Springs that I've witnessed and I'm still looking for property out there, so if you know somebody.

Mayor Harrington said you're welcome to come back. We have some of the best schools. I think probably the best elementary school in the whole state of Kansas just because of the leadership at that school I think. I appreciate all of you and I will certainly treat you like I like to be treated and expect you to lower our taxes and increase our services.

Mayor Garner said next we will have our Register of Deeds, Nancy Burns.

Nancy Burns, Register of Deeds Director, said I know all of you and it's been a pleasure serving for you, but also serving for my community here. I'm also part of Wyandotte County. Edwardsville and Bonner does business with us in our Register of Deeds. Tonight I would like you to meet one of my staff members, my Chief Deputy Susie Nelson, she's over here, but I also have four or five other girls in my office who I value very, very much and I tell them that all the time and I really appreciate it. I'm just going to rattle off their names real quick; Sandra Ayala. She's kind of my IT girl. She's my go-to girl because Susie and I are probably of that older generation that might be lacking a little in that experience. Then there's Juanita Soto and Sonia Cabrera, Brandy Lynch, and Maggie Orendac. I could not run that office without them and I appreciate everything they do for me, so it's a great office. We have our fun times, but we get down to business and bring in revenue for the county, the whole county, Edwardsville and Bonner.

Tonight, I would like to just—I sent emails out. I think you all got a copy. I passed them out tonight. The Register of Deeds Office serves as the custodian and maintains all perpetual comprehensive set public records dating back to the 1800s. That's kind of when Commissioner Kane was born, but anyway, we'll move on. It is through these records that your tax roll is built and maintained. In addition to recording deeds, the Register of Deeds Office records documents as mortgages, Power of Attorney, subdivisions, plats. We file probably a little over 100 different types of documents in our office. We also have fraud alert and I sent out fraudulent in Spanish and English for both of you. I know Ashley is working on doing a news media for me on that. I think it's really important, but remember, fraud alert is just an alert. It does not prevent fraud, but it is free for all of our constituents in the county to sign up for and that's through our software program.

There are several options of real estate and how they're filed. We mail-in documents, walk-in documents, which is very busy sometimes, e-file is 80% of our documents that come through which is really, really good. They all have to fill out an MOU, Memorandum of Understanding, in order to file with us and Legal has already looked at that. As you can see, there are recording documents, how many we recorded and 2021 was 29,000 and it breaks it down in paper, e-file, and walk-ins. The requirement fees are, as you see here, '21 we brought in that for the General Fund, the bottom line there. It kind of changes, kind of like as the economy changes, you know. I think we're slow right now. Things aren't moving as fast as they were, but '22 is still going to look good.

If you turn the next page, it says Heritage Fund. Heritage Fund goes to the State. We collect that money for them, they only get \$30K a year from our county and the rest goes into the General Fund, whatever we collect and that is with our fees.

The Register of Deeds has a Technology Fund. It is established by the State Statute. Account revenues received from fees charged by the Register of Deeds. Revenues go towards the technology used to store and manage our data. The Register of Deeds Office collects the Technology Fund for the City Clerk—or the County Clerk and the County Treasurer, so they also have Technology Funds coming in. That was done in Legislation in 2014.

Our software is Fidar Technologies. Fidar provides our software to the Register of Deeds and the Register of Deeds Technology Fund is currenting being for a data migration project. A big project. This is probably one of my last big projects that we'll have to do in our office. It's

converting 570K documents into our Laredo system which is a search engine and that search engine is used, Laredo, by GIS, by the Clerk's, Delinquent Tax; there's numerous offices that use that. Also, we have subscribers and that brings in revenue. As you see here, Laredo fees collected, is like 77K. We have 65 users and these are people from companies, from attorneys, independent searchers. They pay us a subscription and that brings in revenue for the county.

Recently we did, probably a year ago, moved our—Fidlar Technology offered us a cyber protection and I went with it a year ago. It's probably the best thing I ever did because if I wouldn't have done that, our economy and your tax base would have stopped until that was corrected, but being on their server, which I know our IT, they're wonderful, but they were overloaded. And I thought, you know, I had in the back of my mind thinking I'm so afraid of something happening. This is way before I even got with our software and they offered this, I ran it by Legal, I ran it by Kevin Bibbs and he said it sounds like a good deal. It's the best thing I ever did and that was technology money I used for that cyber protection so I could continue, continue on working. Smartest thing I ever did besides marrying my husband I guess.

I invite all you commissioners to come over to our office. My office sits on the first floor. You go up those steps and I'm right to the right. It's not that far and you're welcome to come. Some of you have visited my office and seen all our wonderful books and I protect them with my life. It's very, very important, but number one thing I always, and I think the Mayor kind of alluded to this, customer service is the biggest thing for me in this office. I always tell my girls, I say, listen, how do you want to be treated. If you're coming in that door, how do you want to be treated and everyone—I wouldn't have anybody in my office if they were not polite, courteous. Also, in my office there's no press one or press two, you get a live person and you will continue as long as I am there to get a live person. When that phone rings, those girls are on it.

Houses are kind of—it's kind of slow right now. I don't know what's going on with the economy, but you know it's the way our office works. It can be good and bad and things are slow. I will tell you Fidlar—there's 13 other counties in the state of Kansas that uses Fidlar and we couldn't be happier. It's the best software we ever had, but it's been around even before me. Tom Groneman, he's been with Fidlar, so it's been around for about 30 years and that's all they do is just recording.

I'm welcome to take any questions. Anything you have problems, just give me a call.

Commissioner Bynum said I just have a couple of questions. The first one is, when you say e-file, are you saying computer? To me, as an individual, if I need to file something, it's available for me to do online. **Ms. Burns** said not for you, no. This is usually from banks. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay. I just wanted to—**Ms. Burns** said a lot of banks. I mean we get documents, it's not just in the county. There's documents that come from all over. **Commissioner Bynum** said it's okay. I just got kind of excited. **Ms. Burns** said e-file's kind of cool, but you need to come over and see how it works. I mean I'm sure most of you know how it works.

Commissioner Bynum said from the documents that you've shared with us, between the filing fees and then the Heritage Fund, it looks like your office is generating more than \$2M annual into the County General Fund and it ebbs and flows, but '21 is \$2M—**Ms. Burns** said correct—**Commissioner Bynum** said into the County General Fund. Then, you have a Technology Fund that—I just want to clarify, by state law it's strictly for use only—**Ms. Burns** said land use—**Commissioner Bynum** said Register of Deeds, Clerk, and Treasurer. **Ms. Burns** said the Clerk and Treasurer, we collect that for them and that goes to their technologies for whatever they use—**Commissioner Bynum** said they have their own fund, you just are the collecting agent. **Ms. Burns** said correct. **Commissioner Bynum** said but by state law those three funds are only for those three purposes. **Ms. Burns** said you know, Commissioner, to be truthful, I don't know what they use theirs for because ours was done years ago for what we have it for and what we have to use by state law, by statute that we have to use it for, land use only. But this was thrown in in 2014 for the city. I mean for the County Clerk and for the County Treasurer and I don't know that statute and what they use it for and what they are required by statute to use it for. Does that make sense? **Commissioner Bynum** said sure, so we'll leave them to the side. We know your fund and we know by state law it's only for your use. **Ms. Burns** said for my use of technology needs.

Commissioner Bynum asked, do you have any notion of why? It just seems to track upward from 2017 (inaudible)—**Ms. Burns** said well, a lot of it, as you can see, even as the General Fund through the years, it tracks upward too. **Commissioner Bynum** said well, it seems kind of more steady to me. I only say that because in 2017 it was also \$1.9M. Anyway, I'm just curious like what would be driving the—**Ms. Burns** said the Technology Fund up. Well, a lot of times—I mean we try and save it for special projects and that could be part of it and we recorded more documents. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay. It's about per document recording. **Ms. Burns** said yes. **Commissioner Bynum** said alright, I just wanted to clarify.

Commissioner Burroughs said for the public's knowledge, Nancy, I can't tell you how much I appreciate you in the position you're in because I not only have the privilege of seeing you work here, I've seen you work in Topeka advocating for this community and the ladies you advocate for in your department. But for the work that you do for our county and your voice in Topeka in reference to that, so we're very fortunate to have someone as passionate as you as our Register of Deeds, so I just want the colleagues, my colleagues here to know that it's not just at home you work—pay attention, it's also at the State House. **Ms. Burns** said thank you. I will tell you it was tough as it was for all of us through COVID, but we plugged through just like the rest of us. We kept the ball rolling, kept the General Fund fed into.

Thank you again and again. I'm on the first floor, right to right and come on in and come and see what we do in our office. You know I don't know if any of you know, some of you do, but the vault was made specifically for the recorders. We're talking many years ago and it's involved, so when we do have fire drills, we don't go out, we just go in the vault. Anyway, thank you again. It was great. This was really great to be in front of all of you.

Mayor Garner said next we'll have the Wyandotte County Sheriff, Sheriff Daniel Soptic.

Sheriff Daniel Soptic said I guess you get to finish with the new guy, so I apologize for that.



Budget Presentation

I do have a short presentation really just so you can see some of this and me not just read it all to you.

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Operational Budget Highlights

- Medical Contract– Negotiated increases per contract
- Inmate Food Contract Higher than usual increase due to marketplace food costs
- Detention Center Computer Replacement
- Custodial– Increase due to inflationary costs

I will start with a couple of our more notable budget items. Just to highlight a couple of our things. You know, it's no surprise, everything costs more money now. So, everything that we've been doing we'll continue to do, things that we have to do. Medical contract, inmate food contract, some replacement of some computers, and then just custodial products. You wouldn't believe the amount of toilet paper we go through in the business we're in. So, those are all things that as you guys go through the budget and you see the numbers, it's just costing everybody more to buy that stuff. Imagine running a small town, we're not immune to that. Not that you didn't understand it, but I wanted to highlight that.

Capital Budget Highlights

- Jail Intake remodel-aging structure, exposed wiring, nonfunctional workspace, redesign to enhance safety and functionality
- Park Lake Patrol Boat Replacement boat needs to be emergency response ready. Boat often takes on water and requires frequent unscheduled maintenance. The boat is a 1992 model year.
- Continue to upgrade current body/car cameras. Current system has been in place since 2014.

On the Capital side, probably three of the most notable things. For those that have been in the facility, the jail intake area, that's an area we're working to remodel, update. That was put in when the building was built. Back then that was kind of the standard of how those things were designed. Things have changed and it's time to update that. Something as simple as the setup you guys are in with a raised platform, you know, anything that we can do to increase safety, efficiency to the Mayor's point, that's what we're looking to do. Back when it was built, desks were built into it. It was all kind of one piece. In the years those pieces have been removed, desks have been put in,

wires are exposed. It's just not a good look, not to mention functionality and safety and so that's one of our bigger capital projects because that's pretty significant financially.

Second, our patrol boat, and I'm not trying to make a joke about this, but it's a 1992 model. It's decided it would prefer to have water in it than outside of it and anybody that's ever owned a boat knows what boat stands for and so that's just where we're at. We are responsible for the emergency response along with the Fire Department in that lake, not to mention boat patrol, boat checks, fishing checks, all the things that just go along with that. That thing, it's just past its prime. We've patched it, but it's to the point it's just not safe and it's not doing its job. But, again, I highlight it because it is a significant purchase.

Finally, I know the Police Department has been down this road recently. You know we've had body cameras since 2014 and when I tell people that, that surprises a lot of folks, but I was actually over that project when we did it. Since we've had them since 2014 we've actually done a couple of upgrades, but technology has really skyrocketed here as of late, particularly into cloud storage and some other things and so it's just part of doing business. It's part of something you have to do when you have technology, you have to upgrade and sometimes those upgrades become pretty significant financially. I just wanted to bring that to your attention and 2014 is when that started, so you know we definitely got some life out of the stuff, but it's just time.

New Initiative

Sheriff's Office Cadet Program

- 2016—public safety taskforce recommendation create Cadet Program for SO, never funded
- 2022- current proposal to add 10 parttime Correctional Specialist positions to SO
- Pilot a Cadet Program with USD 500 via their Diploma Plus Program for school year 2022 with the expansion to Turner, Bonner Springs/Edwardsville and Piper in the 2023 School year
- Intended outcome would be to create full time job opportunity with the SO as a Correctional Specialist (pipeline from school to full time employment)
- Other outcomes— Workforce Job Training, exposure to hiring processes, exposure to workplace culture
- Estimated budget impact of 50,000.00 per year

One of my biggest talking points is one of our new initiatives. Most of this Commission was around in 2016 when the Public Safety Task Force was put together and then they actually came, I believe, the Chief then, HR along with Sheriff Ash came and presented to the Commission and the Mayor at the time about the findings and all of the stuff that we were already doing or that we were going to do. One of the things that was recommended was a Cadet Program for the Sheriff's Office. That was 2016 and it was never funded past that point. I'm not here to point fingers. I

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don't know the who, the why. I have no idea. Sheriff Ash could probably answer the question, but it really doesn't matter. The point of it is we've picked that up and I'm going to highlight how we're proposing to do that so that it not only works for us, but potentially for the UG and definitely for the community, all of the community as a whole. We're looking to pilot our Cadet Program this year with USD 500 via their Diploma Plus Program. The reason I'm bringing it to you is because in order for this to work I've asked for 10 part-time Correctional Specialist positions and I've been to several of your meetings. I've watched several of your meetings and I understand that open positions have been a topic and I understand that as that relates to money and budget it's a topic. I get that. So, I guess maybe that's my first strike, but hear me out first of all.

Back when Sheriff Ash was here he created the Correctional Specialist position, took some Deputy pins, converted them and essentially that is 18-21 is kind of how it was set up. You could come in before you're of legal age to be in law enforcement. You can come in, we're going to train you and we're going to put you to work in the Sheriff's Office in Detention, which is something we're able to do. We're a little unique to the Police Department and so we have that ability. So this would kind of piggyback on that.

These 10 part-time positions would be dedicated to the Cadet Program and we would, working through the Diploma Plus Program identify, hopefully, 10 kids that were interested in coming in and being in our Cadet Program. The senior year of a kiddo's time in high school, his or her senior year, they would come to us. We're envisioning the second half of a couple days a week, he or she would come to us and their curriculum would actually be our training academy. Right now we go through and they go through an 8-week training academy. We would be cutting out firearms and a few other things that our 18, 19, and 20-years old don't need, but they would get the rest of that academy training. That would be their curriculum for the Diploma Plus, they would be part-time employees of the Unified Government, so while they're getting trained they're getting paid and then at the end of their senior year, they're going to graduate high school and they're going to have a decision to make. Do they go on and do something else, do they go look for other jobs in law enforcement somewhere else at 21 or are we able to capture some of those kids and give them the opportunity to change or transition from a part-time employee to a full-time Correctional Specialist.

We have found, and I can tell you the Police Department would echo this, when you go and do backgrounds on new hires 18, 19, 20 years; those are times in kids lives that sometimes

they just don't make the best decisions. We've all been there. We've probably all experienced that. Unfortunately some of those decisions those kids make prohibit them from being in law enforcement when they hit 21. Mayor, I know you're probably even familiar with that in your time at the Police Department. You know, anybody that's ever worked through the hiring process with new hires, we see it. A kid gets out of high school, he or she does something and now they have that mark, you know, they're out.

Our hope would be that these are kids that are interested in law enforcement. They've obviously picked that track, already in high school. We, I don't want to say catch them, we engage them in a process that now we have them while they're 18, while they're 19, while they're 20 and they're making full-time salaries. They're Correctional Specialists. In many of these kids cases they could walk out of high school with a full-time job, making more than what their parents make from day one and just that alone is huge. That's something that changes people's lives, it changes families lives, entire households.

Our vision would be we pilot it with 500. The following year we have a process that works, we have a process that we know is sustainable. Hopefully, I would be back in front of you asking for more part-time positions and we would then branch that out to Bonner Springs, Edwardsville, Piper, and Turner.

I can tell you I had the opportunity to talk with the Bonner Superintendent and the Turner Superintendent. I didn't make it to Piper, but both of those schools would be interested in this program should we do it and should it work.

Many times I've heard the term of pipeline from school to prison. I've heard that so many times I just can't tell you how many times. We would really be creating a pipeline from school to full-time employment with our kids that live in our community working for the community. It's no secret I'm short, short-staffed, and I'm short, right. So, some of this is somewhat selfish and I'm going to end on that note here in a minute when I talk about my last point, but it benefits the entire community. It benefits an entire county. It would in turn benefit every school district that we have and like I said, it truly has the opportunity to change lives and, you know, break some cycles with the benefits. I mean, the benefit packages that we have, it's all great stuff and for a kid coming out of high school to make that kind of money, it would be an amazing opportunity.

As you see these things come through the budget process, you see these new positions, and I get it, it's probably a bad word and I apologize ahead of time, but it's the only way for me to do it and accomplish it. We need to pay them, that's the right way to do it.

As you can see, the estimated budget impact is about 50 grand a year and the reason it's only that much is because these jobs would only be filled January through May and then they would be open until the next class comes through and it would be January through May, so they wouldn't be filled all year. At 10 positions, that's essentially the estimated impact, so for something that could have such a drastic impact, and again, I know you guys are the one talking the dollar and cents, but I really think that's small pennies for the kind of impact it could potentially have. That is really the one big initiative that I wanted to bring your attention to.

Sheriff's Office Staffing Discussion

I'm going to end with this and I'll just tell you right now this is not a fun discussion, it's not a fun topic, but it's the reality of where we're at. We talk about money, we talk about staffing. I heard from both Mayors as it relates to their expectation, their desires, their wants. I'll clear up one thing first. We don't, Mayor, we don't operate a wagon. We have in the past on very selected occasions for special operations we've run one, but an actual dedicated wagon we don't do now. I will say this, I would love to do that. Things like that takes bodies and they take personnel, so where I'm at, at the moment, I'm somewhere between 30 and 40 short. That number fluctuates because I have people leave, we've hired several here as of late and my Administrative Assistant has been out all week and so I couldn't get an actual hard number. But what I can tell you is regardless of where I'm at in that as we sit today, that's a lot of people short. There's a lot of other things that we need to be doing, that we could be doing, that I can't do until I can adequately staff all of the areas that I'm responsible for.

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I'll give you this scenario and I know this isn't going to come as a surprise, but I've got to say it. We do a lot a lot of recruiting. One of my main initiatives when I came into office was recruit, recruit, recruit because that's the world we live in. They don't just come to us anymore, we have to come to them. So, we set up our recruiting booths next to the KCKPD. I love it, it's great camaraderie. It's a lot of fun. Our people know each other, they get along, but here's how it goes. Sir, you come to me and you want a job and I lay out all the benefits and I tell you that the retirement's great, the vacation's great, insurance is great, it's top-notch and here's your salary. You're going to go to the booth right next to me and they're going to say we'll give you all of that and we're going to give you this salary. That's the problem I currently have.

Back in October, November, I came to the Commission and we actually had a discussion about pay because at the time we were in contract negotiations, FOP 40, was and the commissioners that were on the Commission at that time I applaud you and I thank you. I will forever be grateful for what you did for the Sheriff's Office and that was, approve their current pay structure. That structure was designed to get the Sheriff's Office within 85% of what a KCK patrolman makes and it varies. It's not quite 85, but it's pretty close, it depends on where they're at on the scale. The point of that at the time was that's something that Sheriff Ash had been trying to do for many, many years. He thought that would really help with some recruitment and things. We were bleeding people profusely at that time and the plan was to use that as a little bit of a stop gap, but for you that were on the Commission at that time, will probably remember that I told you it's temporary, it's not going to fix it, but it would definitely help and all that's true. It slowed down our resignations, it definitely helped in the areas of recruitment and it allowed us to put in a lateral transfer program that we never had.

In cooperation with the FOP we were able to come up with an agreement where we could give somebody 11 years' worth of credit if they come to us. So, now you come to me, you worked in Jackson County for 15 years, I would give you credit for 11 years. That's where you come in on the pay scale. That's been huge. We actually just had a hire, she started just a couple days ago, she maxed that scale out. She was the first one, came from another agency, got a pay raise and so that has worked. That only goes so far.

We all know what the Sheriff's Office is doing and what the Police Department is doing is different, but it's all just as important and what we should have known, unfortunately, have learned firsthand, it's all just as dangerous and we know that personally. It's a different dangerous.

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I had a small stack of just some reports that I had printed out from all over the country from Detention, Deputies, Correction Officers that have been assaulted, that have been killed, doing the job that my guys and gals do every single day.

I guess what I'm here to tell you is this isn't a budget initiative, obviously, so maybe I'm a little bit out of my lane, but I think it fits in with what the two Mayors talked about. There has to be a discussion on how we get the Sheriff's Office and the Police Department equal as far as the pay goes. The jobs aren't equal, they're different. There are things that the Police Department does that we'll never do and that we don't do and vice-versa, but they're both just as important. Mine in particular serves the entire county and there are just some things that we need to do that I can't do unless I have the people and, unfortunately, that's a roadblock that I currently face.

Like I said, back to the example, I can't fight that. I can't dispute that when they say we're going to pay you this. That's the truth, I don't blame them. We're all trying to get the people, but I have no comeback for that when they look at me, yeah, you're right. Let the decision on that person be what job they want, not the pay. They all have to live here. The residency applies, so they all have to live here and we're all pulling from the same pool of people, be it Corrections, be it somebody in my patrol unit, be it somebody at the Police Department; it is all the same pool of people. When we go to recruiting events, we are all at the same event because it's the same people we're trying to snatch. I guess I'll leave it at that.

Obviously, I'll entertain any questions you have. I know that's a lot to put on you. That's a big number and I know what the number is because we ran it. It's a huge number. I get it, but it's something that has to be done. It's something that in order to offer the stable services in the entire county and not spotty services, I have to have the bodies and we're all fighting for people. At the end of the day when gas costs what it costs and bread costs what it costs, I don't blame the applicant when they look at the dollars and cents. We all do and so I thank you all and I'll entertain any questions.

Commissioner Stites said Monday morning start off a meeting at 8:30 up in our Commission Office and it was with Sheriff Soptic and he rolled out the 10 part-time positions and he immediately said it would be District 500 and to my two Mayors there in Bonner and Edwardsville, I went here we go again, Bonner Springs and Edwardsville being left out. We had a good discussion, a long lengthy discussion about what I would expect to see with the respects to Bonner

Springs, Edwardsville, Piper and Turner and I'm glad to see that you went and reached out to those superintendents to get their feedback. I'm a huge proponent of the 10 part-time officers. I think, you didn't want to use the word capture, but getting their attention at that young age is very important and that we can get them—they're already in that direction, they're already wanting to go, they're already enrolled in that, so it's already something that they're passionate about. So, let's keep them on that path. You just mentioned you are 30, 40 officers short right now. I mean 10 doesn't get you there, but I think what does get you there is the pay and I've done both of those jobs, the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department and the Sheriff's Department and they are both dangerous jobs.

Something you said to me stuck out in my mind. That a lot of jobs that are more dangerous, they get more pay because they are more dangerous. I'm not saying they are more dangerous or less dangerous, I'm saying they are both dangerous jobs. I would like to see that we look at how we start to build in the numbers to support the request of the Sheriff. I know it's not a budget item right now, we need to start running those numbers and look and see what it looks like to get those needs met and I thank you very much for your presentation.

Commissioner Johnson said, Sheriff, thank you for your presentation tonight. I agree with my fellow Commissioner Stites in terms of the Cadet Program and seeing how we can figure out how to implement that on a consistent basis going forward. The question that I have for you, and I think as I recall in looking at the statistics, is that the Sheriff's Department, I believe, was the most diverse in terms of the Public Safety Departments. I wanted to hear about your continued recruitment of a more diversified staff.

Sheriff Soptic said yeah, so during—and I'll go off of memory, so during that presentation in '16, I believe, that was also the findings and so what we have continued to do is go anywhere and everywhere to recruit. There's nowhere off limits, there is no one particular district, no one particular school district. We want the people that do represent our community. I actually got asked here two days ago, I think it was, about female recruitment—**Commissioner Johnson** said yes, I meant to ask you about that. **Sheriff Soptic** said that is one thing we struggle with. We've sent female deputies, civilian staff to recruit. My answer to that is that I would love to have more females interested. There is no doubt in my mind that there are situations, particularly in Detention, that a female just has an approach and an ability that guys never will and we just don't

have it. The way we've attacked that is putting our people out, our staff, our deputies that represent all of our community and putting them all out. It's not just one person that does it. We routinely put out a call when we have events to say, hey, come out.

In two weeks we're going to be at Parkwood Pool. Sure, everybody knows that. The Sheriff's Office is covering the entry fee for anybody that wants to swim during that event. We put an email out, come out. That was an all staff email. It wasn't just to this group, it wasn't just to that group. We want everybody. We want representation from the entire department to go to those events. I don't care where you live, I don't care where you grew up, I don't care if you're not comfortable. That's fine, but I think that's the best way to approach it and we get everybody out in front of the community to say, hey, well you know she's a female and she's doing the job. You know, we have very strong female deputies and you are correct, we were most diverse, and I believe we are definitely staying that track.

Commissioner Kane said the Sheriff and I talked the other day for an extended period of time on a different issue, but I think you're right about the pay. The pay has to go up and I'm huge on going to the high school getting our kids, specifically our kids in Wyandotte County. I do not like reading when somebody graduates from class that they're not from here because the more kids we get here, the more diverse we're going to be and it's a future. This is you know—and kids can see whether they want to do it or not in short order and I think \$50K is really reasonable.

Sheriff Soptic said, Mayor, if I could add one thing. To your point, Commissioner, if we have some kids that go through the program, they go to graduate, first of all one of the things we want to do is recognize them during graduation as being one of our kids because we recognize, you know, if you've got scholarships, if you're going to this school, if you're going to that school, why shouldn't they be recognized for being one of our cadets. More importantly, why shouldn't they be recognized if they've been picked to transition into full-time and I think that's important. But, yes, they are our kids and if we can just—I just want to use the word capture again, shanghai them I guess, we're creating our own work base. If some of those kids decide you know what, I did it, and to Commissioner Stite's point, he did it and now they're like, man, I don't want to do that, okay, so we've spent some part-time employment money. We've put them through training though that will serve them wherever they go. They've learned to fill out an application. They've went

through an interview. They've experienced even training that may help them somewhere else. I hate to think that I'm going—we may train people up and lose them to other agencies, but we will and that's okay. We've still put a product out because we have the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department, the Edwardsville Police Department, the Bonner Springs Police Department that would benefit greatly also from one of our kids that went through the program, could put it on his or her resume and go to one of these cities and represent them as well. You know, I don't use the word win-win very often, but it's truly a win-win.

Commissioner Townsend said since I have the mic, I want to say greetings to the Mayors of Bonner Springs and Edwardsville and to say that your presentations for me was helpful to get me thinking about the other part of the county. We are unifying government, not promising anything, but I appreciate the presentation. I'm going to tell the truth now, but I appreciate that because it starts thinking that's where everything goes, but to your initiative tonight, I like it because it addresses so many things. One, you're moving forward to shorten the gap of those spots that have been authorized and what you can feel. Now, long-term, as you said, there's just a difference in pay between the Sheriff and the Police Department and that's another issue, but what I like about this initiative is that it's not on its face a lot of money for it and what you're doing with this program is you've laid out, even though you're looking long-term, you're taking high school kids and putting them in a position to be productive, to get more life and career skills, to make them more economically independent at an earlier age. Those are all immediate positive benefits whether they decide ultimately to go with the Sheriff's Department or not. I know you want them to, but the exposure that this project initiative could have I think is invaluable short-term, long-term.

You also mentioned that you would be getting them at a point in their life where they may be more prone to get into situations that will eliminate them further down the road when they get out of high school from getting into productive career paths whether it's in law enforcement or not. There's so many things that young kids don't realize that they are taking themselves out of the running for because they can't see that future, so those are really positive benefits of this program. I would look to support it at this level that you talked about, so thank you and thank you for the plug for the park with pool splash as well.

One last thing to Commissioner Johnson's point, I was thinking about this, I've been here since 2013 and watching the classes come through the Sheriff's Department. They have been the

most gender diverse, most racially diverse above the other classes in our Police and Fire. They just have been and so, again, I applaud that in this effort to train kids early. Hopefully, they'll go with you, but the training they have will last beyond wherever they go.

Commissioner Markley said I do support the Cadet Program. I think that's a great innovative way to deal with some of the staffing issues that we have. I also know County Administrator Harrison-Lee is looking at a larger salary study to deal with inequities, but I do think it's going to be important for us, there's no way we're funding—we can do that study, but there's no way we're funding all the changes in one year so we've got to be looking at what are the priorities, getting those amounts back and figuring out what departments are going to prioritize. I definitely think the inequity here is one of those departments we should be prioritizing, so those words of support.

One last thing, just speaking of high schools, I have to say I always feel a little moment of pride with this group in this room because two of our fabulous presenters tonight and one presenter spouse are all from Turner High School, class of 2000. It's always special for me to see us all here together doing awesome things for the county, so thanks guy for being here.

Mayor Garner said thank you, Sheriff. I just want to say I was a cadet, the previous Sheriff, Sheriff Don Ash was a cadet as well. He's one of the first cadets. There is a lot of value in it. Several of our Police Chiefs from cadets as well as individuals on the KCKPD rose to command ranks and others went on to be Chiefs of other large organizations and so there is value catching our young folks while they're in high school. I was actually recruited and hired while I was in high school and went to work right after high school as a Police Cadet and it does add value to our young folks. It does keep them on a good track and gives them an opportunity to at least get a career where they can be productive and really give back to our community, so I too support the Cadet Program and, hopefully, we can take a hard look at that and move that initiative forward. So, thank you Sheriff.

Mayor Garner said next we have our Urban Planning & Zoning Department Director Gunnar Hand. In the interest of time, he's going to give a condensed and really brief presentation. Hopefully enough time to answer questions. We are going to have to have a hard stop at exactly 6:55 so we can prepare for our regular commission meeting.

Presentation to Board of Commissioners

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Gunnar Hand, Director of Planning & Zoning, said to abbreviate our three presentations we're going to go ahead and skip straight to goDotte, the county-wide Mobility Strategy. Today we have with us the Project Manager for Kimley-Horn, Anthony Gallo. It's important that we review the goDotte Plan. goDotte will include the other two plans that were on the agenda tonight, the NE Kansas City, Kansas Heritage Trail as well as the Merriam Connected Corridor Plan, as well as all the other corridor plans and other elements, transportation elements of our area plans. Including the transportation plans for the cities of Bonner Springs, Edwardsville, and city of Lake Quivira all encapsulated into goDotte, so we do have all three consultants with us today so if anybody does have any questions after the presentation for the Heritage Trail or Merriam Corridor, they can approach the podium and answer those as well. Without further ado, in a timely fashion, I'll pass it off to Mr. Gallo.



Introduction and Purpose



What is a "strategic mobility plan"?



Why are we doing this, and what do we hope to achieve?

Anthony Gallo, Project Manager for Kimley-Horn, said thank you for having us tonight. I'm going to talk about goDotte, the Strategic Mobility Plan for the county. It is a countywide plan including the cities of Bonner Springs, Edwardsville, and Lake Quivira. Really quick I'll get into what a Strategic Mobility Plan is, why we're doing this, what are we trying to get out of this.

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What is goDotte? What are we trying to achieve?

- Countywide shared future vision for transportation (+ land use / economic development)
- Coordinated strategy and paradigm shift
- Single, unified location to find transportation policy and system plans



WYANDOTTE COUNTY Strategic Mobility Plan

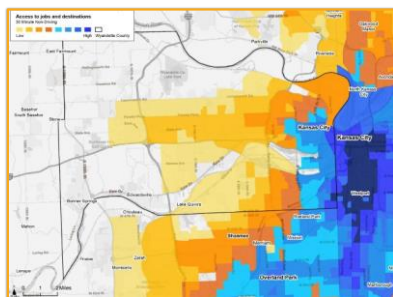
Again, it's a countywide transportation division looking forward to the Citywide Master Plan which will be underway shortly, integrating land use and economic development. As I mentioned, it's a coordinated strategy working across departments at the UG, Public Works, Economic Development, Public Health, and then working across jurisdictional lines as well working with the cities of Bonner Springs, Edwardsville, Lake Quivira. It consolidates all previous planning efforts in the county into a single unified location. That's one of the main reasons for doing this plan. I'll get into that in a minute. So, moving forward just for ease of use, and then it provides a unified strategy that has been coordinated across these groups.



Our plan, obviously, it's looking backwards. First it looks at the current state of mobility in the county, how transportation in the county facilitates access to jobs and destinations and the previous work that's been done in this area and then it looks to what challenges and opportunities exist so we can move forward to developing a strategy that we can then measure future goals against.

Foundations Summary

- Regional context
- Our people
- Our mobility
 - Access to opportunity
 - Excess capacity
- Public and stakeholder engagement



I don't need to elaborate too much on foundations. We have a report that's been on our website. I know that Director Hand had presented to several groups around the county previously, but providing some background on the county as it compares to the Kansas City region as a whole. Obviously, we're aware that the county is much more diverse, median household incomes are lower than the rest of the region. There are a lot of barriers, both natural and man-made, within the county that really impact transportation and mobility.

A few stats that I think are pretty critical that really informed our strategy in the plan, 5,500 households in the county that don't have access to an automobile, 4,000 crashes a year including over 50 here involving bicycles and pedestrians, around 15 bike and ped deaths since 2016. Most bus service in the county is running on 60 minute headways or greater meaning that a bus comes an hour or even less frequent than that.

All of this gets to a metric that we've quantified called access to opportunity what is the number of jobs and destinations like schools, healthcare, grocery stores, parks that I can get to in half an hour, in a reasonable time from where I live. We've looked at that metric without a car. So, if you don't own a car, this heat map that you're looking at on the screen, is a measure of how far—how many jobs and opportunities you can get to in half an hour from where you live and Wyandotte County, that value is pretty low except for the far easternmost parts of the county. Now this is a measure that looks at both transportation and land use. There needs to be jobs and destinations that you can get to, but it really gets at the transportation supply in the county. If you want to take the bus, oftentimes there isn't a sidewalk to get you to the bus. We have a lot of roads in the county that are unsafe to bike on, unsafe to walk on, there's no sidewalk and then, obviously, there's large areas in the county that aren't served by transit service.

Another element that came up that we thought was very unique to Wyandotte County is this notion of excess capacity. Essentially, there are a lot of overbuilt roadways in the county. There are a lot of roadways in Wyandotte County that were built to handle many more cars a day than they currently do. This is a problem when it comes to maintenance. This is a problem when it comes to safety. It facilitates high speeds making it unsafe for other modes of travel and oftentimes there isn't a sidewalk.

This is something that's pretty unique. I mean we are in a major U.S. metro area, we're right around the street from downtown KCMO and you've got all these big open roadways. That's pretty unique honestly and represents an opportunity.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement

- Public survey and in-person pop-up outreach
- Website
- Agency Interviews
- Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC)
- Mobility Summit
- Independent Cities
- KDOT coordination
- UG intra-departmental collaboration



WYANDOTTE COUNTY Strategic Mobility Plan

As part of this plan we did have an extensive and stakeholder engagement process which was obviously unique as we started in early 2021, online survey, in-person events, a lot of coordination both internally within the county. This was an effort to build capacity across departments; Public Works, Public Health, Economic Development and others. We had a Stakeholders Advisory Committee that was comprised of movers and shakers essentially from around the county, interviews with agencies within the county; Bonner Springs, Edwardsville, Lake Quivira. We had listening sessions with them, KDOT, bordering agencies; KCMO, cities in Johnson County. We had an in-person mobility summit event this past March. It was our first in-person event. It brought together a lot of folks from around the community. Mayor Garner spoke at it that led to a lot of identifying challenges and opportunities and, again, all this getting at capacity building and interdepartmental collaboration within the UG and then with our partner, our neighboring cities that are part of Wyandotte County.

Connection to Previous Plans



I mentioned previous plans. Again, we're not reinventing the wheel here with goDotte. We're consolidating previous plans including two plans that are represented here tonight, the Northeast KCK, Heritage Trail Plan, and the Merriam-Connected Corridor Plan. We're bringing together efforts that have been going on for the past 10 years and beyond at a regional level, regional transit planning efforts, greenway planning efforts, independent city plans. There's been a lot of work done both in Bonner Springs and Edwardsville with their comprehensive planning and their sidewalk and trail planning. Individual corridor plans, various area plans. Armourdale and Central were two of the most recent ones here and, of course, the county's Complete Streets ordinance which was adopted in 2020 that directs design of our streets moving forward to accommodate all users in all modes.

So, again, goDotte has consolidated locations for all of these plans, adopts all of them by reference and for ease of future use, bringing them all together.



Our strategy and high level vision, five big ideas that are the roots of all of our recommendations. Nothing that I'm going to say in the next few minutes is really—I don't call it not groundbreaking,

but it's really meant to just be quick big ideas to take home that all of our recommendations center around.

1) Safety First



Number one, Safety First. I mentioned the number of crashes and deaths in the county from automobile crashes. We think this is unacceptable. We're going to move toward ways to mitigate that. Vision Zero is the idea that we want to eliminate traffic fatalities and injuries and provide safe, healthy and equitable mobility for all. So, one of the first recommendations out of this is the Federal Infrastructure Bill has a ton of money lined up for creating action plans that identify specific locations in the county for implementing safety improvements. The UG is uniquely well positioned to receive some of that funding and that's sort of priority number one, is an action item coming out of this plan.

2) Street Design 101



So, that moves into Street Design 101. Let's design our streets to be safer. Let's design our streets for all modes, all users. Again, this plan is essentially the implementation of the Complete Streets ordinance that was passed here by the UG in 2020 and Bonner Springs has their own that was

passed in 2017. Designing our streets to actually be conduits for building community wealth rather than conduits for moving cars.

As part of this plan we are providing an update to the county's roadway classifications and then providing street design typologies for different—not just different roadway types, arterial versus collector, but also different areas of the county.

3) Next-Level Transit



Next-Level Transit; encouraging the county to take the next leap in terms of investments in transit. Right now I mentioned, you know, it's service is mainly coverage based whether that's the fixed routes or the Tiblow Transit Service provided by Bonner Springs in the western part of the county or the Micro Transit Service that's provided in the Kansas Avenue area. In particular, focusing on the State Avenue, 7th & Rainbow corridors. That shouldn't be too surprising. Those are the two corridors that are targeted for infill density and that are mentioned in the KCATA Regional Smart Moves Plan that calls for fast and frequent service of 15 minutes or less along these corridors. So looking to take the next level of investment of transit along those corridors. State Avenue, in particular, was identified as the bi-state sustainable reinvestment corridor, Representative Cleaver, and then Rainbow Avenue & 7th being sort of the main street between the densest areas of the county.

4) Prioritize Connections



Then, you know, if we are prioritizing investing in transit, you need to be able to get to transit. Those connections, those first and last mile connections, so the goDotte Plan is also providing an update to the now 10-year old Sidewalk & Trails Master Plan within the county much of which remains unbuilt. Obviously, we're aware in the western half of the county and sort of midtown area, you have a lot of areas with missing sidewalks based on the time when those communities were developed in the eastern part of the county. There are a lot of sidewalks and streets that are deteriorated, so moving forward and looking at a vision of how do we invest and how do we prioritize sidewalk, trail and bikeway investments in the county.

We do want to call out specific—we're (inaudible) transformational trail opportunities to spur community investment. So the Northeast KCK Heritage Trail, that plan was also scheduled to be presented tonight and you all have those materials. The Turkey Creek Trail along I-35 along Turkey Creek connecting to Rosedale and to KCMO and Johnson County. The Kansas River Levee Trails and then connections to the west along K-32 into Bonner Springs and Edwardsville. These are all coming from previous planning efforts. These are priorities from the Northeast KCK Plan, the Merriam Plan. In the case of Bonner Springs and Edwardsville, there have been several planning efforts on their parts that have wanted to see a greenway trail that either parallels the river, parallels K-32, so we see these transformational trail connections as key investments.

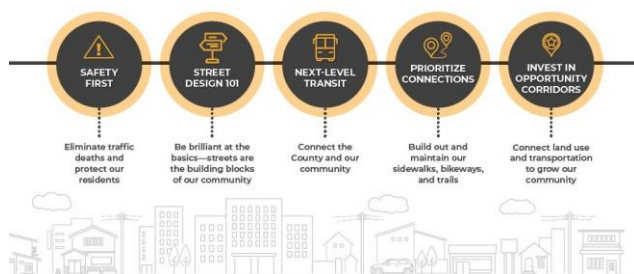
5) Invest in Opportunity Corridors



Finally, a segue into the Citywide Master Plan that's going to be coming later this year that's going to go beyond transportation into land use, economic development, so concentrating transportation investments along what we're pointing opportunity corridors, corridors that are best positioned to showcase growth in a sustainable way for the community. So, again, State Avenue, 7th Street, we're aligning with our proposed transit investments, the Northeast KCK Heritage Trail, and K-32 & Kansas Avenue going out to Bonner Springs and Edwardsville.

We also have identified other opportunity corridors reimagination and revisiting, in particular, K-7 & 18th Street. Those would require further coordination with KDOT.

But, again, one of the key messages we would take away from this plan is the idea of investing versus spending, transportation as a community asset that we want to invest in to spur further investment within the community.



WYANDOTTE COUNTY Strategic Mobility Plan

Again, five big ideas that are the centerpiece of the goDotte strategy. Safety First, Street Design 101, taking transit to the next level, prioritizing those bicycle and pedestrian connections to transit, and then investing in opportunity corridors.



So, what comes out of this I would call the meteor elements of the plan. The Implementation and Action Plan.

Implementation and Action Plan

- Sidewalks / Trails / Bikeways Master Plan update
- Streets Master Plan update / street typologies
- Policy modernization
- Action plan matrix
- Funding / future opportunities
- Segue to Citywide Master Plan
- Lasting process for Wyandotte County



WYANDOTTE COUNTY Strategic Mobility Plan

Again, I mentioned goDotte is going to provide an update to the Sidewalks/Bikeways/Trails Master Plan. That includes the sidewalks, trails, and bikeways planned in Bonner Springs and Edwardsville as well as an update to the Streets Master Plan, the classification of streets throughout the county to follow the American Public Works Association Standards and recommended cross sections for streets that vary across the county. Recommendations related to policy, policy as it relates to transportation and mobility looking for opportunities to modernize policy there. Certainly the Complete Streets ordinance is a huge step in that direction. All this culminates in a set of itemized action plan items that are targeted towards future funding opportunities, most notably the Federal Infrastructure Bill, also opportunities within the state of Kansas and from MARC. But, I mean Wyandotte County is pretty uniquely positioned towards infrastructure bill funding, especially that cross-jurisdictional partnership with neighboring jurisdictions, most notably including Bonner Springs and Edwardsville.

We want to leave goDotte as not just, you know, another plan that goes on the shelf, but as a lasting process for Wyandotte County to invest in transportation, invest in our community. Streets are the building block of public wealth and use that to spur future growth.

Next Steps

- Incorporate comments from Board, Planning Commission, and UG staff
- Adopt plan next month
- Citywide Master Plan
- Implementing mobility strategy one investment at a time!



WYANDOTTE COUNTY Strategic Mobility Plan

Next steps from you all, we provided a draft plan. Obviously, it was in the packet for tonight. Director Hand sent that out, so incorporating comments from you all from the Planning Commission, from UG staff, from stakeholders including Bonner Springs and Edwardsville, various agencies we've been coordinating with aiming to adopt the plan next month. It's essentially going to serve as the transportation element to the Citywide Master Plan and then move forward with implementing our mobility strategy in incremental ways, one investment as a time. Thank you all.

Thank you!



Mayor Garner said thank you. Any questions?

Commissioner Townsend said improvements in our infrastructure have been identified over and over by majority of the public as a priority. How would, and I saw you mention the streets and

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sidewalks, how would that tie into what the Commission may do in terms of funding or prioritizing or how we take into this plan as we look to better our streets situation?

Mr. Hand said we believe that this complements and guides the maintenance efforts by Public Works and others as reflected in the CMIP. We've worked closely with the Infrastructure Committee, we presented to the Infrastructure Committee, we've been working with the staff that supports the Infrastructure Committee. So, we see that by focusing on—we see them as complementary so the maintenance budget can help implement the strategy of the long-range investments.

I would also point out that part of the reason and the analysis that we did in determining those investments corridors, which primarily will be focused on future grant funding, also took into account all the existing roadway conditions. For instance, we just did a lot of work on Leavenworth Road section, right, but we didn't go past 635 to do Quindaro, which is why it was noted as one of the priority corridors, Northeast KCK Heritage Trail as well as Quindaro Blvd.

At your last hearing during the audit, at least what I heard loud and clear, as your planner, was that we need to update and follow through with our master plans. This represents a comprehensive strategy, a vision strategy and implementation actions for you tonight that we've been working on for the last year, so this is that.

Mr. Hand said, Mayor, if I may, I would just like to recognize the consultants that are here today. We have Jeremy Stretz with Olson who is the Project Manager for the Merriam Connected Corridor Plan. Adam Rosa who flew in from Chicago this evening to present the Northeast KCK Heritage Trail, as well as our partners in the Northeast KCK Heritage Trail planning process, Rachel Jefferson with Groundworks Energy who are also here tonight.

Mayor Garner said thank you for your presentation.

Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ramirez, to adjourn the meeting. Roll call was taken and there were seven "Ayes," Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Stites, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan.

MAYOR GARNER ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 7:00 p.m.

Monica L. Sparks
Acting Unified Government Clerk

dt

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