

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

REGULAR SESSION
THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Regular Session Thursday, May 12, 2022, with nine members present via Zoom and/or onsite: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO, presiding. Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; and Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; were absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Interim County Administrator; Misty Brown, Chief Legal Counsel; Jeff Conway, Assistant Counsel; Bridgette Cobbins and Emerick Cross, Assistant County Administrators; Brett Deichler, Interim County Administrator; Tayler Wash, Organization Effectiveness Coordinator in County Administrator's Office; Becky Berger, Administrative Coordinator in County Administrator's Office; Rocki Mayes, Office Manager, County Administrator's Office; Andrea Vinyard, Deputy Treasurer; Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Officer; Ashley Hand, Director of Strategic Communication; Alley Porter, Communication Liaison; Juliann VanLiew, Director of Public Health Department; Wesley McKain, Manager, Health Department; Elizabeth Groenweghe, Chief Epidemiologist, Health Department; Monica Sparks, Acting UG Clerk; and Terri Kimble, UG Clerk's Office.

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

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

I will now call this meeting to order.

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

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

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

Monica Sparks, Acting UG Clerk, said yes, Mr. Mayor. We have a blue sheet that was issued adding three new items under the Mayor's Agenda and revising the Order of Business and also adding one item under the Administrator's Agenda.

MAYOR'S AGENDA

Item No. 1 – 211596...UPDATE: ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

Synopsis: Organizational update, submitted by Mayor Garner.

Mayor Garner said we have several items on the Mayor's Agenda this evening. I'll ask the Clerk to announce the order of business, and I believe that's been notated.

The first item is an organizational update. I'd like to formally let our Commission and our staff, and the great people of Wyandotte County know that our Interim County Administrator has approached me and she has noted that she will not be desiring to be included in a national search. She has also notified me that she recommends that I start a national search for an Administrator for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County expeditiously.

I can announce that I'll be working with our Administrator who has volunteered to help in this process as well as our Legal team. The hope is that we can have a thorough, transparent, and inclusive process that will start as soon as we can get things in order. I just wanted to let everybody know that I will be working with our commissioners to get their feedback as we put out this information on a national notice. Working with our commissioners in this regard is really important as well as getting feedback from the community. Again, I wanted to be thorough, inclusive, and transparent. We can expect that moving forward. That was the first announcement I wanted to make.

Action: **For information only.**

Item No. 2 – 211551...CODE REVIEW

Synopsis: Reading of specific sections of the Municipal Code and updates on commission retreat, submitted by the Mayor's Office.

Mayor Garner said I'll ask the Clerk to read this. This is in line with several members of the community who have asked me, several times, what the Unified Government—how the process works. When you talk about mayor, commissioner, administrator, and staff; what are our responsibilities and what are we obligated to by charter ordinance? This is really for the community; everybody knows and can have a better idea of how this Unified Government is structured and how it works. The review is really for our community. I'll ask the Clerk to read those duties as it applies to the administrator, the mayor, and the commissioners.

Monica Sparks, Acting UG Clerk, read the following:

Section 2-56. General Powers and Duties of the Commission.

- (a) All powers inherent in the county and city shall be vested in the commission except as the constitution and statutes of the State of Kansas, the Charter or the Charter ordinances and Charter resolutions, of the Unified Government may provide otherwise.
- (b) The Commission shall provide for the performance of all duties and obligations imposed upon the county and city by law. The commissioners shall have the power to adopt codes, ordinances, resolutions, and approve and adopt a budget. The Commission shall adopt such codes and rules and regulations as may be necessary for the establishment of proper authority and direction for the administration of the affairs of the Unified Government. The Commission shall set priorities for budget preparation and adopt the annual budget of the Unified Government.

Section 2-81. Powers and Authority.

The Chief Executive/Mayor shall:

- (1) Be the Chief Elective Officer of the Unified Government and shall officiate and preside at all official functions and events and serve as the governing officer for the Unified Government for purposes of military law;
- (2) Represent or designate a representative of the Unified Government at all meetings, conferences, and negotiations relating to policy matters involving other units of government and legislative bodies;
- (3) Receive the reports of the County Administrator;
- (4) Appoint and dismiss with the consent of the Unified Board of Commissioners, the County Administrator;

- (5) Appoint all members of all standing committees, except the chairperson, and appoint all members to serve on ad hoc committees created by the Unified Government and serve as an ex-officio member of all committees;
- (6) Recommend to the Unified Government all such actions and adoptions of ordinances, resolutions, rules, regulations, and policies as deemed necessary or expedient; provide leadership in the communication and interpretation of policy to the public; have all rights and privileges of any in-district and at-large commission member except as provided by law or by the Charter;
- (7) Have the authority to exercise a veto of legislative policies enacted by the Unified Government;
- (8) Be considered a member of the Commission and may vote as provided by law;
- (9) Provide leadership to the Unified Government in the development of long-range plans and policies and the development of priorities for actions and in planning for economic growth and stability of the Unified Government;
- (10) Recruit, screen, and evaluate appropriate candidates for County Administrator and conduct interviews with said candidates;
- (11) Call special meetings of the commission as deemed necessary and in such manner as may be required by rules of the Commission;
- (12) Prepare, at least annually, a written message to the Commission and citizens detailing such information as determined appropriate concerning the economic, physical, and social conditions and needs of the Unified Government;
- (13) Sign, if authorized by the Commission and if necessary, all contracts and other documents of the Unified Government; and
- (14) Appoint, supervise, direct, promote, transfer, assign, discipline, suspend, discharge, or remove with or without cause such appointive staff as the Commission may authorize to aid in the performance of the duties of the Mayor described herein and otherwise determined by action of the Commission and continue to maintain all appointive staff and positions authorized by the City Council of Kansas City, Kansas, in the budget approved in August 1997, for calendar year 1998.

The Mayor shall have in addition to all other powers granted by the Charter, the Commission and applicable state law.

Section 2-103. Powers and Duties of the County Administrator

The County Administrator shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the Unified Government and shall be responsible to the Commission for administration of all Unified Government affairs placed in his or her charge by or under the authority of the Commission. The County Administrator shall:

- (1) Be directly responsible for the daily functions of the Unified Government administration;
- (2) Organize the unified administration and direct and supervise the organizational structure of all offices and appointive officers and employees of the Unified Government except as otherwise provided by Kansas law;

- (3) Have the responsibility to execute the policies of the Unified Board of Commissioners through the functional divisions and departments of administration;
- (4) After appropriate consultation with the Commission prepare and submit a recommended annual budget including all revenue sources to the Commission for final adoption and be responsible for the administration of the budget after the effective date;
- (5) Report to, confer with, assist and advise the Mayor and make recommendations to the Commission on all matters concerning the welfare of the Unified Government;
- (6) Insure that all ordinances, resolutions, codes, regulations, rules, policies, directions, and actions of the Commission are faithfully enforced, administered, and executed;
- (7) Direct and supervise the administration of all appointive officers and employees of the Unified Government except as provided by Kansas law, attend all Commission meetings, have the right to take part in discussion, and attend all regular, special, and executive meetings except those in which the continued employment of the County Administrator is the business under consideration;
- (8) Assist the Mayor and Commission in the preparation of meeting agendas, ordinances, resolutions, rules, regulations, and policies and all such other matters as may be requested by the Commission;
- (9) Submit to the Commission and make available to the public periodic and annual reports of the financial administrative affairs of the Unified Government and keep the Commission advised of the financial conditions and needs of the Unified Government;
- (10) Prepare and submit to the Commission annually before July 15th, recommendations for a Capital Improvement and Financing Program for the Unified Government;
- (11) Appoint and dismiss employees designated as key division heads;
- (12) Prepare for adoption by the Commission a personnel classification and compensation system and policies relating to the selection, discipline, dismissal, and all other personnel-related matters applicable to all employees of the Unified Government;
- (13) Develop a compensation and qualification system for all personnel of the Unified Government which systematically and fairly compensates employees of the Unified Government and also identifies and selects individuals with a proper level of skills, abilities, and knowledge associated with each position that is required for the Unified Government and;
- (14) Sign all contracts, deeds, and other documents other than those authorized by the Commission to be signed by the Mayor or those which state or other law requires the signature of the Chief Executive/Mayor.

The County Administrator shall have all other powers and duties conferred upon the position by the Charter, Kansas law, actions of the Commission or that may be inherent in the administration of the Unified Government.

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

Action: **For information only.**

Item No. 3 – 211531...COMMUNITY INPUT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Synopsis: Public forum to allow citizens to express concerns and present solutions relating specifically and solely to the Unified Government's span of interest and control. Participants will be limited to two minutes in duration. Citizens appearing in the Municipal Office Building Commission Chambers will be given priority, followed by a limited number of participants who have registered online through the Unified Government Clerk's Office. Those who have registered online may not be given an immediate opportunity to participate due to time constraints to be determined by the Mayor/CEO. If time allows, persons listening online who wish to make comments will be recognized. All interested participants should know that Mayor/CEO Garner has also placed a maximum time limit of 45 minutes to host and conclude these discussions. In the interest of time, there should be no expectation for requested participants guaranteed inclusion to be recognized for comment and participation.

Mayor Garner said this a public forum to allow citizens to express concerns and present solutions relating specifically to the Unified Government span of interest and control. I've allotted no less than 45 minutes to host and conclude. Citizens appearing in the Chambers who have signed in to speak will be given priority followed by citizens registered online. Participants will be limited to two minutes in duration. I'll now ask the Clerk to announce those speakers.

Shirley Walton said I'm just going to run through some of my concerns real quick since I'm on a time limit. My first and number one concern, of course, as we all know, is the Parkwood Swimming Pool. I do have a little feedback on this so I'm aware of that. Also, about the markers in the streets. Even during the summer, considering we're an all-season state, during the summer and winter, during the rain, you are unable to see the markers in the streets, especially during the snow. The next thing I have is what are we doing about the homeless situation in Kansas? The next is, what is being done about the BPU taxes when we are being charged? Next, for the next school year, are we planning on bringing back the alternative schools, whether or not we're going to do that? Also, growing up on the north end, when I was growing up, we had police officers that

patrolled the neighborhood who were familiar with the people in the area. **Ms. Sparks** said one minute.

Ms. Walton said who were familiar with the people in the area, and I was wondering if there was some way you all could kind of go back to some of that systems, that way, you're familiar with the strangers that come in. You're familiar if something's going on with one of the residents, then you know hey, that's somebody from this area. Also, is there any way that we can be removed as a Unified Government and return to Wyandotte County? To me, for some reason, we keep coming up on the short end of the stick. I go through and I look at the other areas that are part of Unified Government, they are constantly building up. I mean, we don't even have uptown, downtown, or nothing else. So those are my things. Thank you.

Lisa Yeager said some things I wanted to say. I'm so sorry to hear that you're leaving us, Ms. Harrison. A lot of people don't know what you have done in the Kansas City, Missouri, area. I'm from the 18th, I'm from Wyandotte County but I have property in 18th and Vine Street district in a blighted neighborhood, that has been blighted for over 30 years. That is one of the most prominent areas, just like Wyandotte County, First District. I'm here to let you know as a citizen that I'm very hurt to the point I'm almost in tears that she's leaving because she brings so much to the table that you all don't even know. Not only does she bring to the table, she knows how to take away the blight and help the small businesses build without having the opportunity zones come in and allow them to be able to become opportunities... **Ms. Sparks** said one minute.

Ms. Yeager said with this, as a City Administrator, not only does it come with the fact of each new administrator, even Doug Bach, it comes with some type of two reasons—accountability, justice, and transparency. Our community needs transparency, because the First District doesn't look like way out south, or west, or whatever. You know exactly what I'm saying. The fact that not only does—each new administrator, they should be doing the audit. Why are you all in your seats for? You tell me why you're in your seats because our community is asking for an audit. We elected you. You work for us. **Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Ms. Yeager said we need you to have a voice for us. **Ms. Sparks** said, ma'am, your time has expired.

Carolyn Wyatt said I agree with her. You shouldn't be leaving. Finish that audit first then everything will work out. Anyway, the budget proposal that was brought forth by Ms. VonAchen, it's not the Mayor's proposal. The recommendations for review concerning the budget, if the commissioners object to the recommendation brought forth, the community would like to know where is your budget? Where's your budget? Where is your review for the Commission? This is for the commissioners. If you object to the ones in front of you, then you need to come up with something. You need to have something. The second thing is that the Park and Rec Director, Angel, she goes to the subcommittee. We know we got Commission on the subcommittee. She goes to the subcommittee for funds for the community centers for Parks and Recreation. She can't continue to be turned down. **Ms. Sparks** said one minute.

Ms. Wyatt said as she puts a proposal in front of them. What more important for our communities, recreation centers, and parks, but they want trails. They'll fund trails. That is not what we need, trails. Now if you're going to fix holes, things in the ground like that, you know, like potholes, that's different. But trails, we don't need trails. We need money for centers, for youth, for the seniors, that's where our money should be going. But these trails, I don't know who's over that, but that needs to be looked at and just set it to the side. That's basically what I wanted to say. I hope you change your mind.

Reginald Jones said I'd like to say good evening to everyone that's here. I'm not here to find fault in anyway whatsoever. Basically, I'm here to meet the needs of others in our community. That means I have to—sometimes you've got to be the eyes and you have to be their ears. I just want to let you know some of the things that I do. I've been here since 1963. I'm a retired carpenter, substitute teacher. I just got qualified to be a lifeguard. I'm a mentor in the middle schools and the high schools. I just want to let you know that I'm very visible in the community, but there's one thing that we all miss. We need to have our commissioners visible in our community. I do a lot of things. **Ms. Sparks** said one minute.

Mr. Jones said I'm also a contractor. I get a chance to visit and see everything that goes in our community. I have not once seen a commissioner in the First District, in the Fourth District, because you got to be involved with the people. You have not been involved in the people because I'm out there. I am, again, I'm retired. I've been retired since 2015, so I get a chance to get involved. That's what we're missing from our commissioners. They're not involved. You're in

the community. You need to be our voice. You are our voice. We don't hear you loud enough. You might be saying something, but we don't hear you loud enough. We need representation in our community, you all know that. You know that I've been involved in everything, especially mentoring our young boys. We need that. We need more of that, especially from our commissioner in the First District. Our young ladies need mentoring. Like I say, I'm not here to find fault, but I just appreciate the opportunity. **Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Reece Towers said good evening, Mayor, Commissioners, Ms. Cheryl Harrison-Lee. We know you're not going nowhere. We're going to pray you stay. We complain, and complain, and complain, and nothing ever gets done. We have the power to change things. The power is in the vote. The power is in the vote. Your taxes is their salary. You have the power to change things. You have the power to change things, and it's sad because I pay attention to the media. I pay attention to everything that's going on. The attacks against Ms. Cheryl Lee-Harrison, the attacks against our Mayor, the attacks against our staff, it's sad. We know that it's sent and set up by design to make them look crazy, to make them look uneducated, to make them look a certain type of way. **Ms. Sparks** said one minute.

Ms. Towers said that's the problem. Like this young man said here, we don't see any type of commissioners anywhere in the First District or the Fourth District. You all send people that are not aware of the issues in our district to conversate with us. We're not paying them; we're paying you and that's a problem. So, let's stop talking as a community and start voting them out. The power is in the vote, and you don't even have to wait four years. Recall some of these positions because if you stand against the Mayor and Ms. Cheryl Lee-Harrison, you stand against the community. They go out and see what we want. They go out and hear our voice. He's talked to you, and she's talked to you about some of the things that we need in our community. I've sat and watched every last commissioner meeting, and you all know, one commissioner sitting up acting, hollering, screaming. We need to hold that commissioner accountable. It's not okay. **Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Ms. Towers said he can be recalled. Vote them out.

Ms. Sparks said we have no other participants in the audience. We do have some participants online. **Mayor Garner** said you can proceed online.

Tscher Manck said I live here in Wyandotte County. People call me Cece. The first thing I want to say is, Mayor Garner, please make sure that Ms. Harrison-Lee stays and completes the audit, at least of everything. The residents of Wyandotte County would like to know where and what our money is being spent on and whose family and friends have benefited from it. In 2019 and 2020, Mr. Kane, Ms. Markley, Ms. Bynum, Ms. Townsend, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Burroughs, Mr. McKiernan, Mr. Walters, Mr. Alvey, and Ms. Murguia were asked by several community members, including myself, who called, emailed, and attended the full commission meeting asking for the commissioners to give Doug Bach a bad review and to find somebody worthy of Wyandotte County. Yet they stood with him. Now that Doug Bach is gone, and our interim is completing an audit and a survey into Doug Bach's actions and the Board's neglect to stop him, you want to get rid of her. Don't leave, Ms. Harrison. We need you. **Ms. Sparks** said one minute.

Ms. Manck said the only people in Wyandotte County who wouldn't want this audit completed are the ones who have something to lose. I heard some of you all saying that your constituents don't want, I mean want a city commissioner or a city administrator, but I know reasons why every district would want it for one, illegal eminent domain practices in Districts One, Five, Three, Six, and Eight. All the districts should be audited. Illegal tax collection on our utility bills, back door real estate deals with friends and family, backdoor development deals with friends and family, and unethical and illegal payroll procedures as it pertains to the top-paid employees at BPU and the Unified Government. Then lastly, please open the gyms for our kids.

Thomas Gordon said thank you and good evening, commissioners and other constituents. I want to voice my opinion and my concern about the activities and the actions of certain commissioners and one in particular, District 8, Mr. Davis. I, along with many other constituents, heard of multiple televised and public meetings, and the contentious behavior of several other members of the Commission. I personally observed one of the most antagonistic and disturbing behavior by a new commissioner on April 28, 2022, at a full commission meeting in which there was a great gregarious display of out-of-order and disrespect for the public televised meeting of the full commission. The importance of bringing this to light, Mr. Davis, was that you were sworn in on December 13, 2021, as the District 8 commissioner. Your primary responsibility... **Ms. Sparks** said one minute.

Mr. Thomas said was to represent District 8, which has a lot of notable entities in it, which we are looking at you, and not to publicly display your displeasure about the way the meeting is conducted. You should be taking care of commissioner's duties and not to talk about procedural things. You need to respect the Mayor and present yourself as a representative of the Unified Government. I just want to let the entire Commission know that we are watching your behavior and that you are currently in the status of T B D B Y C and E, in other words, to be determined by your constituents at next election. Please conduct yourself in a professional manner. You represent us, and we want to see you act in a responsible manner. Thank you very much for your time.

Melvin Williams said somebody asked me the other day, was I going to attend the meeting. I tell people I do it from Zoom. I said I don't know if I wanted to come to this meeting. They said why? I said because if I wanted to see people argue over petty stuff, I can go up in my living room and watch my two children fight over the remote to the TV. What we're looking for is communication between the Mayor and our commissioners. When Doug Bach was in Ms. Harrison-Lee's seat, nobody questioned him. Nobody ever said publicly, when are we going to find a new administrator? Yes, she's an interim. We all know that, but at the same time, what more can you do in four months than this man has? What can you do in four months when this man had eight years to destroy Wyandotte County? **Ms. Sparks** said one minute.

Mr. Williams said he sold us out. Didn't nobody yell at him or bring up anything in front of him. They were scared. Y'all were scared. Y'all were scared of the dictator. Let this woman do her job. Yes, she does have contracts over in Missouri, and that's a concern of mine. I make no bones about it, but at the same time, I'm pretty sure y'all knew this when she came through the door. But give Ms. Harrison-Lee her respect. Let her do her job, then when the contract is almost up, ask is she going to stay or are we going to find somebody else. That's all I ask. Give her, her respect. Y'all didn't do this to Doug Bach; don't do this to her. Thank you.

Ms. Sparks said those are all the individuals we have online. We do have a latecomer that has come into the Commission Chambers.

Jyan Harris said good evening, everybody. Most people know me by now. I have different things to say, but in two minutes, I think I'll say this. I'll start with I heard somebody ask do we need to ask questions and for answers. Well, we got all this going on here. I didn't come to talk about all these guys. I'm a fireman that was fired by the top brass around here, Doug Bach, junior administrator, HR director who's still employed, who hasn't been disciplined, and Fire Chief. Everybody's gone except me. A year ago, a jury told you to pay me \$2.4M. I've yet to be able to buy milk or gas like everyone else around here because I'm still unpaid. I definitely need you to stay, Ms. Harrison-Lee, because I need this resolved for me. Secondly, I've been told by my attorney that it's properly within my right... **Ms. Sparks** said one minute.

Mr. Harris said to discuss this with you guys and for it to come to a resolution. While we're trying to get people out of here, I mean this is not what I wanted to say today, guys. We need to let people finish and do their jobs because my job ain't finished. I mean, you haven't finished with me. When am I going to get finished? You got a lawyer bullying me around now wanting me to take pennies on the dollar and bragging about it. You got a person in Ms. Harrison-Lee's office that said in a public forum that he didn't feel like I did anything wrong. The Deputy Administrator, and he said to my face, that I could have went and worked at McDonald's, and he said it to a fireman working on this job 20 years. Before that, I worked in the Sheriff's Department and guarded inmates for you. This is how I get treated, so I can imagine how she's being treated. So, I mean, you know what the jury said a year ago, and now it's been a year that I'm supposed to be negotiating. Ryan Denk, the attorney you've had bullying me around hasn't said anything because he was waiting on the Mayor election, which Mr. Garner won... **Ms. Sparks** said your time has expired.

Mr. Harris said yes, ma'am. Then he wanted to talk until the new administrator came, and now she's leaving, and I'm still without. Thank you.

Ms. Sparks said, Mayor, those are all the individuals who've asked to speak.

Mayor Garner said thank you. Again, these open input and recommendation sessions—for those watching and anybody that wants to know, these are open for the public. If you have something, a concern that you may have with me, please bring it forward. I have thick skin. That's how I get better. I want to serve this community in a way that's community-driven, just like I ran on. That's

how we get better. I encourage the public to use these opportunities once a month. If you have a complaint, the reminder is that you bring about a recommendation for a solution. That's what this is predicated on. It's just not to complain. It's to bring recommendations that this Commission and staff and our Administrator can take into consideration to improve how we do business, and to make sure that we're meeting and exceeding the expectations this community has for us.

Commissioner Townsend said I agree that it is important to hear from constituents. But for the benefit of all those in the room who raised issues and all those who at home may be confused, I want them to know that for any of us up here, if you have not been a commissioner, you have no idea of what it takes to do so. Monday night we were in a meeting, some of us on a standing committee, began at 5:00 and ended at a quarter to midnight. The week before that, I was at least three community events, including neighborhood meetings. I encourage anybody in District 1 to come to those meetings to attend, as you're doing, so you can get a clearer understanding of what is going on and what has been going on. This is the largest number of constituents that I've seen in almost eight years at any of these meetings. There is responsibility on the constituents' part as well as the commissioners' part. You have no idea what technology has opened up that requires us to reply by email and calls to constituents. I encourage you to do that.

I didn't want to say anything about what's coming up with Parkwood but keep your eyes and ears open the early part of next week. Out of respect for plans already made, I'm not going to say anything further.

Looks like Mr. Jones, congratulations, again, for certifying. I saw you at a community event March 26th. I don't want anyone outside here or outside listening to get a misapprehension about participation of me or anyone else up here. Thank you.

Commissioner Stites said I wanted to ask, with the news that was brought forth this evening, Ms. Lee, that doesn't mean that the audit will end, does it? I mean, I haven't heard that it will, and I'm hopeful that it won't and that you will be still performing your duties while this is still going on. Is that correct? And still has the opportunity, if I'm not mistaken—I had said this at our last meeting that she would still have the opportunity to apply for this position. Is that correct?

Mayor Garner said, Commissioner Stites, on the Administrator's Agenda, she'll address all those questions for you. We can remain in order. Thank you.

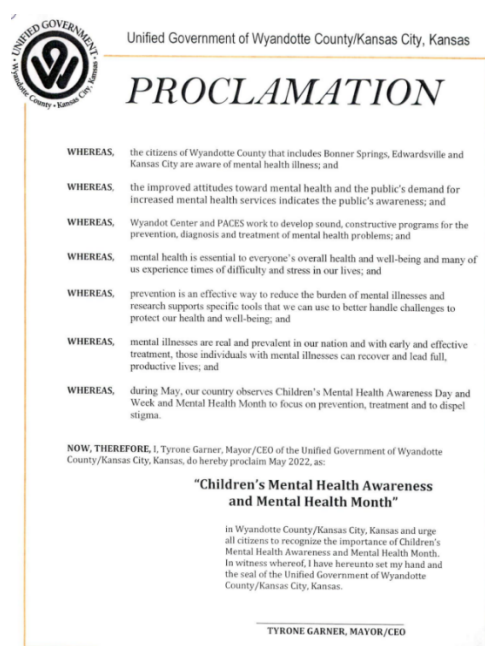
Action: Public input received.

Item No. 4 – 211589...PROCLAMATION: CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND MENTAL HEALTH MONTH 2022

Synopsis: A proclamation proclaiming May 2022 as Children's Mental Health Awareness and Mental Health Month, submitted by Mayor Garner.

Mayor Garner said I'll ask the Clerk to read the proclamation, please.

Monica Sparks, Acting UG Clerk, read the proclamation as follows:



Action: The proclamation was read.

Mayor Garner said thank you, Clerk. We'll now have a presentation from Mr. Randy Callstrom, with Wyandotte Behavioral Health.

May 12, 2022



Randy Callstrom, Wyandot Behavioral Health, said thank you for this opportunity to be here this evening. I just want to share a little bit of updates from the Community Mental Health Center here in Wyandotte County. As many of you know, we've been the designated Wyandotte County Community Mental Health Center since somewhere around the mid-1960s, after President Kennedy signed the Community Mental Health Center Act. It is in Kansas Statutes, KSA19-4001, Kansas Statute requires every county, all 105, to designate a communal mental health center to serve their respective communities. We have served in this community for almost about 60 years. I share the following just for informational purposes.

Also, that statute requires funding through a mental health mill levy. I just want to give you a little bit of comparison to how Wyandotte County funds community mental health compared to some of the other more urban areas in the state. Again, this is simply informational. Douglas County's per mill levy has a \$22.52 mill levy. Johnson County, which is the anomaly to all other 104 counties in the state has a mill levy of \$34.66 for mental health. Shawnee County, which is Topeka, is \$11.19. Sedgwick County, which is Wichita, is \$7.46, and Saline County, which is Salina is \$5.41. Like many other needs in this community, the Wyandotte County mill levy is at \$4.13. Those are all 2021 statistics.

We are a family of organizations addressing both adult and children's mental health, also housing here in Wyandotte County, particularly those that are living unsheltered or on the streets. Each year we serve about 8,000 residents here in Wyandotte County: children, adults, and families.

This year, May 1—thank you to Representative Burroughs and his colleagues in Topeka—a year ago they passed the Certified Community Behavior Health Care Clinic Act. We were one of the first six Community Certified Community Behavior Health Clinics or CCBHCS in the State of Kansas, effective 12 days ago. What that means is that we have new opportunities to enhance and expand services to the community.

A couple particular enhancements is expanding our mobile crisis response so that we can respond in real time when someone in the community is experiencing a psychiatric crisis, including adding an additional Kansas City, Kansas Police Department co-responder to go with officers when they are called to a mental health crisis. An assertive community treatment team to serve the hardest and most challenging individuals to help them stay out of jail, to help them stay out of institutional care in the state psychiatric hospitals and adding additional substance abuse services, including opioid medicated assistant treatment.

We've had a long record of working in the justice and mental health intersections. Over a decade ago, we started doing this work in collaboration with a number of community partners including the Police Department, Sheriff's Department, and the Courts. Some of the impacts that has had is the development of a Behavioral Health Court; the co-responder that we have embedded in the Police Department Crisis Intervention Training where we have provided mental health intervention; training to over 90% of law enforcement in Wyandotte County; and a court and jail liaison.

Some of the impacts of that, in 2014 we opened our Crisis Stabilization RSI, which is a diversion from jail, a diversion from hospitalizations, and institutional care. In those eight years, we have served over 3,000 residents here in Wyandotte County. 24% which are brought to RSI in lieu of taking them to jail. The jail liaison work, and the Behavior Health Court Co-responder, those things have been in place since 2014. In that time, based on the jail diversion rate of \$92.00 a day, we have saved the Unified Government in Wyandotte County \$1.5M. In 2014, we had about 820 active members or clients of the center that were incarcerated in the Wyandotte County jail. In 2021, we had 439. So, the initiatives that I'm describing to you have seen a decrease of 46% of people in acute psychiatric crisis, having to go to jail for no other reason than their mental illness.

We also operate the Children's Crisis and Emergency Shelter here in Wyandotte County for those children that are placed in police protective custody. Each year, we serve about 450 children in Wyandotte County again, keeping them safe in their moments of crisis. We also work with the foster care agencies here in Wyandotte County as well as our Homeless Outreach Center, Frank Williams at 7th and Nebraska.

In 2019, I'm wrapping up, in 2019 we were asked by the Health Department from an initiative that was started in Healthy Communities Wyandotte to assume leadership for Alive and

Thrive, which is our community initiative to create a trauma-informed and resilient community. With that, I will stop my comments, but invite any questions that the Mayor or commissioners may have.

Commissioner Davis said it's good to see you Mr. Callstrom. I know we've met in your facilities. One of them is in my district. Can you restate that one statistic about how many folks were diverted from the jails that did have some sort of mental illness, because that's a pretty big deal, if you don't mind doing that.

Mr. Callstrom said absolutely. I think you're referring to the 46% reduction. **Commissioner Davis** said yes, the reduction.

Mr. Callstrom said it's the number of individuals that were booked into jail here in Wyandotte County in 2014 compared to the number of individuals booked into the jail in 2021 who were involved in mental health services and living with a mental illness.

Commissioner Davis said that's a very, very big deal. So, just kudos to you and your organization for the great work that you all do. I'm a big advocate for criminal justice reform because I do not believe that—well, I think we have way too many people in our jail. I've visited the jail and I've seen it for myself. It's overwhelming for our Sheriff's Department. The work that you all do is actually preventative in nature, and it also does add much-needed treatment. So, thank you so much to you and your staff for the awesome work that y'all do. Thank you.

Commissioner Burroughs said Mr. Callstrom, I just want to say thank you for your commitment. I see you at the Capitol quite a bit advocating for the services for our community, and that's not an easy thing to do. But if COVID has shown us anything, is how important mental health services and needs are in our community. You are a stalwart, sir. I respect and appreciate the work you do on behalf of many in this community; lot of time that goes unseen. Those that do see it, respect it and appreciate it, and I just want to say thank you for the advocacy you provide both at the Capitol, and here at home.

Mr. Callstrom said thank you, and I would say this is a wonderful community to work in, the collaboration and the support from the community, and organizations. I mean it's a team effort

and it's been a great partnership with the Police Department, the Sheriff's Department, and the Courts. I mentioned the Behavioral Health Court, that's the first Behavioral Health Court in Kansas, which started right here in Wyandotte County.

Commissioner Stites said when I say Randy, I don't mean that by disrespect. I've known Randy for a long time, Mr. Callstrom, during my time at the Police Department and then at the Sheriff's Department, also. I know firsthand how important the work is that they perform. I've seen it. I've seen it in action, and I've seen it help folks in Wyandotte County from 3rd Street to I-635. I've been involved in many cases throughout my years with the Police Department and Sheriff's Department, and I hope that we can continue to support you in the good work that you do, and I thank you very much. **Mr. Callstrom** said I hope you can continue to support us as well.

Mayor Garner said thank you, Mr. Callstrom. I can come back with the same sentiment from our commissioners, that the partnership that we've had with the organization has really been good. The time I had on the Police Department and all the good things you've done in partnering with our Sheriff's Department and our Police Department, really helping those most needed in Wyandotte County. I mean, it's just understated the things that you all have done to improve people's lives. So, I just want to say thank you to you, and your staff. **Mr. Callstrom** said thank you very much. We appreciate the support the Commission has provided to us, it's our honor, thank you.

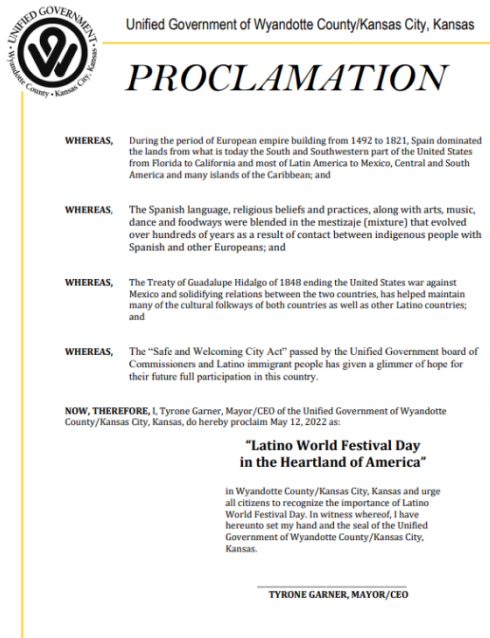
Action: **The proclamation was read.**

Item No. 5 – 211567...PROCLAMATION: LATINO WORLD FESTIVAL DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming May 12, 2022, as Latino World Festival Day, submitted by the Mayor's Office.

Mayor Garner said I'll ask the Clerk to read the proclamation.

Monica Sparks, Acting UG Clerk, read the proclamation as follows:



Action: **The proclamation was read.**

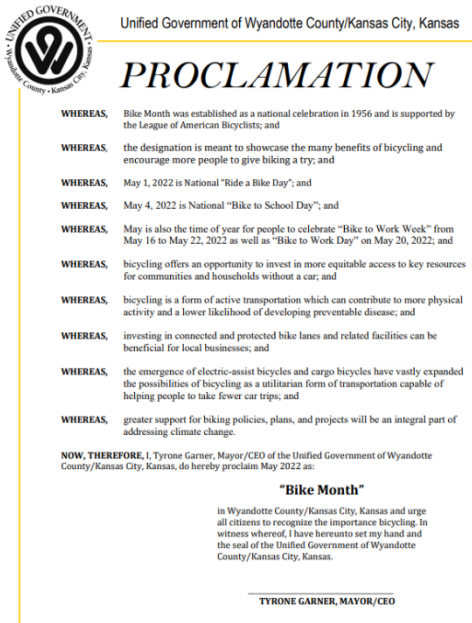
Item No. 6 – 211568...PROCLAMATION: BIKE MONTH

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming May 2022 as Bike Month, submitted by the Mayor's Office.

Mayor Garner asked, Clerk, can you read that, please?

Monica Sparks, Acting UG Clerk, read the proclamation as follows:

May 12, 2022



Action: The proclamation was read.

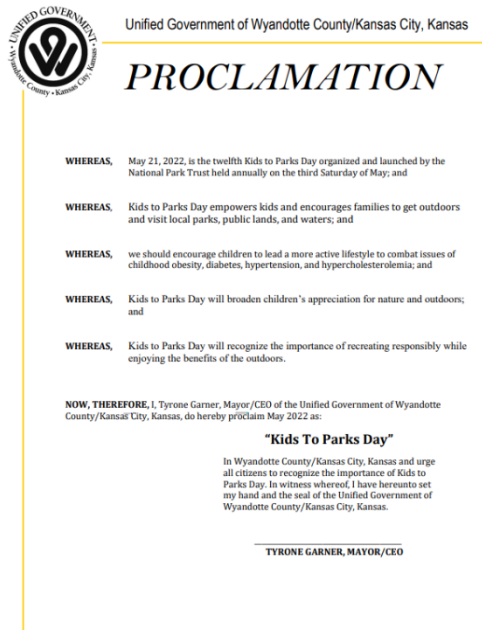
Item No. 7 – 211569...PROCLAMATION: KIDS TO PARKS DAY MONTH

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming May 2022 as Kids to Parks Day Month, submitted by the Mayor's Office.

Mayor Garner said I'll ask the Clerk to read the proclamation.

Monica Sparks, Acting UG Clerk, read the proclamation as follows:

May 12, 2022



Action: **The proclamation was read.**

Item No. 8 – 211570...PROCLAMATION: OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming May 2022 as Older Americans Month, submitted by the Mayor's Office.

Mayor Garner asked, can you read that, Clerk?

Monica Sparks, Acting UG Clerk, read the proclamation as follows:

May 12, 2022



Action: The proclamation was read.

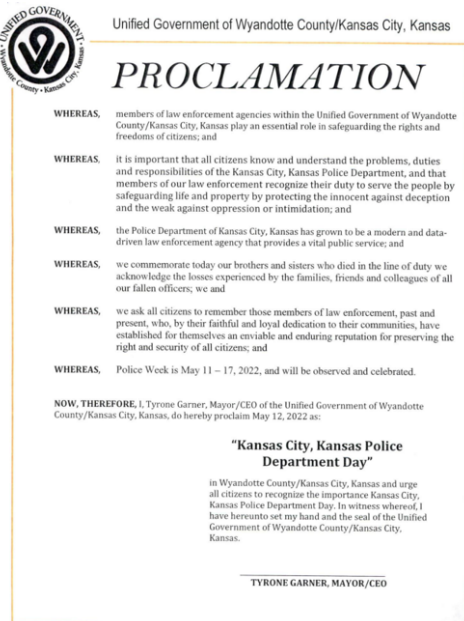
Item No. 9 – 211592...PROCLAMATION: MAY 12, 2022, KANSAS CITY, KANSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT DAY

Synopsis: Proclamation proclaiming May 12, 2022, as Kansas City, Kansas Police Department Day, submitted by Mayor Garner.

Mayor Garner said I just want to send out a sincere apology to the men and women of the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department. They had a memorial yesterday that was attended, and I was unable to read the proclamation at that time. The information just didn't make it through channels to my office, and so I just want to send a formal apology from this Mayor to the men and women of the Police Department as well as Chief Oakman and his command staff. I think I speak with confidence in saying that this Commission and this Mayor support our Police Department. We support the good work that they do. We support the good police officers that are out here every day sacrificing and putting service above self, keeping this community safe. As a Police Officer that served and started as a cadet in 1987, I know what it means when you say service above self and the sacrifices that so many officers have made.

They recognized yesterday several fallen officers over the years here in Kansas City, Kansas, so I'm going to read this proclamation.

May 12, 2022



Action: **The proclamation was read.**

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Garner asked, do any members of the Commission or County Administrator wish to set aside any items on the Regular Consent Agenda? If an item is not set aside, all items on the Regular Consent Agenda will be voted on by one vote.

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

Mayor Garner said I have a motion and a second to approve. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, roll call, please, Clerk.

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

Item No. 1 - MINUTES

Synopsis: Minutes from regular session of June 10, 2021.

May 12, 2022

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

Item No. 2 - WEEKLY BUSINESS MATERIAL

Synopsis: Weekly Business Material dated April 21 and 28, 2022.

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

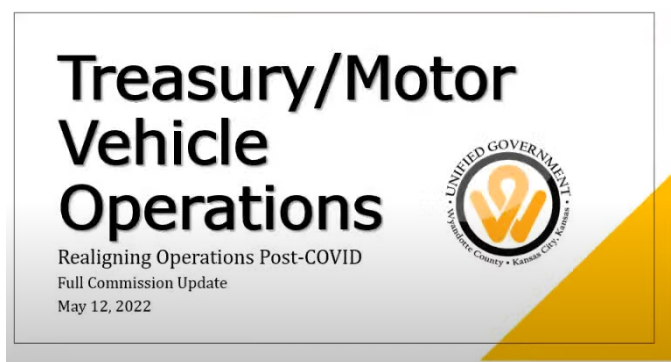
ADMINISTRATOR'S AGENDA

Mayor Garner said that takes us to the Administrator’s Agenda. We have four items under the Administrator’s Agenda. Item #1 is the update for the Treasury/Motor Vehicle Operations. I believe I’ll turn it over to our Administrator to lead into that.

Item No. 1 – 211562...UPDATE: TREASURY/MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATIONS

Synopsis: Update on the Treasury/Motor Vehicle Operations, submitted by Andrea Vinyard, Deputy County Treasurer.

Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Interim County Administrator, said good afternoon, Mayor, members of the Commission. Part of the work that I started during the first 100 days was just to kind of assess some of our departments and look at areas where we might be able to improve. We're very happy to have our new Treasurer here, Ms. Berger. This is one of the areas where we transitioned someone from the Administrator's Office to be an Organizational Efficiencies Manager in that area who's been working with Ms. Berger to look at some efficiencies and how we might be able to better serve the public. With that, I’ll have Ms. Berger talk about some of the changes that we're making in that department.



Becky Berger, County Treasurer, said good evening Mr. Mayor and commissioners. I appreciate you taking the time to let me present this information to you. As Ms. Harrison-Lee said, she did bring some additional resources over to Treasury. I took over as County Treasurer about four months ago in January. I knew going into it that we had a kind of daunting task to kind of pull ourselves out of COVID operations and kind of realign to better customer service and try to be in a better position than we were prior to the pandemic. We weren't in a great position prior to the pandemic.

Where We Were

Operations Difficult to Manage Prior to COVID

- State System Challenges
 - Slow
 - Not User-Friendly
 - Not Customer Focused
- Extensive Wait Times, Lines out of the Courthouse & Annex Doors
- Walk-in Traffic Managed Via Queueing Ticket System
- No Appointment System

COVID hit; Closed for 11 Weeks

- Another 6-week Closure Due to UG Furloughs, Staff Absences, & Turnover; Inability to Allow Customers to Sit in Lobby
- Unable to Timely Process Transactions, Respond to Customer Inquiries
- Shut Off the Queueing Ticket System some days at 8:05AM
- Residents Were Selling Queue Tickets for Cash
- Appointment System Implemented in December 2020

I wanted to talk a little bit about where we were. So, prior to COVID, we really were challenged by two primary things. One is that we have to operate within the State of Kansas system. It's slow, it's not user-friendly, and it's not customer focused in any way. So, our challenge is we take the system that the state gives us, operate within, and then we are trying to figure out ways to bring that to the customer in a more customer-friendly manner than it's kind of given to us.

The second major challenge that I think we face that's special to our community, to our county, is we have a very high volume or previously had a very high volume of our customers that did walk-in transactions, much higher than any of our peer counties. We would have extensive wait times, just lines out the door of the Courthouse, and the Annex literally daily.

So, we kind of went into COVID in a difficult situation and it was just kind of like the perfect storm. So, then COVID hits. We're closed for 11 weeks. We get incredibly behind, just a massive backlog of work. Nobody can keep up. It was just a really, really difficult time for everyone. We're not able to timely process our transactions. We're not even able to respond to customer inquiries in what would be considered a reasonable amount of time.

We operated like we reopened in June after the closure. We opened the queue system, which was our walk-in ticketing system. We would open it at 7:50 a.m. There were days it would close at 8:05 a.m., and 8:03 a.m., literally open for 13 to 15 minutes. We've got an entire day's worth of work within that. So, obviously, customers were not very happy, and we weren't happy with the way that was going. Also, when we opened the queue that was only open to new vehicle title registration. Previously walk-in tracking traffic could be conducted for any business, and now the only walk-in traffic we're allowing is for a new vehicle title registration, because that's literally all we can handle, and we're not even able to handle that at that point.

We had residents that were even selling queue tickets outside of our offices for people that were desperate to get in to get their vehicles registered. It was a really difficult situation. We operated like that for about six months. Then we also had additional challenges with additional closures, furloughs, extreme employee turnover that we went from about eight-year average turnover in motor vehicle department to one year, where we are today. That's a huge challenge, obviously, that we're facing.

Where We Are Now

Open by Appointment Only

- For New Vehicle Title/Registration Only
- All Other Transactions via Mail, Drop Box, or Online
- COVID Backlog is Caught Up
- Queuing System Not Operational
- Same Day Appointments are Available
- Working to Improve Resident Communications
- Cyber-Attack Cleanup
- Process Analysis and Improvement

We got our appointment system that was also only for new vehicle titles and registrations. Really great news is that our backlog, our COVID backlog is completely caught up and that wasn't the case when I started in January. They were still working through some of the really difficult ones that they had to manage, but we are completely caught up in that. We are working on getting kind

of caught up from the cyber-attack. It did impact us, we had to shut down for six business days, I believe. That put us back quite a bit, but we are currently able to do same-day appointments for new title registrations. We don't have a whole lot of back work in the office and we're in a really good position. That's really given us an opportunity to look at how can we get to where we want to be, which is to provide a higher level of service than what we were able to provide pre-pandemic, and obviously move away from where we're at now because we know that it's not a good experience for customers, it's not a good experience for our employees either.

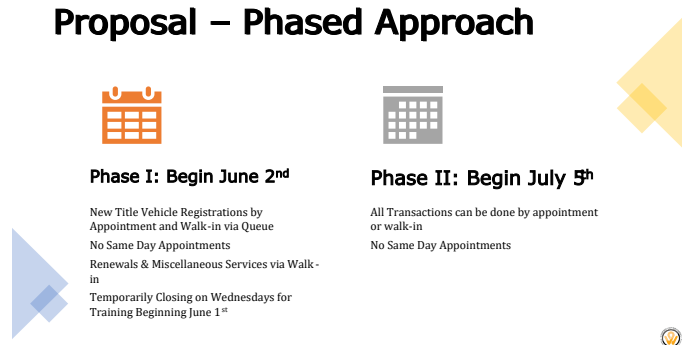
Where We Want to Be

- Fully Re-Opened to Customers for All Services, Walk-ins, and Appointments
- Provide the Ultimate Customer Service Experience



So, where we want to be - we want to be fully reopened to customers for all transactions via both queue walk-in system and appointment system. We think that's the best experience for customers. We think we can do it in looking at best practices of other peer counties. The question is how do we get there?

Proposal – Phased Approach

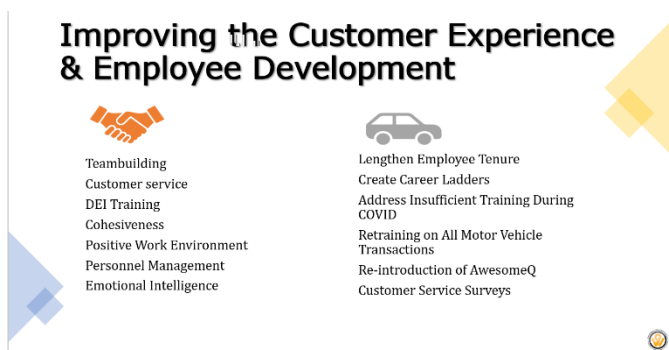


So, what we're proposing is that we do kind of a phased approach to get there. Phase I, we would start on June 2nd, which would be a Thursday, and we would expand our new title vehicle registrations to allow not just by appointment but also by walk-in. We would also allow renewals and other miscellaneous services to come in and walk in as well. That'd be the first time that they're actually coming in two years, basically.

In order to accomplish that, we've got a lot of work to do with building up our employees, training our employees, working on office morale, just making it a more cohesive teamwork environment in our office. That's something that I think motor vehicle has often struggled with and it's definitely got more challenging throughout COVID.

We would be proposing that we would temporarily close on Wednesdays so that we can do all staff training on Wednesdays and that would be on June 1st, the day before we open the queue. So, definitely, we will have to get that training done for the queue prior to that June 2nd opening because then it'll be a big change for everyone. The majority of the employees were not here previously when we had the queue. It's going to be a big adjustment that we really need to prepare them for.

Phase II would start July 5th. We would then, at that point you can have all transactions by appointment or walk-in, so even all the renewals and all the other miscellaneous stuff, appointment or walk-in, which would be an enhancement obviously from pre-COVID operations because we didn't have the appointment process at all prior to that.

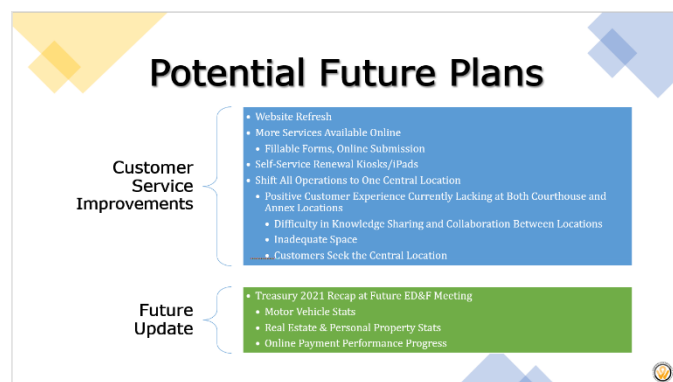


Some of the things that we would like to do with our team while we do these training things. The first basic one is just retraining everyone on basic motor vehicle transactions. That's something that has been a struggle because training employees in general during COVID was a big struggle when we had the massive turnover. We're in a place where we just really need to invest in our employees and get them to a place where they have the resources they need so that they can be successful because they don't feel like they're there right now, and neither do we, quite honestly.

Really work on some team building. We did get a chance when we were shut down for KDOR to do a half-day team building and it was really well received. I think our employees really enjoyed it and that was really the first time that they've been able to do anything like that in a very

long time. We want to do some more of that. We found a lot of great resources for customer service, DEI training, creating a positive work environment.

The other big focus for us is going to be supervisors/managers. They've never had the opportunity to really do any sort of personnel management training or just basic, how-to-supervise-people training. They need it and they want it. So, we want to make sure that they get that as well.



Potential future plans. One thing that we're really focused on right now is a website refresh. With the cyber-attack, that kind of put it a little bit on the back burner. We had made some pretty good progress on getting our website to a place we felt like it was much more user-friendly, much more intuitive for users. That's not really what we have on there right now. It's kind of overwhelming when you get on the motor vehicle side. We're hoping to clean that up quite a bit, we've made some progress on it. Also have more services available online, have fillable forms, online submission. Just make it as easy as possible for customers to conduct their business in whatever form they prefer and that's not really what we have available to them today.

We've also been working with what they call the big five counties, we are part of that, on self-service renewal kiosks. This is something that Johnson County has in their offices but no other counties have actually implemented them yet, because the kiosks are a sole source vendor with KDOR and so KDOR won't allow any other kiosk providers to work with them. So, we've been slowly trying to work through making these kiosks what we would need for them to actually be advantageous for us to have.

So, that's something potentially in the future. Again, these things move slower just at the state level so we're not sure with when, or if, that's something that we'd be able to offer but certainly we'd like to. Other discussions have been having iPads available with wi-fi and key places so that

folks can go through and if they don't have wi-fi at home, they have a place where they can go online and do their renewal and not have to come into our office.

One of the big things that we've talked about, and I believe has just been really a conversation within the Treasury Department for years and years, is just the challenges of managing the two locations. There are a lot of counties that do have two locations. I think what we struggle with is just, ours are not in the right places and they're not at the right level of accessibility. So, it's a big challenge for us. The annex is where it seems that customers prefer to go. That's certainly where we have the heavier appointments, where we're anticipating when we open up the queue, we're going to have more customers going there because it's much more accessible. It's easy to get to, so we're trying to figure out how we're going to manage that flow because we know that's going to be difficult once we reopen.

The Courthouse, that's where we have room for the staff. I mean everyone's sitting on top of each other in both locations, quite honestly, and that makes for obviously a poor experience not just for our employees but for our customers. There's a lot of asking them to repeat things or them asking you to repeat things because they're just in such close quarters. So, that's a struggle at both locations. We are able to better staff the Courthouse than we are the Annex, but that's not where our customers want to go. So, that's something that we're really challenged with.

Ideally, we would love to have one central location that our entire office can be in. It makes for much better communication among our department, and better collaboration but we know that's not something that's going to happen anytime real soon. We really are trying to find some ways to make our existing space better for us right now.

That's really all I had as far as our upcoming changes to our operations. I just wanted to note that we will be doing our 2021 recap at a future ED&F committee meeting. We haven't done that yet. I think it's typically done in the spring and then separately from the real estate side of things, so we're planning on just doing the two together in a future meeting, so look for that. That's really all I have.



If anyone has any questions or comments, I would be happy to try to address them.

Commissioner Bynum said welcome to the job and here to the Commission. I appreciate all the information. I'm curious, and you may not have this answer right now, are we still charging every person, well this is probably not even true because you are only doing title applications. At the point at which we were still doing renewals in person, we were still charging every person who chose to do that in person an extra five dollars.

Ms. Berger said correct, yes, that is my understanding. No, we haven't been charging that obviously now, and there have been times that folks have come in and we weren't completely booked up with appointments and so we've taken their renewal and no, we haven't charged them anything. I would say I know that is like a pain point and when you're looking at customer service—doesn't feel like the best customer service. I would also say that is what the other counties do as well, and that's not just the larger counties. It's pretty much across the board and really that comes from if we had unlimited resources to provide the ultimate customer service experience then that would be wonderful.

The problem is motor vehicles delegated to us by the state, they don't provide us with the resources that we need to actually operate it, and to operate it in a way that is actually customer friendly. There is a bill in the legislature right now to do a fee increase that would really help cover some of those costs, but it's not like motor vehicle operates independently. I mean the UG is paying for these services as well. That's kind of the reasoning behind that \$5.00 fee. I mean if you all want to not have the fee, and fund more of it out of General Fund, that would be certainly in your purview to make that decision.

Commissioner Bynum said you have a plan by July that folks could walk in and not walk in because it looks like appointment only. **Ms. Berger** said nope. I think it's June 2nd, we would

go live with the queue June 2nd. Then we would be able to take in walk-ins, and we'd still do appointments for new title vehicle registrations, but we would also allow for walk-in, new title vehicle registrations.

I would say the one caveat to that is that we can't allow same-day appointments at that point, because then it will really jam up our queue because folks might come in, they don't have an appointment, so they get in the queue. But then they find an appointment and then you know. We actually went to Shawnee County to see how they operate, and that's one of their processes that they have in place to make their operations run more smoothly.

Commissioner Bynum said if we take the walk-in renewal then we will resume the \$5.00 fee per vehicle. During COVID have you been processing just regular mail-in renewals? Like not folks who went online, just folks who put a stamp on the envelope and mailed it? **Ms. Berger** said oh yes, we have quite a few of those.

Commissioner Bynum said and those are really the only people who aside from the stamp and I think the little mailing fee are not paying extra money. I don't want to speak out of turn, but if I walk in, I'm paying more. I'm definitely paying more if I use the online system because the state is taking fees and then if I use a credit card, there's a fee. So really the only way to pay only what I owe in personal tax and motor vehicle registration is to use the U.S. Postal Service. Would that be a fair statement? **Ms. Berger** said yes, or the drop box.

Commissioner Stites said I think it might have gotten to where you might have answered it. So, somebody coming in is going to pay \$5.00 more than somebody that's using an online service.

Ms. Berger said they wouldn't pay \$5.00 more than the online service because when you go online the state actually charges a fee, but they would pay \$5.00 more than anyone that mails in or drops their renewal in the drop box. **Commissioner Stites** said that \$5.00 is going to whom. **Ms. Berger** said goes to the General Fund.

Commissioner Stites said to the county? **Ms. Berger** said yes. **Commissioner Stites** said and if you do it online that fee... **Ms. Berger** said goes to the state. **Commissioner Stites** said and there's no \$5.00 fee? **Ms. Berger** said no, but it's, I think, it's a percentage of what you—if you use a credit card then it's a charge of your percentage of that, and if you don't, I think it's like \$2.75 or something like that.

Commissioner Stites said so the amount of high county taxes that we're paying right now, we're asking citizens to pay an additional \$5.00 to go pay their high taxes—in person? You pay high taxes but we're going ask for more money because you're coming in to pay your high taxes? I think we should revisit that and think about not charging that fee. **Ms. Berger** said I mean from our employees' perspective, yeah, we would love that. **Commissioner Stites** said because from this commissioner, I think we should not be charging that fee.

Mayor Garner said any more questions? I'd like to just follow up behind Commissioner Stites. I agree. What's the name of that fee again? **Ms. Berger** said I actually don't know because it hasn't been there as long as I've been there, but I would assume it's like a convenience fee or something like that.

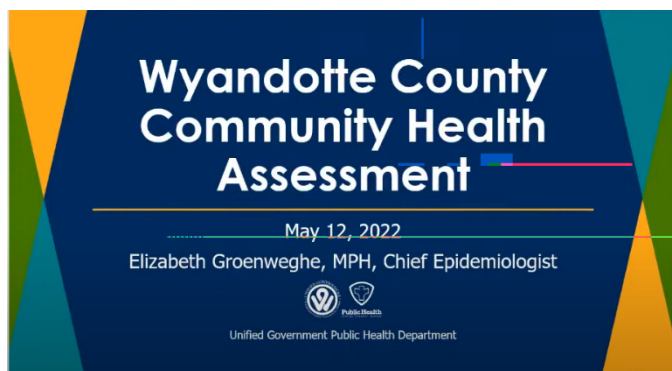
Mayor Garner said I'd like to call it an inconvenience fee, because you're charging people to come in and inconvenience themselves—time, gas, and to have to wait in line, and you're charging them to do all that. So, I kind of agree that with Commissioner Stites that's something we need to look at. I've said this before, I believe that when you look at our Unified Government fee schedules we are literally taxing and feeing our constituents to the point of just beyond reason. I would ask, and I concur with Commissioner Stites, that I would really implore that our Administrator and this Commission revisit some of these fees and release at least some of the pressure and some of the fee and tax burden on our residents. Thank you.

Action: **For information only.**

Item No. 2 – 211565...UPDATE: COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT (CHA)

Synopsis: Update to include a plan for the data collection, community engagement, analysis, and timeline, submitted by Juliann VanLiew, Director of the Public Health Department.

Mayor Garner said that takes us to Item #2, Update on Community Health Assessment. It's a presentation from our Health Department and provides an update on our Community Health Assessment. I believe Elizabeth—okay, you're not Elizabeth, but we'll have you come forward with that presentation.



Wesley McKain, Manager, Health Department, said I'm here to introduce Elizabeth. You all put a green booklet on your dais there, hot off the presses. This is the fourth edition of our current Community Health Improvement Plan. The Health Department does this every five years. We're both mandated to do it, and it's our pleasure to do it. It really has a robust data collection and resident input component to it. In order to put the plan together, we first have to understand the health of the community, and we take that very seriously into a very thorough and robust process to do that.

So, next Elizabeth's going to come up here and describe what that process is going to look like for the plan that's going to replace this one. We're currently on our fourth year. There's going to be the fifth year after this, and then after that is done, we're going to enter into our new CHIP, is what we call it. So, Elizabeth's going to come to talk about the Community Health Assessment, which will then inform the new CHIP. Without further ado, Elizabeth Groenweghe, our Chief Epidemiologist.

Elizabeth Groenweghe, Chief Epidemiologist, Health Department, said hi everyone, I'm Elizabeth. I'm the Chief Epidemiologist for the Health Department. Some of you may know me from some of the COVID work that we've been doing and some of the presentations for COVID. But I'm here to talk to you about something besides COVID which is really exciting for me. I'm involved in a lot of other health data-related projects as an epidemiologist for the county and including our community health assessment, which is what I'm here to talk to you about today.

What is a Community Health Assessment (CHA)?



- A comprehensive assessment of the health of the county that:
 - Collects data from a variety of sources
 - National data (census, BRFSS, etc.)
 - Community members
 - Partners
 - Gains input from community members and partners to better understand the community's health
- Conducted every five years, required for PHAB accreditation

First of all, what is a Community Health Assessment? We call it CHA for short because we really like acronyms in public health. A CHA is basically a comprehensive evaluation of the health in the county. We look at a variety of different data sources, which I'll talk about more in my presentation. We gain input from the community, from partners, other organizations within the county to try to get an idea of the overall health status of the county. We do our CHA every five years and I'll talk a bit more about kind of that cycle, but one of the important things to know about the CHA as well is that it's a requirement to be an accredited Health Department.

Hopefully, you all know that we are a PHAB-accredited Health Department. The Public Health Accreditation Board, I mean it's actually a pretty big deal, not every county health department or even most county health departments are accredited by PHAB. There's only a small handful in the state of Kansas that are. Part of being an accredited Health Department means that we conduct our Community Health Assessment every five years.

What is the purpose of a CHA



- Hear from residents:
 - Gather context & differing perspectives on health issues
- Better understand the status, challenges, and assets of the community in relation to health
 - Including changes since last CHA
- Guide work of the health department, community partners, and local government:
 - Provide information to inform work done by Parks, Planning & Urban Development, Aging, Human Services, EMS, etc.

So, what is the purpose of the CHA? There are a few different purposes. One of the big ones is just to hear from our residents. We want to know from our residents are we addressing the health needs of the community. What kind of needs are being unmet, and what kind of challenges do people have to be healthy in Wyandotte County? What kind of assets do we have in the community to better promote health within the county for our citizens? Then it also helps to guide the work

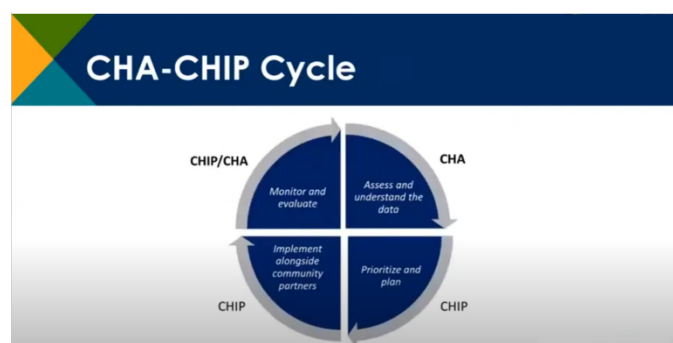
of the Health Department, so that comes in the form of the CHIP which I'll talk about in the next slide, but also just guiding the Health Department, in terms of funding and what we prioritize.

Then internally within the Unified Government other departments can use the CHA as well, like EMS or Parks and Recreation can use that data to make decisions. Externally our partners in the community can also use it to guide their work. For example, Wyandotte County Behavioral Health, who presented earlier, can use some of the CHA data to better address their community and serve their community as well.

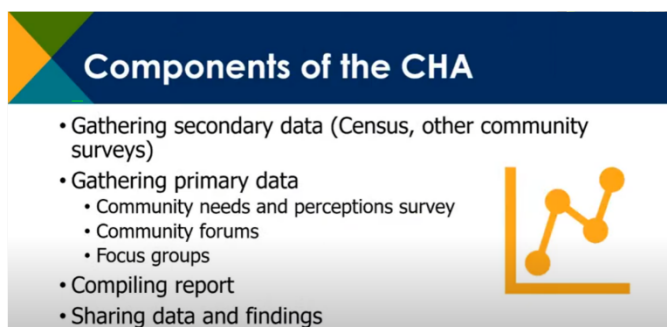
How is CHA data used?

- **Data and community feedback** collected from the CHA informs the **Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)** process:
 - Identify priority health concerns
 - Develop strategies for action
 - Establish accountability to measure progress
 - Determine how and where resources should be allocated

The biggest way that the CHA is used is to create our Community Health Improvement Plan, or CHIP. Hopefully, you all are somewhat familiar with our CHIP. Wesley mentioned that we have these books here that kind of summarize where the CHIP is going into year four. We have four priority areas that are in our current CHIP, which are housing, jobs and education, and access to health care. There's a summary here of all the activities in this booklet that Wesley handed out, but those four areas that we decided for our current CHIP were based on the CHA, or Community Health Assessment, that was done previously. The CHA that we're working on now will help us to define what areas we're going to focus on for our next Community Health Improvement Plan.



This image here just kind of shows how it's a cycle that we go through every five years. We start with the data, which is the CHA, and look at all that data to decide what it shows us and what areas we should prioritize. Then, using that we prioritize and plan for the CHIP. We implement the CHIP which is kind of where we are right now in that process going into year four of implementing the CHIP. Then we'll conduct another CHA, look at that data and that will lead us into our next CHIP.

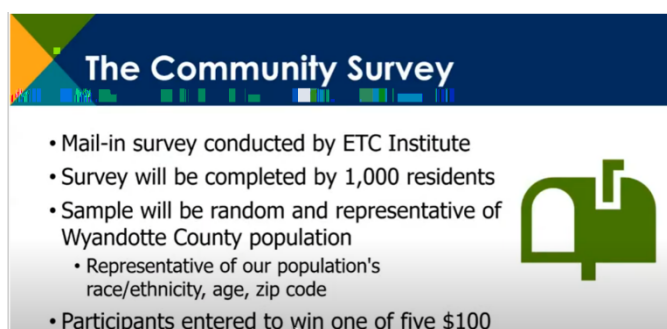


Components of the CHA

- Gathering secondary data (Census, other community surveys)
- Gathering primary data
 - Community needs and perceptions survey
 - Community forums
 - Focus groups
- Compiling report
- Sharing data and findings



I wanted to briefly give you an overview of the components of the CHA and then I'll delve a bit more deeply into some of them. We look at both primary and secondary data. Primary data is the data collected by the organization to use for the organization, so that would be data that the Health Department is collecting. Secondary data is data that's collected by other organizations that we'll be utilizing for the CHA. An example of that would be the U.S. Census Bureau's data. We'll also be collecting our own primary data in the form of survey, focus groups, and community forums, and then from there we'll compile all that data into a summary report, and then publish and share that data.



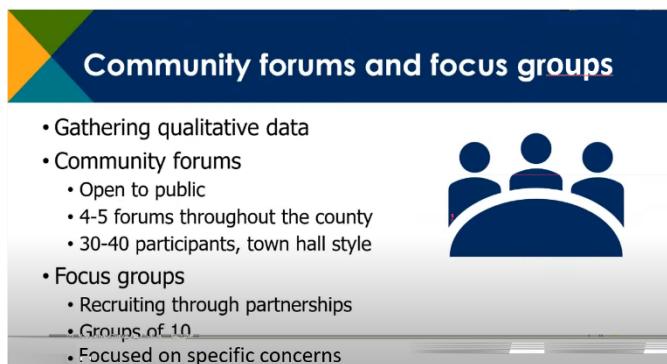
The Community Survey

- Mail-in survey conducted by ETC Institute
- Survey will be completed by 1,000 residents
- Sample will be random and representative of Wyandotte County population
 - Representative of our population's race/ethnicity, age, zip code
- Participants entered to win one of five \$100



I wanted to touch first on the community survey and what that looks like. It's being conducted in the form of a mail-out survey through ETC Institute, which you all should be familiar with because they've also done the county-wide survey recently. We'll be utilizing them as well to send out

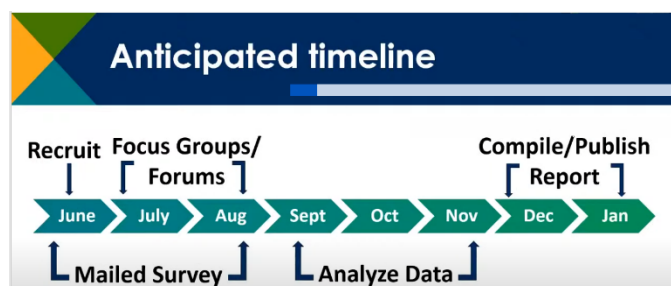
about a thousand mail-out surveys to the county, and just like the community survey, it is a random sample of residents that get the survey mailed to them. It's also a representative sample which means that it represents the diversity of Wyandotte County. It's representative of race, ethnicity, age, and zip code in Wyandotte County so we can make sure that we hear from everyone in our community and get a good representative sample. Then participants that do fill out the survey are also entered to win one of five \$100 gift cards, just as kind of an incentive to help encourage participants to fill out that survey because the data is really important to us.



Community forums and focus groups

- Gathering qualitative data
- Community forums
 - Open to public
 - 4-5 forums throughout the county
 - 30-40 participants, town hall style
- Focus groups
 - Recruiting through partnerships
 - Groups of 10
 - Focused on specific concerns

In addition, we'll also be doing some community forums and focus groups. The community forums are going to be open to the public. We'll have four or five of them throughout Wyandotte County in different locations, including out west like Bonner Springs and Piper, also out east, and then the central parts of the county, trying to hit on all of our different areas within the county. Those are going to be kind of a public forum style, open to the public to come to express their opinions. We'll also be doing some focus groups which are smaller groups of about 10 people that we'll be recruiting through partners within the county. Those smaller focus groups are going to be more focused on specific areas of concern or specific populations that we really want to hear from in the county. For example, youth or minority communities or local business owners, or just other community members that maybe we wouldn't traditionally hear from. We want to make sure we get their opinions as well.



Here is just an image of where our timeline is. We're really just getting started in this process. So, in June we're going to be using the recruit for our focus groups and community forums, and then we'll also begin mailing out the survey with ETC Institute throughout the summer months. We'll be conducting focus groups and community forums throughout the months of July and August. Then throughout the fall is when we'll be doing the data analysis. It does take time to analyze data, clean data, all that good stuff. It does take a few months to get that done. Then in December and January, we're going to be working on data, putting together the report, and then hopefully publishing it by January 2023.

How can you help?

- Assist us in encouraging residents to participate
 - Understand and share the importance of a CHA
 - Encourage completion of mailed survey
 - Share information about focus groups/community forums with residents
 - UGPHD will provide flyers with details
- Get excited to hear results next winter!

What can you do to help get involved in this process? A big one is encouraging participation, especially among the community members. Help them understand the purpose of the trial, why we're doing it. Encourage those who get the survey mailed to their houses to complete it and send it back. Then help us spread the word about the community forums and focus groups. We don't yet have them scheduled, but we should have them scheduled within the next month or so. We'll follow up with the schedule of how people can sign up for the focus groups and when the community forums are with flyers and things like that. If you can help us spread the word for that. Otherwise, just kind of wait for the process to happen, and then we'll be presenting the data later whenever we have it at another Commission meeting.



That's all I have and I can take any questions about the CHA or CHIP.

Commissioner McKiernan said I'd really like to just take a moment to thank Elizabeth, Wesley, Juliann, and everyone else from the Health Department for all the work that you have done and are continuing to do with both the Health Assessment and the Community Health Improvement Plan. You really have given all of us a model to follow in terms of community engagement and data gathering that informs a plan. One of the things that we all know, after gathering the data and creating the plan is, despite the fact that that's a lot of work, it's really easy compared to executing and meeting the goals we set as a part of a plan. Meeting those goals will take all of us. It'll take all of us in terms of our effort. It'll take all of us in terms of funding. It'll take all of us in terms of the policy.

One thing that I want to just throw out to my fellow commissioners especially, but to everyone, is that maybe we think about on a more intentional basis, the effect of any policy that we execute on health and that we begin to encourage a model of health in all of our policies because certainly the policies that we set can drive, to some extent, health outcomes. We want to drive them positively, so I think that that's one of the things that we should strive to do. But, again, thank you to all of you for your work. You are leading us to a very good place.

Commissioner Davis said I echo everything the doctor just said. Y'all are doing amazing and it's not just the opinion of this Commission, it's the opinion of our community. The results of the community survey highlighted the work of your department. That speaks volumes to the quality of work that you all are doing. Your work matters and the public knows it and the public appreciates it. I just want to commend you all for your efforts. I love the fact that we are moving and shifting and continuing to think about violence prevention and violence overall as a public

health crisis because we cannot burden public safety alone to prevent violence. We need you all in that work. We need everyone in the Unified Government in our network.

The last thing that I would say is, I love that structural racism is mentioned explicitly in the plan. It is sometimes an uncomfortable conversation to have, but looking at how we do business as a government and how it impacts marginalized identities is huge. I just want to thank you all for that.

There's one more thing that I'll say and it's similar to what Commissioner McKiernan had mentioned, I want us to move to a point, where as a government we are not contradicting the work that you all do, that we get Planning involved, we get our Economic Development Department involved, we get Public Safety involved, because what I would hate to do is have you all do this great work and then through development or through the environment, or through other things, we are contradicting this great work that you all do.

So, thank you all so much. I'm on record of wanting to work with your department to see if we can permanently fund some of these ARPA positions that are within your department because we can say all these good things, but if the money is not there then all we have are just plans. I don't want to just have plans. I want action. I want to see things change for Wyandotte County. Thank you y'all so much.

Mayor Garner said I just like to commend you as well. What really stands out to me coincides with all our commissioners is the collaboration. You look at the people that you've partnered with. That's just - really says a lot about the work you're doing, not just internally as a Health Department, but with the community. So, thank you and we commend you for your work.

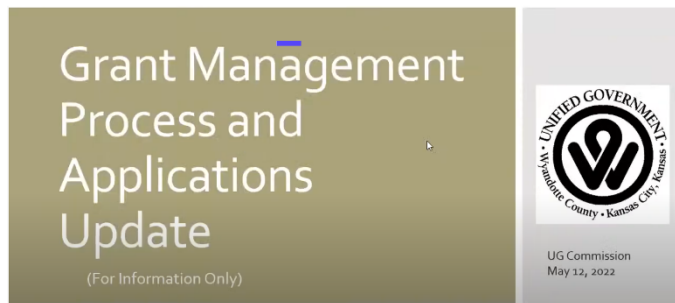
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Item No. 3 – 211566...UPDATE: GRANTS AND GRANT PROCESS

Synopsis: Update on grants and grant process, submitted by the County Administrator's Office.

Mayor Garner said that takes us to Item #3 on the Administrator's Agenda. It's a presentation from the Interim County Administrator on grants and grant process. I'll ask Ms. Cheryl Harrison-Lee to make some remarks.

Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Interim County Administrator, said we have many grant opportunities with the infrastructure bill post-COVID, ARPA dollars. We put this item on the agenda so that we provide a consistent opportunity for the commission to be informed about the grant opportunities that we are looking at and those that are coming ahead. With that, I'll turn it over to our CFO to provide a more detailed presentation.

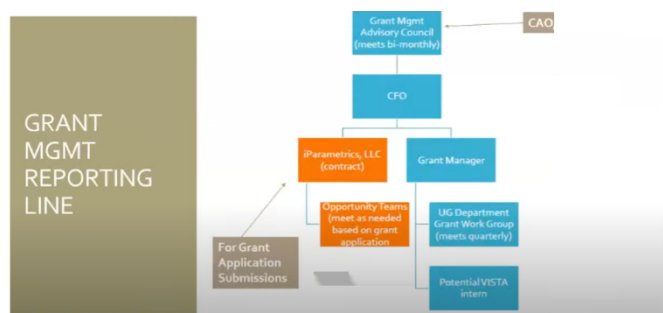


Kathleen VonAchen, Chief Financial Operator, said I'm very excited to give you an update on the status of all our grant applications. But before I do, I do want to point out one thing. We have an ARPA, American Rescue Plan, a web portal where non-profit agencies and various UG departments can submit proposals for programs. This afternoon we decided to extend the deadline to the end of June so that we can collect more applications. Those of you that are interested in applying, have an idea or concept for a program and if it's eligible under the ARPA federal requirements, we want you to submit that application so we can review it and consider it. Just go to www.wycokck.org/ARPA. So don't forget that.

Moving on to grant applications. What we're talking about here are applications we're writing and submitting to other federal agencies.



Just to recap, we do have a new Grants Management Division. This division is under the Finance Department, and it has one whole FTE.



So, not a lot of people but we do have the help of our Assistant County Administrators, our Interim County Administrator, and the iParameters, LLC Grants Management Consulting Firm who's helping us greatly.

How this works is a notice of funding opportunity comes out from a federal agency. We take notice of that and we decide which department staff would best form a work group. Then from there, we proceed with determining what projects can be included in that grant. We provide that list of prioritized projects to the Commission through the subcommittees. There's a discussion on that, certainly if there's enough time before the deadline, and then we proceed with writing these grants. Some of these grants are over 100 pages so it's very time-intensive, but the exciting thing is that we actually can get additional dollars to support our community from the federal government.

Submitted But
Not Selected

Grant
Applications

- US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA), Build by Better Grant
 - "The Collider for Intelligent and Resilient Communities" proposed \$100M
 - Status: Applications submitted 10/19/21; Not Selected
- US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA), Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Grants
 - "Tale of Two Rivers" proposed \$2 M
 - Status: Application submitted 1/31/22; Not selected

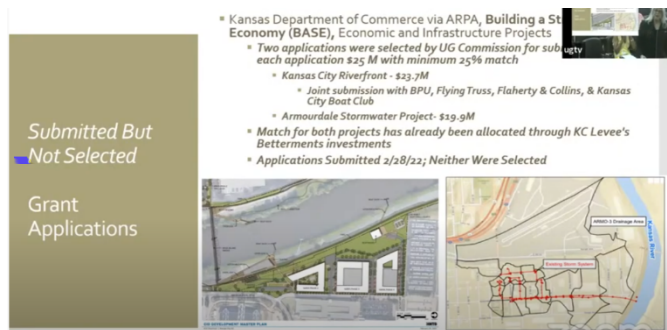


The first couple of slides I'm going to show you are grants that we submitted that, unfortunately, we did not get. I think it's important to kind of keep a tally because we've talked about these bad applications previously. Right now, we're zero for three. Sorry.

The first one is the U.S. Department of Commerce EDA Build a Better Grant. It was for \$100M and had the title The Collider for Intelligent and Resilient Communities. We submitted that back in the fall and we were not selected. From what I remember, the reason behind that was

there was a number, and it was very competitive. There were a number of other applicants that had better economic development plans or stronger cases.

The second item was only for \$2M. We called it Tale of Two Rivers put out by EDA. It's the Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Grants and we did not get that, although our grant team is working with EDA to determine if there are other grant opportunities that would meet that riverfront project name.



This is a summary of two grant applications, both under the Base Grant Program. One was for the Kansas City Riverfront in the amount of \$23.7M. That was a grant application submitted jointly with the BPU, Flying Truss, Flaherty & Collins, and Kansas City Boat Club. This was a terrific project. Sadly, we did not get that one. I'll talk about that in a minute. Armourdale Stormwater Project, that one was for \$20M. We also were not selected for that.

Our two base applications were not awarded in the initial round of funding. Our Grant Team was able to have a debriefing with the Director of Economic Recovery, the Kansas Department of Commerce, who informed us that our Riverfront Application received a perfect score; however, it was not selected by the committee.

The Riverfront Project was \$23.7M and added infrastructure to support growth, water, electric, sanitary sewer, and storm, and to finish the public crossing space over the Rock Island Bridge.

The Armourdale application was for \$19.9M for improving stormwater infrastructure to prevent flooding in the residential areas, as well as the adjacent commercial and industrial areas. It did not score as well, meaning it didn't get 100%, but let's see, due to there wasn't a direct economic benefit impact demonstrated in the application.

There is a possibility that we'll get additional funding under this program and that the SPARK Subcommittee, the State Governor's Task Force, came up with some additional money.

They're still looking at all the outstanding applications and those applications that scored very well. There may be a chance we get some money, especially for the Riverfront Project.

Submitted Grant Applications	▪ Kansas SPARK Committee, Investment Ideas Grant Prog ▪ "MicroTransit-State Avenue Bistate Corridor " proposed \$2 M ▪ "West Patrol Police Station and Community Center" proposed \$4 M ▪ Filtration system for the Detention Center & Sheriff retention bonus for all sworn/civilian employees" proposed \$1.6 M ▪ Status: Submitted 2/16/22; Award date was 4/29/22 (Still waiting on news) ▪ Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) via ARPA, Older American Act (OAA), Supportive Services, Congregate, Home-Delivered, Wellness/Fitness, and Family Caregiver Programs ▪ \$998k Federal; \$200k KDADS Match; no UG match requirement ▪ STATUS: Application Submitted 3/31/22 ▪ Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), CMAQ, STBG, STBG Set aside ▪ Proposal is \$56 M for various street improvement or reconstruction projects ▪ Match identified \$9.1 M ▪ Status: Submitted April 1, 2022
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Now we're talking about a couple of grants that we submitted that we're still waiting to hear about. So, under the SPARK Committee Investment Ideas Grant, there are three grants that were submitted by various public safety departments. There's the Micro Transit State Avenue-Bi-State Corridor for \$2M; the West Patrol Police Station and Community Center for \$4M; and a variety of needs identified by the Sheriff's Department for \$1.6M. We're still waiting to hear back on whether we got those funded. There was an application submitted by our Area Agency on Aging, which was submitted on March 31st. There was the Mid-America Regional Council application, the proposal totaled \$56M in total projects of which some will be selected. This application was submitted on April 1st, and we did identify about \$9.1M in match.

Submitted Grant Applications	▪ US Department of Transportation, Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant Program (via ARPA), ▪ Proposed \$25 M for multimodal planning grant, no required match ▪ Planning projects identified from GoDotte study that meet RAISE grant requirements (see next slide for graphic of project area) ▪ Status: Submitted 4/14/22 ▪ Kansas Department of Transportation, Intersection Safety Improvements ▪ Proposed \$4.8 million for intersections that provide the largest safety benefit to the community based on the engineering analysis and amount of local funding ▪ 30% matching requirement ▪ Status: Submitted May 1, 2022
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Two others that we have submitted are the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding America Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, which is an acronym for RAISE. It's a Discretionary Grant Program and the amount applied for was \$25M for multimodal planning grants. There was no required match, and the planning projects identified where it came from the Go Dotte Study and those all meet the RAISE grant requirements. We submitted those on April 14th.

We also submitted on May 1st to the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Intersection Safety Improvements Grant for \$4.8M. They identified two intersections of note but they're basically to improve the safety of the community. There was a match requirement that was met and so we're waiting on that. That was submitted several weeks ago.

<i>Under Development or Expected in the Future</i> Grant Applications	▪ US Department of Transportation, Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG), MEGA/INFRA Grant ▪ Proposed \$100M for Kansas Ave/Cesar Chavez Bridge Replacement and rehabilitation project ▪ Matching: to be determined ▪ Status: Being reviewed in collaboration with contributing stakeholders ▪ Deadline: May 23, 2022 ▪ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HOME-ARPA ▪ Allocated \$3,197,903, no required match ▪ Status: Pending submission of HOME-ARPA Allocation Plan to HUD; no deadline. Period of Performance ends September 30, 2030
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A couple more are currently being written or are expected to submit in the future. There was the U.S. Department of Transportation's Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity or MEGA/INFRA Grant. What they're proposing is potentially \$100M for Kansas Avenue and the Cesar Chavez Bridge Replacement and Rehab Project. The match is still being determined. The status is that it's being reviewed in collaboration with contributing stakeholders. The deadline is next week. The Public Works Department entered this potential grant application just this afternoon.

The second one is the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development HOME-ARPA Grant, which I think you all have heard about. We've been allocated \$3.2M. There's no required match. The status is that it's pending submission of our ARPA Allocation Plan to HUD. There's no deadline and our Community Development Department is working on that. The period of performance ends the end of September.

<i>Expected in the Future</i> Grant Applications	▪ US Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grants ▪ Concept Proposal amt to be determined ▪ Streetlight Modernization, matching requirement to be determined ▪ Status: Application due in late Fall 2022 ▪ US Department of Transportation, Safe Streets & Roads for All Grants ▪ Concept Proposal amt to be determined ▪ Implementing the Complete Street and Streetlight Modernization, matching requirement to be determined ▪ Status: Awaiting the Notice of Funding Opportunity
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Another two grants that we're expecting in the future. The first one's to the U.S. Department of Energy called the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant and right now it's under development. The concept of what we're going to propose is being discussed. One of the things or at least the amounts are still being worked on. One of the things they are contemplating is

proposing a Streetlight Modernization Project with this grant, and the status is that the application wouldn't be due until the end of or sometime in the fall.

Then there is the U.S. Department of Transportation Safe Streets and Roads for All Grants. The concept or the amount is still being determined. The purpose would be for implementing the Complete Streets Plan and potentially Streetlight Modernization. The match requirements are still being determined because the guidelines haven't been released yet. We are anticipating the notice of funding opportunity to come out soon.



I just thought I would start, well finish off. Usually, we just talk about some good news. Usually, we just talk about grants related to ARPA or the infrastructure, but this is a grant that we just got awarded. Public Works wanted me to let you all know. They applied for this last year, and they just learned that they got it. It's for \$1.4M and it totals six different projects called the Kansas Department of Transportation Access Innovation and Collaboration Grant and the match requirement is about \$200K. It was awarded on April 7th.

One of the key things I did want to point out is the goal of the Grants Management Division. I don't know if we're going to get that achieved in 2022, but overall, we typically only collect about \$9M in federal grants every year. So, what we want to do is get back to about 10 years ago when we collected half or twice that amount. We want to get our numbers for the amount of grants we collect, back up to, let's say, \$18M or \$20M a year. Grants like this, one by one, will really help get us to that goal. That's all I have.

Commissioner Johnson said thank you for this presentation Ms. VonAchen. It started out kind of slow, but you ended on the right track—\$1.4M. I was wondering if the ones that were declined, were those applications made under this new position or were those done before this new position was filled?

Ms. VonAchen said all the grant applications were written by these work groups, which include staff, and were led and also facilitated and written together, collaboratively, by the

consulting firm iParameters. The one position that is in our Grants Management is helping me with other Grants Management activities.

Commissioner Johnson said when we talk about getting to that level that we were years ago, have you been able to calculate the number of FTEs that we would need in order to get to that point? **Ms. VonAchen** said not specifically, but I certainly could look into that.

Commissioner Johnson said okay that would be great. I mean there's a lot of money and we heard, Ms. Walton talks about we need money in Parks and Rec, and that would be one area that we probably haven't done a good enough job to get money from different sources, whether it be government, state or whatever the case may be, or just philanthropic. I do look forward to seeing some success with regard to that so that we can leverage that along with the money that we should be putting in from the Unified Government itself. I'm very encouraged by this presentation, so, thank you.

Commissioner Stites said just real quick. The one that we scored a 100% on and we didn't get, who got that? **Ms. VonAchen** said I believe it was a group that is involved with the American Royal.

Mayor Garner said I have a question for you Ms. VonAchen. Can you explain to the Commission and to the public who decides which grants we apply for? Is it community driven and do these grant recommendations that you all apply for, do they run through the Commission? Any standing committees? How do we get to the point of staff deciding which grants we're going to apply for? I'm glad we have a grant writer, that's great. But who decides what the priorities are for Wyandotte County when these grants are written? **Ms. VonAchen** said typically departments see grants and they just apply for them. That's typically how it's always been. When they apply for a grant, if it's over \$50K, the policy is they have to bring it to the committee or the subcommittee, usually Public Works, but maybe EDF or Administration, depends on the subject. Then the committee approves it and sees it and then they pass it on to the Commission. The Commission approves it usually as part of the Consent Agenda. So, now that we're getting an influx of more grant applications because of the ARPA legislation and the infrastructure legislation, some of these deadlines have come very, very suddenly. We still want to follow that same procedure, and so that's what has been happening for the past three or four months where the grants are being brought before the

subcommittees and being discussed, and then the elected body brings them to and puts them on the Commission Agenda.

Mayor Garner said prior to this, is there any discussion with the Commission as opposed to just bringing it forward from staff? Are you having those conversations prior to, to say these grant opportunities are here, Commission or standing committee, is that even set up that way? These are some things that the staff would like to bring forward. Is this something that the Commission has an interest in, and do we touch—we leave a footprint in the community to let them know what grant opportunities are there, so we get their input. Really, I'm just curious about where these grant funds are allocated because you had a slide there that I believe is the last one you said that there were six identified places where that \$1M plus—where is that? **Ms. VonAchen** said I didn't say because I didn't want to talk too long, but I have it here.

Mayor Garner said that'd be great. I'd just like to know; I mean I'd really like to get a better handle and make sure that our Commission is involved on the front end as opposed to telling when we get these grants because there's a lot of money out there and the Commission is the voice of the people. I really want them to be on the front end of this to make sure that the constituents' concerns and needs are being met as opposed to what staff believes needs to be delivered to the Commission. I've said this before, it seems like a lot of things are staff driven. We need to have things being elected body and Commission driven. **Ms. VonAchen** said that's fine, we welcome input from the community on these grant applications. When they come out, that's when we present them to the subcommittees.

Action: **For information only.**

Mayor Garner said that takes us to Item #4. I'm sorry but before I do, do we have any more questions for Ms. VonAchen?

Commissioner Markley said I was just going to say we do hear these grant applications frequently before our standing committee. It depends, I think, a lot on the deadline and how quickly it's coming, how much input we're able to have. If there's time before the grant is due staff has always been good about asking what they think are the projects that could meet the requirements of that grant and taking our input. I will say sometimes the deadlines don't allow for that discussion really

to happen because they're like we got a grant and the application's due on this day we're either going to turn it in or we're not.

Item No. 4 – 211590...UPDATE: UPDATE ON ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Synopsis: An update on the organizational assessment, submitted by Cheryl Harrison-Lee. (New Item per blue sheet.)

Mayor Garner said that takes us, again, to Item #4, an update on the organization assessment. This is the last item on the County Administrator's Agenda regarding an organizational assessment. I'll ask Ms. Harrison-Lee, our Interim County Administrator, to open with her remarks.

Cheryl Harrison-Lee, Interim County Administrator, said during my first 100 days I had an opportunity to meet with members of the governing body, UG staff, and external stakeholders. As a follow-up and taking the feedback as well as my insight into consideration, we are embarking upon three organizational assessments, or audits, of the UG. The first one is an overall of the entire Unified Government. The second one is Human Resources and then the third is Finance. In doing my opening comments in January when I was introduced, I talked about transformation through collaboration based on four components that I call DEIF.

First D for discovering new ways to strengthen engagement with the community, businesses, and stakeholders. During the first quarter, the UG launched several successful outreach and engagement initiatives. For example, DOTTE Talks which was an opportunity for the community to talk about and provide their input into our budget process. The other initiatives are identified in the Quarterly Report that was previously provided to the Commission. Residents, you are able to view that on the website or you may have seen it through the e-Newsletter that came out.

E for evaluate. This is where we look at the audits, where we are looking at what we do well as an organization and we're looking at those areas that we need to improve which will allow us to increase our service delivery. So, in addition to talking with the commissioners and talking with external stakeholders and my observations, we are talking to senior staff, and we are also asking staff for their input. This effort will allow us to ensure that the UG is well-positioned to

provide the best service, impactful programs, and that we're supported by a strong competitive well-compensated workforce.

We're currently focused on the workforce through the audit of HR and our finances through the assessment of the Finance Department along with the overall organization. Next month we will start to present some of the results from the consultants to give you an update on those findings.

I for identify. Identify economic development opportunities that create access, equity, and shared prosperity, especially in those areas that are not traditionally served. This will involve taking a holistic look at our development policies and processes in addition to looking at how we can be more strategic and intentional for long-term economic sustainability. This includes, but not limited to, those items such as affordable housing, code enforcement and beautification as evidenced in the survey, neighborhoods, and public safety.

Finally, if the DEIF, F for focus. Focusing on customer service, improving how we work with those internally as well as how we serve our customers. I'll be working to align these priorities with the efforts, your efforts, and your priorities, through the budget. Your feedback is important. We've had an opportunity for Mr. Ed O'Malley with the Kansas Leadership Center to come as well as to have follow-up interviews with you. We'll be using that and also we have the budget simulator. I encourage you if you haven't had an opportunity to do that to please go on to the website and participate in the budget simulator.

Also, I look forward to assisting the Mayor as he searches for a permanent Administrator and helping him facilitate that process in any way that I can. I look forward to continuing to work with the governing body and the residents, businesses, and staff to make sure that Wyandotte County is a place that residents are proud to call home, and visitors continue to seek to return. Mayor, that completes my comments.

Mayor Garner asked, do any members of the Commission have any comments or questions for the Administrator?

Commissioner Bynum said just to make sure I heard correctly. The general audit, if you will, HR, and then Finance. **Ms. Harrison-Lee** said yes, those are the ones we started with.

Commissioner Bynum said okay and so when do you think you'll have those completed products? **Ms. Harrison-Lee** said next month we're going to start with the presentation of the overall organizational audit. We'll start with that one next month. **Commissioner Bynum** said okay sure I wasn't sure I heard you correctly. So next month we'll start with the general. **Ms. Harrison-Lee** said we'll start with the general. **Commissioner Bynum** said all right, okay. Then the other two will come. **Ms. Harrison-Lee** said and the other two will follow.

Mayor Garner said the audits are really important. We need to know where we're at so we can have a better idea of how we need to move forward as an organization. How do we provide the best level of governance and quality service to our residents? We're also taking care of our employees but operating in a manner that's efficient, hopefully, to find cost savings that can be translated to our taxpayers. So, thank you, Ms. Lee. We will continue to support the work that she has been doing. Again, this was for information only. This concludes our meeting for tonight. Thank you all for coming.

Action: For Information only.

ADJOURN

Mayor Garner said I will move to adjourn.

Action: Commissioner McKiernan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Burroughs, to adjourn the meeting. Roll call was taken and there were eight "Ayes," Townsend, McKiernan, Johnson, Markley, Stites, Davis, Bynum, Burroughs.

MAYOR GARNER
ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9:00 P.M.
May 12, 2022

Monica Sparks
Acting Unified Government Clerk

am

May 12, 2022