

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

SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in a Special Meeting, Thursday, January 12, 2023, with eleven 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; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO, presiding. The following officials were also in attendance: Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Interim County Administrator; Bridgette Cobbins, Assistant County Administrator; Misty Brown, Chief Legal Counsel; Brett Deichler, Unified Government Clerk; Monica Sparks, Deputy Unified Government Clerk; Meaghan Shultz, Municipal Court Administrative Judge; Dominic Geniuk, Municipal Court Administrator; Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works; and Alley Porter, Commission Liaison.

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 any 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 Office.

MAYOR GARNER called the meeting to order.

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

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be conducted in a hybrid format on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. regarding the selection process and appointment of a Municipal Court Judge.

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 the item on the Mayor's Agenda tonight for this Special Meeting is the Municipal Judge Selection process and resolution. It's also an appointment of a Municipal Court Judge as well. As the Clerk announced, we are here tonight to determine, under the Mayor's Agenda, a resolution to appoint the Division 2 Municipal Court Judge to fill the remainder of a four-year term which began on October 1, 2020, that runs through September 30, 2024.

The final three candidates for this position are here this evening for their interview and this Commission will be interviewees. The Judicial Nominating Commission provided three questions that will be presented to each candidate. Upon conclusion of all the candidates responses, each commissioner will be provided with a ballot. Our Chief Counsel, Misty Brown, will instruct the Commission regarding the procedures for completing those ballots.

At this time I will turn the item over to our Chief Legal Counsel, Ms. Brown, for comments and she can take the meeting from here.

Misty Brown, Chief Counsel, said the Mayor has done a good job of explaining why we're here today, but for a recap for those who may be watching, a vacancy occurred in Division 2 of the Municipal Court Judge position when Judge Shultz was appointed the Administrative Judge. When that vacancy occurred, Mayor Garner formed a Judicial Nominating Committee which was chaired by Commissioner Townsend and also contained Commissioner Bynum and Commissioner Davis. Those commissioners instructed that the position be posted, received applications, reviewed the applications, and conducted interviews of folks that had applied for it.

Pursuant to Unified Government ordinance, three candidates have been advanced tonight to interview in front of the Commission. Those three candidates are Maurice Brewer, Marcus McLaughlin, and Karen Wittman and they are here today to conduct their interview in front of the Commission. Each candidate will be given time to give a brief introduction and then answer three questions that will be posed by Commissioner Townsend.

As the Mayor stated, ballots have been passed out and when the interviews have been completed, I will provide additional instructions on how to utilize the ballots, which I would remind everyone are an open record. With that, I will turn this over to Commissioner Townsend and note that Mr. Brewer is already in here and ready to begin his interview.

Commissioner Townsend said before getting into that, I just wanted to thank the Mayor for allowing me to serve as Chair of the Judicial Nominating Committee and to serve along with Commissioner Bynum and Commissioner Davis to provide the slate of very qualified judicial candidates.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge the efforts of our Chief Counsel and Legal staff for their procedural involvement during this process and I would like to thank our Personnel Department. Over a period of late December 2022, maybe even November, the posting of this position was publicly made to majority and minority press, majority and minority bar organization so that we might get the broadest possible pool of qualified and diverse candidates and we believe we will present the results of that tonight. There were 10 applications from that. Four persons were interviewed and as a result of those interviews, we're presenting the three that you will see tonight.

Thank you, Mr. Brewer, for appearing. We are going to give each candidate two minutes to do a brief introduction, if they care to, before we process on to the three questions.

Maurice Brewer said thank you commissioners for having me this evening. I've lived in Kansas City my entire life. I grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, but I came to Wyandotte County, specifically to Kansas City, Kansas, when I joined the Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office. My wife and I bought a home near Wyandotte High School and have enjoyed living in the community ever since. I'm in my ninth year of practice now. I initially, after graduating from law school, worked as a Missouri Public Defender in south central Missouri in a place called West Plains. Then, I came back to the Kansas City area where I worked at the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office for about a year and a half before joining the Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office where I worked for three years. Since that time I've been in private practice. First I worked for a small practice and then I opened my own practice about a year ago. My office is actually located at 8th & Armstrong. I do primarily criminal defense work, but I've also worked

in the area of family law, estate planning, and I've had some exposure actually to the Kansas City, Kansas Municipal Court. I have done some work with the Public Defender there before and I think the contract may have changed, but I have done some work as a Public Defender there. I've also worked doing some Pro Tem Prosecutor work in Gardner, Kansas Municipal Court and also in Merriam's Municipal Court.

Commissioner Townsend said thank you Mr. Brewer. We'll start with the three questions.

Question No. 1 – Please explain from your perspective what the term equal access to justice means. Explain how you would seek as a Municipal Court Judge in Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas to apply that equality of access to the populations of diverse cultures, diverse educational and diverse income levels who will appear before you.

Mr. Brewer said I think one of those is actually making sure that people feel heard no matter whether or not they're there Pro Se or whether they have an attorney there. I know if you appear in court and you're Pro Se, you may feel as if you're at a disadvantage because you don't have an attorney. That's also—especially here in Wyandotte County because there's so many people that English may not be their first language, we have a lot of folks that are immigrants here. It's important to make sure that the court knows whether or not that person is having trouble understanding and making sure that they have access to an interpreter to make sure that when they're making decisions as far as whether or not, especially in a criminal setting, if they're going to accept a plea offer or if they are going to set their case for trial, that they actually know what their options are. That they fully understand the evidence that's coming in so that they can respond appropriately and make competent choices. Also, just making sure that when people come into the courtroom from all different backgrounds, they're treated with respect. Treat everyone equally. It doesn't matter where they're at economically, it doesn't matter whether they have a physical disability. The role of judge is to make sure that each one of them are treated fairly.

Question No. 2 – Do you believe the current processes of our Wyandotte County KCK Municipal Court serve all members of our community adequately. Please explain the reasons for your yes or no answer.

Mr. Brewer said I would say yes; however, there's always room for improvement. I think with how—especially in light of COVID, I think that all courts have realized that there are processes that can be done more efficiently. During COVID a lot of courts moved to zoom dockets or things of that nature. They found just more efficient ways and processes as far as maintaining dockets as far as increasing the likelihood that people can appear with those zoom dockets. If people are having transportation issues, getting to court they oftentimes—almost everyone nowadays have smartphones or laptops or can get access to a smartphone and having those technologies and using them in the courtroom actually increases people coming to court, decreases the amount of potential bench warrants that are going to be issued because people are having trouble coming to court. Also, making sure that courts have the ability to let people pay online and making it easier for people to make their payments if they are assessed fines or court costs or things of that nature. Also, help things run more efficiently so that they don't have to actually physically come in and things of that nature.

Question No. 3 – As a Municipal Court Judge, please explain how you would endeavor to make all persons who come before you feel they have received a fair and full hearing of their matter whether your decision from the bench favored them or not.

Mr. Brewer said I think part of that is just making sure that when you're addressing a person that you address them with respect that is due to any human being. There's ways to convey a message that, you know, this ruling is not going in your favor, but making sure that they don't feel like the court is necessarily personally attacking them because you found them guilty or maybe you found you're revoking their probation. That is not a value judgment necessarily on them, the person, because oftentimes when someone's involved in the court system it might be also the worst day of their life and being mindful of that the effect that might have on them as a person. But at the same time you still have a job to do and so you're going to be giving them—someone in that courtroom is likely getting a verdict that they do not necessarily like, but there's making sure that during the process that if someone is trying to convey the point, that you don't necessarily cut them off, you allow them to complete their thought. Now, of course, you may still have to maintain decorum in the courtroom, but as long as they're talking respectfully, you hear them out on the point that they

are making. You allow them to make that point and a lot of times when people are in the courtroom they want to feel heard even if they know that it's not going in their favor.

I've had clients where they've made decisions, they come into court wanting to make a decision that may negatively affect them because they really want the judge to hear in the process that they also felt that they were wrong. So, sometimes that individual even if you end up giving them bad news, if they feel like they've been heard in the matter, they accept what the court does a lot easier. They understand that the court has a job to do in that case.

Commissioner Townsend said thank you Mr. Brewer for participating in the process here tonight and with your earlier interviews. Thank you very much. **Mr. Brewer** said thanks for having me.

Commissioner Townsend said good evening Mr. McLaughlin. Thank you for coming in today. We're giving each candidate two minutes to make a formal introduction to the body if you care to do so and that will be followed up with three questions that I will pose to you and you will have five minutes to answer those questions. So, if you care to make an opening statement, two minutes, please feel free to do so.

Marcus McLaughlin said good evening ladies and gentlemen. First of all I just want to state that it is truly an honor to be standing in front of you today. I am humbled and thankful at the consideration for becoming judge for the Municipal Court of Kansas City, Kansas. First off, I believe it's fitting for me to give thanks to God. He's walked with me through the good and the bad, the ups and the downs. Lord knows I'm not perfect, but he's shown me Grace which has allowed me to be in the position that I'm in today.

Briefly, my journey started roughly back in 1986. I was roughly eight years old and that's when my father, Nathaniel McLaughlin, loaded all of us into a little car. It was me, my brother, my sister and my mother and he drove us all the way from Winston-Salem, North Carolina to here in Kansas City, Kansas. We made that drive many times from KCK to North Carolina, so what I kind of am proud of I consider myself having humble country roots as well as the Wyandotte County upbringing. Now, education was key in our household as it was seen as a tool for achievement. I started my education here at Frank Rushton Elementary School, then I went to Rosedale Middle School, and then I graduated high school at Sumner Academy.

I stayed local. I didn't go that far. I went to the University of Kansas for undergrad and then I went to the University of Kansas for law school. My parents instilled in me the importance of public service. Yes, our careers are a big part of what we do and our accomplishments in our life, but to me service and that service to our community as well as its service to our fellow man. **Mr. Deichler** said sir, your two minutes have expired. **Mr. McLaughlin** said I'm sorry, okay, thank you.

Commissioner Townsend said we have three questions for you. You have five minutes to answer each question.

Question No. 1 - Please explain from your perspective what the term equal access to justice means. Explain how you would seek as a Municipal Court Judge in Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas to apply that equality of access to the populations of diverse cultures, diverse educational and diverse income levels who will appear before you.

Mr. McLaughlin said I believe equal access to justice is paramount and important in fulfilling the role as a judge. I think we need to think of the different levels as far as access to law, access to adequate representation. One of the things I think we need to be considerate of first of all is the financial burden that adequate representation costs. I've been doing this for a while and I know that having a good lawyer isn't cheap, so I think that one of the things that we need to consider is ensuring that each and every person who appears in front of the bench does receive adequate representation and it doesn't break them financially. I understand that there are—as far as people getting an appointed lawyer, and I do understand that, and I think we need to continue that, and I just think that we need to think of age, also income level, and also the mental capacity of receiving adequate representation.

Question No. 2 – Do you believe the current processes of our Wyandotte County KCK Municipal Court serve all members of our community adequately. Please explain the reasons for your yes or no answer.

Mr. McLaughlin said currently, unfortunately, I do not believe it serves everyone. Let me say that one of the reasons in my rationale is being licensed on both sides of the state, so I've probably been in every court in the metro area and some of the things as far as the process we first have to define who's coming in front. As far as the different areas of age, socioeconomic level, gender as well as mental capabilities, I think these are some of the things that we need to focus on. Can you give me again the second part of the question? I just want to make sure I get it straight.

Commissioner Townsend said certainly. I'll just repeat the whole question. Do you believe the current processes of our Wyandotte County KCK Municipal Court serve all members of our community adequately. The second part was, please explain the reasons for your yes or no answer.

Mr. McLaughlin said first of all as far as finances, again, we need to make sure that everyone that comes in front of the court has adequate representation and as we know many people in this community do suffer from a lack of resources. Some of those resources are education, some of those resources are financial, and I think that we can do more to help uplift those who suffer from a lack of resources when they come in front of the court. I think secondly in just doing this as many years as I have, one thing that I think we sometimes let slip under the cracks is mental illness. So, first of all we need to look at some of the roots of the mental illness when people come even if it's for certain things like loitering, simple drug possession, criminal damage to property. A lot of times these things there is a root cause of that and I think a lot of times I see the root cause is mental illness. So, I think when we address certain people, we address certain infractions. We have to look at is mental illness a possibility as an underlying factor and I think if we attack that as far as the finances, the mental illness standpoint, we can stop folks from continuing to come in front of the court.

Question No. 3 – As a Municipal Court Judge, please explain how you would endeavor to make all persons who come before you feel they have received a fair and full hearing of their matter whether your decision from the bench favored them or not.

Mr. McLaughlin said I think when people come in front of the court one of the key things that you have to do is you have to make sure that people have an understanding of why they are there in the first place. It's not some type of rotation where they're in and out. They come in, slap them

on the hand, we given them a fine and they're out of there because what's going to end up happening is they're going to be recidivists and they're going to come right back in front of you for the same matter. I think one thing that you have to do is say Mr. or Ms. this is the reason why you're in the court today and these are some of the facts that led you being there today. Also, whatever justice would ever find, whatever jail time is handed out, I think the people need to understand the how's and they need to understand the why. I'm not here as, you know, I wouldn't be there as a judge to just truly dull out punishment. I'm not there just—I know some people believe this, to hand out infractions to buffer the coffers of the county.

We are and we represent part of the fabric of justice. Without that, everything else would crumble, so the people need to understand that when you do give them a certain punishment whether it's financial or whether it's a loss of freedom, they need to understand from start to beginning the rationales of why they're there and I would hope when they left and they would leave the courtroom, they will understand that it's nothing personal, it has nothing to do with your sex, your age, your race. To me justice is blind. You understand that the reason you're there is because of that particular infraction and I would hope that you would understand that whatever punishment is doled out would be just and it would be fair.

Commissioner Townsend said thank you very much Mr. McLaughlin. **Mr. McLaughlin** said thank you.

Commissioner Townsend said good evening Ms. Wittman. Thank you for coming and continuing this process with us and now before the whole board. Each candidate is being allowed two minutes to address the full board and share their background and feel free to do so. Then, we will have three questions and you will have five minutes to answer those questions.

Karen Wittman said I have a degree in forensic science with a minor in chemistry from the University of Central Florida in Orlando. After I graduated undergrad I became a forensic chemist and I worked in a crime lab for six years prior to going to law school. I decided to go to law school at Washburn, at University of Washburn University. I graduated and passed the bar in 1991. I've been a prosecutor pretty much my entire career. I had a few other things during that time, but mostly as a prosecutor. I was the first ever Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor for the State of

Kansas. That job was through the Attorney General's Office and through KDOT through a federal grant. During that time as a Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor I answered questions throughout the state on DUI Law and Traffic Law. I trained law enforcement and prosecutors. I was lucky enough to win the People Saving People Award in 2016 from KDOT and I also won a National Award from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for public service.

During all that time, 16 years, I was a Municipal Judge in Silver Lake, Kansas, which is just outside of Topeka. The only reason I left that position is that I ran for District Attorney in Shawnee County. I did not win, but I was lucky enough that Mark Dupree hired me as one of his deputies. All during that time for the last 18 years, I have published a DUI Law Book that is online that everybody uses. I'm considered an expert in DUI Law and Traffic Law and—**Mr. Deichler** said ma'am, your time has expired. **Ms. Wittman** said thank you.

Commissioner Townsend said thank you Ms. Wittman. You will have five minutes to respond to each of these three questions.

Question No. 1 - Please explain from your perspective what the term equal access to justice means. Explain how you would seek as a Municipal Court Judge in Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas to apply that equality of access to the populations of diverse cultures, diverse educational and diverse income levels who will appear before you.

Ms. Wittman said as a Deputy District Attorney I have always been of the opinion that my job is to treat everyone exactly the same. It doesn't matter if you're the bank president or you're somebody that just got out of jail, but when you present yourself with whatever case that I treat you in the same manner I would treat anybody and I feel that the judge should do exactly that same thing. I deal with individuals, especially on traffic dockets, that come in that I know have low income, trouble getting jobs, and that kind of thing and what I try to do is—all I'm looking for is changing their behavior. If they are a bad driver, I want them to stop being a bad driver and if that means some monetary fine, etc., then that's what's going to have to happen, but what most of the time is my opportunity to explain to them why—what they're doing is a bad idea and how it risks the rest of us.

I know that when—in the DA’s Office there was inequity when we first got into office, when Mr. Dupree got into office, that each different Assistant District Attorney would give different deals on different things and I felt that was wrong. I said we’ve got to train everybody that no matter what Assistant District Attorney you get, you get the same deal because I feel that’s one way of being fair to everybody no matter what socioeconomic level they are. As I dealt with people on the traffic docket, I wanted them to get their license back or get the registration and if it meant not assessing a fine, but go get—go show me that you’ve got insurance or go do your best to get your license and I gave them help on how to do that. Then, I wouldn’t assess or ask for a fine. I would get—I want them to use that money to get what they need to become legal in our community.

In terms of that, I think I’ve been living that my entire career as an Assistant District Attorney to give equal access to anybody that comes into the court.

Commissioner Townsend said thank you for that response.

Question No. 2 – Do you believe the current processes of our Wyandotte County KCK Municipal Court serve all members of our community adequately. Please explain the reasons for your yes or no answer.

Ms. Wittman said I know that the Municipal Court right now does have a Public Defender, so everybody has access to an attorney when they’re dealing with whatever issues they’re dealing with. I think it would be helpful if they had—maybe if you had more than one Public Defender because there’s a lot of cases that are going through that court and everybody should have access. I know Dwight Alexander is the Public Defender and I know he does a great job, but you know there is only so much time in the day for him to deal with that. I think it would be best if there was at least one more or at least a backup to help him deal with those types of cases.

I personally think, too, that there is a lot of warrants out there. There’s people that have four or five. You know I look on the jail screen and they’ve got lots and lots of warrants. They get picked up for something else, but they’ve got a lot of warrants here. I think it would be great if there was an opportunity for them to come and deal with those warrants on their own time and not in a situation where they’re sitting in jail.

I mentioned in my interview of an Amnesty Day or something like that where they could come in and be assured that they would not be arrested, but that they would be able to take care of their matters. I know they do that in Topeka, Kansas. It has worked very, very well and it gets people back square. They're not looking over or running from law enforcement because they know they have these warrants, that they can come in and take care of them on their own time. I think that would help with the flow of cases in the court. It would require the judges to be more available at different times as opposed to just special dockets, but I think that way it could open the door toward the court system so that everybody would have access and nobody be afraid to come and take care of their matters.

Commissioner Townsend said thank you.

Question No. 3 – As a Municipal Court Judge, please explain how you would endeavor to make all persons who come before you feel they have received a fair and full hearing of their matter whether your decision from the bench favored them or not.

Ms. Wittman said again I go back to my traffic dockets. People come in, I see what their charges are, I have a conversation with them, I talk to them, explain what their situation is, how they can maybe get themselves out of their situation. For example, if they have a drive while suspended, I'll ask them why are they suspended, how can they fix it, do they know how to fix it, and if they don't, sometimes I give them some guidance on how to fix it. But eventually it may just come down to well here are your options and I give them options of you're going to have to plea to this or when, you know, I can dismiss this, etc., but I always treated them with respect. I wanted to make sure they understood what rules and laws—that how this was going to affect their driving history and what it was going to do to their license if it was going to suspend them or not, but in the big scheme of things just treating everybody with respect, making sure they understand what was going on, what they're getting themselves into if they wish to plea or they have a right to a trial.

I made it a rule over at the DA's Office, there's three ways to handle this thing. You have an absolute right to a trial. If you want one, we'll get you one. Number two, if you pay this ticket outright or number three, you can go to diversion. We have a diversion program. Everybody

gets those same options and they're explained to them. I don't think I've ever had, looking back at my 16 years even in Silver Lake, did I have anybody feel that they were mistreated. They might not have liked my verdict, but they understood because I explained why I came to that verdict. I think that's the biggest thing a judge needs to do is have a participant understand the process, understand their options, and whatever the verdict is how they can appeal because, obviously, they can appeal that verdict and sometimes even give them time to pay it or rectify whatever the problem is, say code enforcement or something of that nature.

Commissioner Townsend said thank you Ms. Wittman. That concludes the three questions. We appreciate your participation in this process. **Ms. Wittman** said thank you very much. It was a pleasure.

Ms. Brown said, commissioners, that concludes the interviews today. You have in front of you a ballot with all three candidates names listed in alphabetical order. If you could please rank the candidates, one being the best, two the middle, and third and then sign your name to it. We will collect that. The Clerk and I will review the ballots and if there is one candidate with six first place rankings, the Mayor will be notified and that candidate's name will be included in a resolution appointing them to the position.

Mayor Garner said I just ask that the commissioners—this is a follow-up note to the Chief Counsel. If you would return those ballots to the Chief Counsel and the Chief Counsel will tabulate the final votes and she will announce a successful candidate. I ask that the Clerk also witness that tabulation as well.

Mayor Gardner said I believe that we do have a successful candidate from the tabulation. The Clerk has told me that count has been verified by him and so I will ask the Clerk to make that announcement.

Mr. Deichler said after looking at the totals, Karen Wittman has gained six votes. There will be a resolution now to pass that being at six, which is a vote to move forward.

Mayor Garner said I will now entertain a motion for approval for resolution appointing Karen Wittman, I believe is the name, as a Municipal Court Judge, Division 2, for the remainder of a four-year term which began October 1, 2020, and runs through September 30, 2024.

Action: Resolution No. R-2-23, “A resolution that the Board of Commissioners of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, hereby appoints Karen C. Wittman to the position of Municipal Court Judge, Division 2, for the remainder of the term of four years which began October 1, 2020, and runs through September 30, 2024.”
Commissioner Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Townsend, to approve the resolution.

Mayor Garner asked, is there any discussion at this point?

Commissioner Townsend said my light was to make the resolution, that’s been done, there’s a second. Again, I would like to thank all of the candidates who participated and our staff for getting this done and bringing forward what we believe to be quality individuals.

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

Mayor Garner said thank you and congratulations to Ms. Wittman.

Ms. Wittman said thank you, thank you. I appreciate it very much. I have to tell you, I’m glad it’s over. You know I applied to the Admin job a long time ago and I didn’t get it, but I was very appreciative of what happened back then to prepare me for this time. I so look forward to doing you all proud by representing Kansas City, Kansas. I really do and looking forward to it.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Townsend, to adjourn the meeting. Roll call was taken and there were ten “Ayes,” Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, McKiernan, Ramirez, Johnson, Kane, Markley, Stites, Davis.

**MAYOR GARNER ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 5:51 p.m.**

Brett Deichler
Unified Government Clerk

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January 12, 2023