

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

SPECIAL SESSION, THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2016

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in special session, Thursday, June 9, 2016, with ten members present: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Walker, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; Murguia, Commissioner Third District; Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District (arrived at 5:12 p.m.); Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Walters, Commissioner Seventh District; Philbrook, Commissioner Eighth District; and Holland, Mayor/CEO; presiding. McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; was absent. The following officials were also in attendance for the Special Session: Doug Bach, County Administrator; Joe Connor, Asst. County Administrator; Gordon Criswell, Asst. County Administrator; Bridgette Cobbins, Unified Government Clerk; Kathy VonAchen, Chief Finance Officer; Ken Moore, Chief Legal Counsel; Mike Taylor, Public Relations Director; Emerick Cross, Commission Liaison; and Carl Webb, Sergeant-at-Arms. Attendees present for the Executive Session: Doug Bach, County Administrator; Ken Moore, Chief Legal Counsel; and Patrick Waters, Senior Attorney; was present from 5:30 p.m. to 6:37 p.m. Susan Alig was present from 5:30 p.m. to 6:37 p.m. Maureen Mahoney, Asst. to Mayor/Chief of Staff; was present from 5:30 p.m. to 6:51 p.m. Joe Connor, Asst. County Administrator; was present from 6:37 p.m. to 6:51 p.m. and Chief Jones, Fire Department; was present from 6:37 p.m. to 6:51 p.m.

MAYOR HOLLAND called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Walker, Townsend, Murguia, Johnson, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Bynum, Holland.

AMENDED NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be held Thursday, June 9, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th floor conference room of the Municipal Office Building for a Legislative wrap-up. Immediately following, the Commission will recess from the 5th floor conference room to the 9th floor conference room for an executive session regarding litigation, labor, and land acquisition.

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

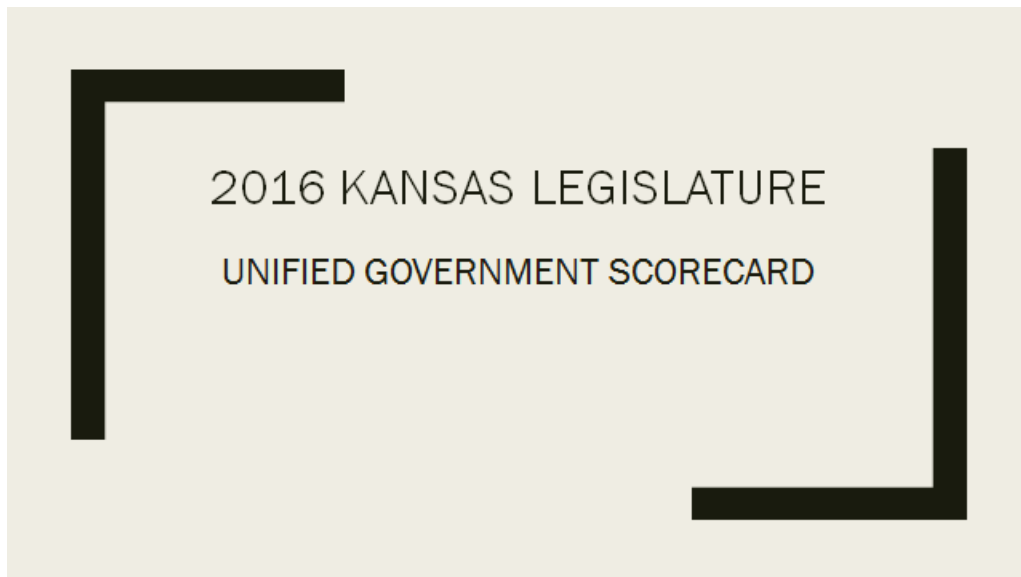
Mayor Holland said this is our Kansas Legislature Update. We thought we were getting the end of the year update and I just want to point out that Mike Taylor has a knack for drawing a crowd. We appreciate all the citizens who are here in attendance tonight.

Mike Taylor, Public Relations Director, said the Legislative Session had officially wrapped up. They held their Sine Die ceremony. Sine Die is a Latin word which means literally without another day. It was the ceremonial close except there is going to be another day and probably several days. The Governor yesterday called a Special Session to start June 23rd to try to resolve the school funding issue in order to keep the schools from closing on June 30th which was kind of the threat and the order put out by the Supreme Court because the equity issue is a concern. The Legislature will come back and deal with that issue on June 23rd. They are trying to keep that very nearly focused to just deal with that issue. I think they would all like to come in, that's a Thursday, I think they will probably come in a day early maybe and maybe have a couple of Education Committee meetings to try to craft a bill and then meet on Thursday and perhaps Friday they will be done by that weekend. There seems to be a growing consensus that the number they need to satisfy the court is about \$38M and while they don't necessarily have that laying around they can figure that out, figure out how to fund \$38M on school equity and get out of the session.

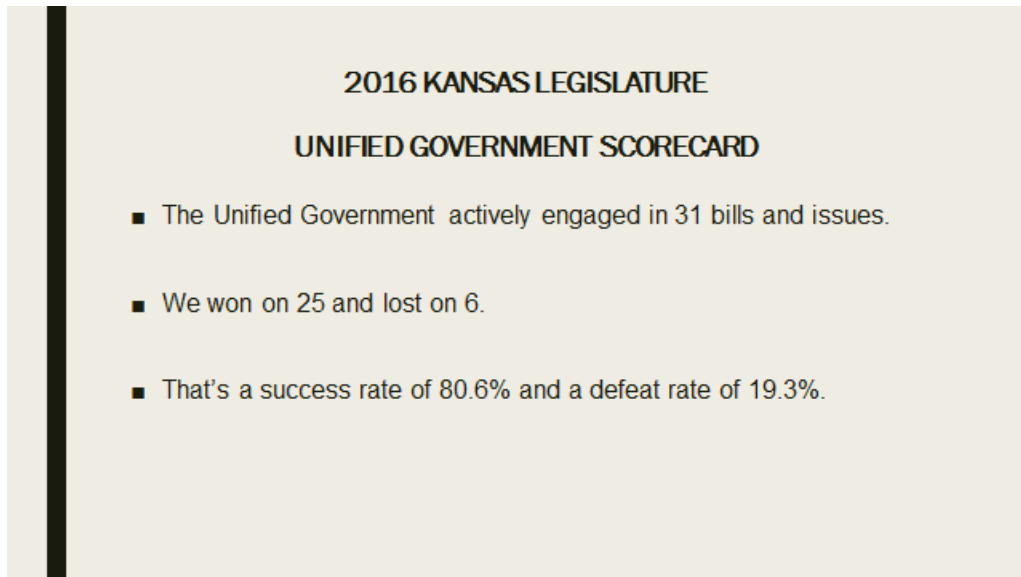
One of the interesting things is the entire Legislature is up for reelection this fall. All 40 members of the Senate and all 125 members of the House, of course, all are not running again but while the session is in officially none of them can raise campaign funds from lobbyist or corporations or unions or packs and so when they come back in session it really puts a halt on their fundraising and their campaigning for their reelection. They're not going to want to hang around for half of the summer because it would totally blow their reelection efforts for those running again. I think they will wrap it up pretty quickly.

The Governor, I listened to him in an interview today, he seems to be pretty agreeable to let's find the \$38M, let's fund it and let's get out of here and move on.

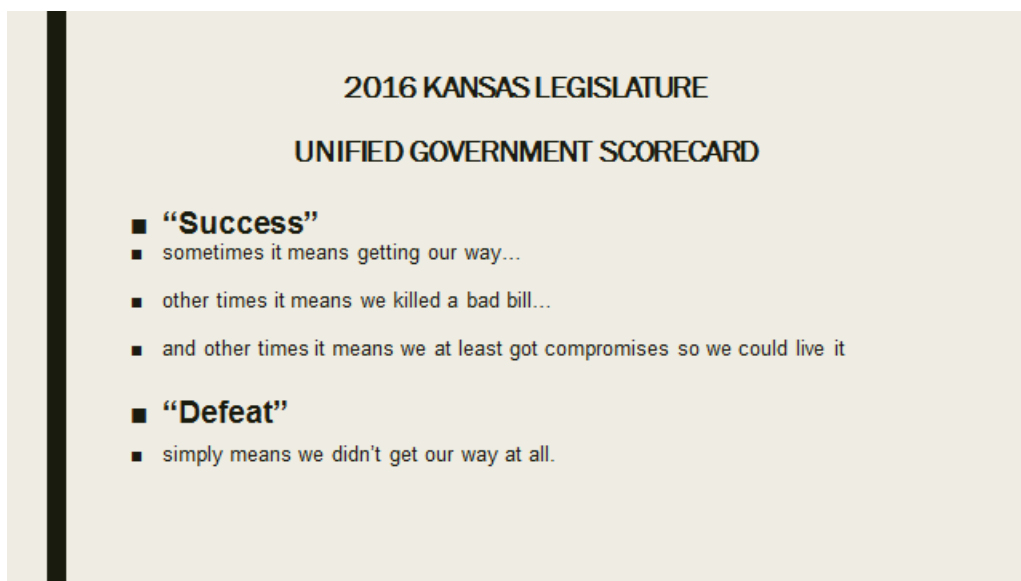
There are a whole lot of other issues surrounding that in terms of a fight between the Judicial Branch, the Supreme Court and the Legislature. There may be some attempts to try to limit what the court can do, but for those of you that took ninth grade Civics you know it's kind of a constitutional platform of our country and our state that you have three branches. There is Executive, Legislative and Judicial and so a lot of that is political in terms of the accusations going back and forth about did the court overstep it's bounds or did it not and so you will hear some conversations about that. I think most of the Legislators are ready to solve the school issue for now at least and move on.



Let's talk about what happened with the session that has concluded. I do every year as you well know a scorecard. I kind of look at issues we get involved in.

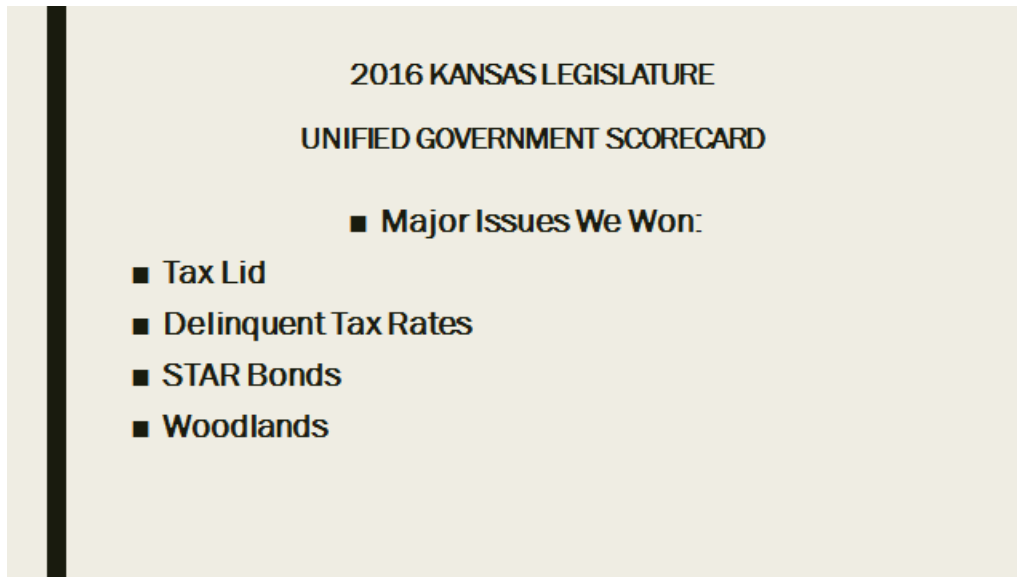


We got actively engaged in 31 bills and issues. We won on 25 of those and we lost on 6. There were some big ones of that 6 so that's a success rate of a little over 80% and a defeat rate of about 20%. When I say that, what do I mean by that?



I define success this way because in the legislative process it's not all black and white. Success, sometimes it means we totally get our way. We get a bill passed the way we presented it and wanted it and we did that on several of them. Other times it means we killed the bill that we didn't want, that's a success. Sometimes it means that we at least got a compromise or enough compromises in a piece of legislation that we can live with and make it work. That happened on

a number of bills. The way I categorize a defeat is we simply didn't get our way at all and that happened on several major pieces of legislations.



So what were some of the major issues we won? The Tax Lid issue this year was a victory. Now, we philosophically opposed having a Tax Lid on local government. They passed a Tax Lid last year that was far worse than this year so the reason I consider this a success is because there was no way we could stop this, but we were able this year to put in a number of exemptions to the Tax Lid to calculate whether we would actually have to go to public vote and there are enough exemptions in there that I honestly think the UG probably will never have to go to a public vote. The Tax Lid says if you raise your mill levy over your revenues above the Consumer Price Index, the rate of inflation basically, you would have to go to a vote. Then we exempted all Public Safety, we exempted the cost of a disaster. Let's say we got hit by a tornado and had extraordinary costs, there are a whole bunch of exceptions there so it's very likely that we probably will never have to actually do that even if we did have to raise taxes. This was purely political in an election year to say hey, we're going to crack down on property taxes.

Delinquent Tax Rates – This is a bill that I actually introduced or the UG introduced a year ago and on delinquent tax rates two years ago, three years ago I'm sorry, the Legislature cut the interest rate on delinquent taxes by 2% which was really an incentive to not pay your property taxes on time. We introduced a bill to raise it by 5% and it passed the House Tax Committee last year. We couldn't get it on the floor of the House and this year we got it bundled

into a bill with some other tax issues and it's passed with a large majority and so that means the interest rate now on delinquent property taxes will be—it varies from year to year because they use a formula. It will be close to 9 or 10% and we think that's going to be an incentive to not just skip out on paying your property taxes when you can well afford to. I will point out quickly that folks that can't really afford to, we work with them on payments and other things so it's not an issue of the little old lady who can't just afford to pay. These are largely corporations and others who play the game so they can well afford to do it. It will be close to 9 or 10%. We estimate conservatively that could generate somewhere around a half million dollars a year in new revenue for the UG.

STAR Bonds – There were a number of STAR Bond issues. We ended up winning pretty much on all of those. There were some legislators that went berserk again over STAR Bonds unneededly but they did and they tried to put restrictions on them. One of them went into a bill the Governor actually vetoed that provision and the Legislature was going to try to override that veto. We worked with—and the Senate actually did override his veto so that would have put what were unfair restrictions on Wyandotte County specifically named Wyandotte County, no more STAR Bonds and they were upset because of some things or perceived things that had gone on out in Village West and with the new soccer addition and the car dealerships. We were able to get that veto sustained in the House and to do that we worked hard and we got 27, probably the biggest accomplishment, we got 27 out of the 28 democrats to stand up with Governor Brownback and Wyandotte County and sustain that veto. Even the Governor's staff I talked to was shocked, they were like you've got to work with us on this and we got 27 out of 28 democrats to support Governor Brownback and sustain that. The reason was really they saw the unfairness of what had been done so that was a very positive thing.

Woodlands – I mention the Woodlands as a success and I know this is a touchy one but there were two different bills introduced and as you all know because you adopted it, we changed our position and said we would support the Woodlands reopening under certain conditions. We had several meetings with representatives, Phil Ruffin, and talked about what we wanted in terms of development agreements or sit down and work with us on what you want to do and we potentially could support legislation to reopen the Woodlands. He never did that and in fact they more than once declined to sit down and talk with us about that so we held back on our support and none of those bills passed. Even if we had weighed in and supported them, they

wouldn't have passed anyway quite honestly. There was just too much opposition to it but I count that as a success because we did say we would work with you and potentially support if you work with us and that didn't happen. There will be a new effort next year so we get to do it all over again.



KPERS – A huge issue and I probably heard more about this issue than any other one from our own employees. Several efforts from legislators to try to save money on KPERS and place restrictions that probably weren't even legal in terms of capping the number of vacation days that employees could accrue and sick leave and how they accrue their final payouts when they retire, probably none of it was legal but they were pushing for it because they saw a few examples, extreme examples and there were only a handful of them. There was one particular school superintendent who got a very large payout the way he had negotiated his contract and some legislators—it was in Johnson County, kind of went crazy over that and wanted to stop it. We had a number of employees watching that and we could have lost—I talked to Ron Green, we could have lost 200 or 300 employees before July 1st had one of these things passed because they were going to go you know I'm done, I've reached retirement and I'm going to quit. We were able to stop all of those efforts so that was a huge success.

KDOT Funding – You've all heard about how the Governor keeps rating KDOT. Since Governor Brownback has been Governor in 2011 it's close to \$2B in highway funding that's been taken to fill holes in the General Fund budget. One of the positives on this, and we engaged

in this, if you're going to take more money from KDOT, they basically stopped all new rode projects and they are cutting back on maintenance projects and so the highway plan is being affected. The one thing they didn't do was take any of our local government money and the UG every year through the Special City/County Highway Fund which is KDOT funding gets between \$7M and \$9M and that would have been a huge hit but they decided to leave that alone so I think we have to count that as a victory that we didn't lose that local funding, that money that comes directly to us to do roads.

Another bill that we worked hard on with the Police Chief, in fact, it goes back prior to Chief Zeigler when Chief Hanson was here working with the region Law Enforcement Mutual Aid. Missouri passed this bill three years ago and in affect what it does is during a critical incident, say an active shooting incident, it allows our law enforcement when they're called to cross the state line into Missouri and vice-versa to assist. They couldn't really do that before because of jurisdictional laws, they had no liability. I will give you the case example we talked about earlier. If you remember a number of years ago there was an active shooter at the Ward Parkway Mall, he killed several people. The Leawood Police Department was the first department to respond because it's right across State Line Road. They had no authority to actually arrest or shoot that active shooter. They had to wait until KCMO Police got there. This bill takes care of that so if they were called they could actually cross the state line and deal with that. It was a big success and so we got that done after two years.

Municipal Court Fines – There was an effort, particularly from one legislator who didn't like that he kept getting tickets on I-35, so what he wanted to do was limit the way Municipal Courts handles traffic tickets. What the bill said was that if a Police Department writes a ticket on a state or federal highway through their jurisdiction, 70% of the revenue has to go straight to the State of Kansas. If you think about how that affects Wyandotte County, if you think about all the state and federal highways that run through our community; Leavenworth Road is a state highway all the way through our community, 18th Street, 7th Street, I-35, 635, 435, K-32; the estimate was it would have cost us at least a half million dollars a year by having to provide that 70%. We were able, and I give compliments to Judge Ryan, he came over and gave some really compelling testimony as did some others from other communities and we were able to stop that bill. That was a huge success and, again, a revenue positive kind of bill.



I'm hitting highlights here. Here is what we lost. The Abandoned Housing Bill, we've talked about this for a number of years. This is the effort that Representative Stan Frownfelter has pushed for years in order to expedite the way we can deal with abandoned housing, blighted housing. We worked and worked on this. The city of Topeka was a huge partner in this as was the city of Wichita and we got this bill to the point that it passed the Senate, it passed the House and Governor Brownback vetoed it. He used arguments in his veto message that quite honestly, I will just be blunt, were bogus. He talked about this was nothing but eminent domain and some other arguments that we had that we had actually over the past few years had totally debunked and explained why it's not. What it really was, and it kind of became more of a political payback to the city of Topeka and the Shawnee County Delegation, for some things they did. He was angry and he knew that Topeka really wanted this bill as did we so he vetoed it and so we lost that effort. I'm not sure what we will do in the future.

The other major one was Rental Licensing. A bill got introduced to basically protect tenants is how it got explained. It had nothing to do with the landlords or people who might be slumlords, it had to do with we're going to protect the tenants' rights and we don't want these inspectors going into these properties and inspecting them without the tenants permission. We brought a number of folks over from Wyandotte County to testify. In fact I worked with Liveable Neighborhoods and Greg Talkin. I delivered a stack of written testimony, I'm not kidding; that was this tall from different neighborhood groups that supported Rental Licensing. We had UG officials there. Overland Park has just adopted a Rental Licensing Program.

Hutchinson, Manhattan, Lawrence; it preempts us—we're going to have to be very creative in how we can now inspect because what it basically says is if there is a tenant in that property, unless the tenant requests an inspection or allows the inspector to come in, you can't do it. If the property is empty, between tenants, then we have a right to do that. We had several Wyandotte County KCK landlords who said they think the program is good and we like it, but they're the reputable ones. We're working on trying to figure out how to do it. It was totally stepping on local control again and so that one passed. It was a hard fought battle but it flew.

Guns – We consistently lose on guns. You know if you go back several years they preempted us over Open Carry, several other issues. What the legislation this year did has a direct impact. First of all, buildings that have adequate security, as you know, a metal detector and a guard you can stop people from coming in with guns. They redefined what adequate security means in this legislation. What adequate security now means is any security guard working the door, like the front door at City Hall or the backdoor at City Hall, will have to be armed. If they are unarmed, without a weapon, it's not adequate so we have to work with our employees and figure out how we deal with that issue and basically we're going to have to arm all of our security guards to work the doors. **Mayor Holland** asked do they have to be armed with a gun or can they be armed with a machete. **Mr. Taylor** said I think they are requiring a gun. I think it means a gun, a loaded gun as a matter of fact. That was one of the big changes that they made which we fought.

The other change affects employees, and again, it's a preemption of local control. As a matter of personnel policy we prohibit our UG employees while they're on the clock from carrying a weapon unless they are a police officer or someone whose job is to carry a weapon, but what they did is say we don't care what your local personnel policy says; if you have someone who is eligible to carry a gun, concealed carry, which means anyone because there is no training or permit now required; if they are out of their main workplace, they are out in the field and so let's talk about a Code Inspector or someone who is working in their job out in the field. They can carry concealed and we can't stop them even though our personnel policy says we don't want you to do that. That was a big change. We're working through all of that through Human Resources to try to figure out how we now deal with that.

The next change that will happen and this was already in the law, I'll just mention it as a reminder; but July 1, 2017 the exemption that we got for all of our buildings that don't have

“adequate security” expires. A year from now, July 1st, we will have to decide—you will actually have to talk about this during your budget talks this year, what do we want to do about buildings like Memorial Hall, James P. Davis Hall, community rec centers; because unless we put armed guards and metal detectors in every one of them, we can’t stop people from coming in with guns after July 1, 2017. Big loss on guns but it’s not particularly surprising, it’s just sort of an attitude there and they call it constitutional carry so that is kind of the catch phrase they use, that it’s guaranteeing the Constitution so I shouldn’t have to have any training or have a permit to be able to carry, I should just be able to do it.

The other one which becomes a perineal lost is Medicaid Expansion that’s through KanCare to expand and we would increase coverage of Wyandotte County residents by tens of thousands and, Mayor, you may know. **Mayor Holland** said it would cut our uninsured in half in the county. We’re at about 18%; it would drop it to about 9% so it would cut the uninsured in Wyandotte County in half. **Mr. Taylor** said we’ve actually made some huge progress since 2010. I’ve got some statistics that show we’ve actually done a great job through the Affordable Care Act of encouraging people, recruiting them and getting them signed up; so we’ve actually done a great job of cutting the number of uninsured in Wyandotte County. Sort of the kick in the pants on that is that one of the big cuts that the State had to make in order to balance the budget was they cut Medicaid coverage and so what that’s likely to mean is not only will the providers get reimbursed much less which probably means even though we have a great number of our residents now with insurance, there will be a lot fewer providers to take care of them because their reimbursement rate is now going to be like 60%. To explain that, let’s say you were a retail store and you had to sell the product, you know you paid \$10 to get a product but you could only charge \$6 to sell it; you’re not going to stay in business very long. A hospital, a doctor, at some point will have to say I can’t afford to take anymore Medicaid patients and that’s what we’re fearful is going to happen and we think that we will see some splash back on our own Health Department even though we’re not a primary care, you’re likely to see people going there or the Duchene Cline next-door so that was a huge loss and we came really so close.

I will give you a little background and this was publicized. There were a number of legislators on that Human Health & Services Committee that were indicating they supported expansion of Medicaid so the House Speaker kind of votes before the session started and said you know what, you, you and you are off that committee and he replaced them very specifically

with people he knew opposed expansion of Medicaid and so the system kind of got rigged before the session ever started.

Those were the losses. There are a lot more on the sheets I left in front of you. I wasn't going to take the time to go through every single one because there are lots of issues that were a lot smaller, but still important. Those are kind of what I view as the highlights of the session so we've got a few minutes left.



I will open it up for question or if there are any other issues you want to inquire about, please ask.

Commissioner Markley said I'm curious who the 28th person was when we got the 27 votes out of 28. **Mr. Taylor** said I will tell you all of our Wyandotte County Delegation was there of course. The one democrat who came to me, and actually I'm very close to him, his name is John Carmichael. He is a democrat out of Wichita and he said I really support you but he goes I just can't vote for something that Sam Brownback wants so I'm going to have to vote no. He was apologetic but he said that's it so he is the one. It wasn't a secret, he let it be known and in fact he stood up in front of the House and said I just can't do this. It had nothing to do with Wyandotte County but yes, it was Representative Carmichael out of Wichita, but 27 out of 28 was pretty good. **Commissioner Markley** said it's very good, but it just begs the question who

was the odd man out. **Mr. Taylor** said he wouldn't mind me saying that because he was kind of proud of it.

2016 Legislative Scorecard

The Unified Government actively engaged in 31 bills and issues in the 2016 session. We won on 25 and lost on 6. That's a success rate of 80.6% and a defeat rate of 19.3%.

"Success" sometimes means getting our way... sometimes it means we killed a really bad bill... and other times it means we at least got compromises so we could live with a bill for the time being.

"Defeat" simply means we didn't get our way at all. Here's the list of issues:

What we won:

Tax Lid: Local governments will have to live under a tax lid beginning January 1, 2017. The basic provision is if we raise property taxes more than the Consumer Price Index, we would have to hold an election and voters would have to approve the increase. While we fought this for two years, there was no way to stop it, so we worked hard to insert enough exemptions that we can live with it and will probably never have to use it. **SUCCESS.**

Delinquent Tax Rates: Last year the UG brought a measure to increase the interest rate on delinquent property taxes by 5%. The low interest rates now in place make too easy for people to skip out on their taxes. This bill passed as part of a larger bill dealing with other tax issues. But Governor Brownback vetoed it. However, the Legislature overwhelmingly overrode the veto. **SUCCESS.**

STAR Bonds: A bill looking to place unreasonable restrictions on the use of STAR bonds was stopped and the version that passed did not punish Wyandotte County or harm projects. **SUCCESS.**

STAR Bonds Veto: Early in the session lawmakers approved a proviso in a budget bill which was very punitive to Wyandotte County, in effect stopping all future STAR Bond projects. The Governor vetoed the proviso. The Senate overrode the veto. The House however sustained the veto. We managed to get 27 out of 28 House Democrats to vote with the Governor and in support of Wyandotte County. SUCCESS.

Woodlands: Two different bills were in play which could have allowed the Woodlands to reopen with slot machines and horse racing by changing the financial formulas used to determine how much profit owner Phil Ruffin could keep. Hollywood Casino opposed saying it was unfair. The UG decided to support legislation for the Woodlands if Ruffin negotiated a development agreement with the UG. He didn't. Both bills died. SUCCESS.

KPERS: While more attempts were made to limit benefits under KPERS, no negative bills made it through the committee hearing process to the floor for debate. Efforts to cap accrued vacations and sick leaves have some support, but not enough to get a bill passed. SUCCESS.

KDOT Funding: Even though Governor Brownback stole several hundred million from highway projects to balance the budget, KDOT will not be cutting back local government funding such as the city-county highway fund. This protects millions of dollars received by the UG every year. SUCCESS.

Mutual Aid: A bill allowing Kansas law enforcement to cross into Missouri and Missouri law enforcement to work in Kansas during critical incidents. It gives law enforcement legal protections to act in another jurisdiction. This bill is especially important in the KC metro. SUCCESS.

Body Cameras: A bill forcing all police departments and other law enforcement agencies to wear body cameras failed. It was an expensive mandate that was unneeded and would have taken away control over how departments initiate the use of body cameras. SUCCESS.

Open Records: This measure makes any video recordings made by law enforcement body cameras exempt from the Open Records law. This is viewed as critical by KCKPD and many other law enforcement agencies. SUCCESS.

Civil Forfeiture: This bill would have prohibited police from keeping money or property confiscated from drug dealers and other criminals. It would have cost the UG and KCK PD millions of dollars. We worked hard to prevent the bill from advancing. SUCCESS.

Municipal Court Fines: This stupid bill would have placed unreasonable limits on court fines and made the UG pay 70% of the traffic fines written on any State or Federal highway to the State of Kansas. It would have cost the UG an estimated \$500,000 a year. It died. SUCCESS.

Municipal Court Bail Bonds: A bill introduced by the bail industry would have forced KCK Municipal Court to allow professional bail bondsman. It was an expensive intrusion into local control that would have been negative for the court and people facing charges. While other bail bond changes were made, this provision failed. SUCCESS.

District Court Bail Bonds: Another measure to usurp local control and the authority of the Chief District Court judge. While a measure passed, it does not affect the way we administer professional bail bondsman in our District Court. SUCCESS.

Budget Sweep: This bill would have basically permanently robbed KDOT and other funds with all of the money going to the state general fund instead of designated funds. This measure would have threatened funding local governments receive. The bill did not advance. SUCCESS.

Public Building Commission: An attempt from a group of angry citizens out of Manhattan/Junction City would have required many bond issues through Public Building Commissions to be put to a public vote. We worked hard to stop this because of the negative effect on UG projects. SUCCESS.

Telecomm Towers: This bill was introduced by the telecomm industry (Sprint and other cell phone companies) to reduce the burden of getting permits to build cellphone towers. The bill was far from ideal in the way it was introduced... but with intense negotiations, local governments were able to make changes which make the bill acceptable. SUCCESS.

Fire Insurance: A small victory, but a positive one. Cities can keep a share of fire insurance proceeds on private property to make sure a building with 75% damage actually gets fixed, or torn down. That was limited to only fires or explosions, but this bill the coverage to any kind of disaster, including earthquakes. SUCCESS.

Auto Registration Notices: The State Department of Revenue again wanted to stop mailing out vehicle registration notice letters, replacing them with a simple postcard directing people to a website. The UG would have had to print and mail its own notices at a cost of up to \$50,000 a year. This “moneysaving” idea by revenue officials didn’t gain support. SUCCESS.

KTA Debts: This bill was opposed by Treasurers because of the added work with no compensation. It would require Treasurers to collect Kansas Turnpike Authority debts before allowing residents to register their cars. The KTA is changing to a system under which you can just drive through the toll booth and if you don’t have a KTAG, you will get a bill in the mail. People with \$100 in unpaid tolls will not be able to register their cars unless those tolls are paid. County Treasurers will get to keep 15% of the delinquent tolls they collect. This change made the bill acceptable. SUCCESS.

Election Audits: A proposal by Secretary of State Kris Kobach to require local election offices perform audits on vote returns to ensure no fraud occurred. This would have put an expensive and difficult mandate on local election officials. The bill did not advance. SUCCESS.

Election Education: Another stupid idea from Kris Kobach. Local governments would have been prohibited from spending any tax dollars to in any way educate citizens about sales tax elections, bond issue elections, or property tax elections. Kobach argues local governments “cheat” and actually advocate for passage of such issues instead of just informing citizens. While we would

have been prohibited, anti-tax groups could still put out as much “no” vote info as they wanted. This bill had a hearing in the Senate, but couldn’t muster enough support to pass out. SUCCESS.

Sanctuary Cities: Another Kobach bill, along with several conservatives, to punish cities which are viewed as being accepting to undocumented immigrants. We were able to work behind the scenes with several groups to block this bill from even getting a hearing. SUCCESS.

Immigration: Yet another bill that would have placed enforcement mandates and other burdens on local law enforcement and cities regarding undocumented immigrants. Again, we were able to work behind the scenes with several groups to block this bill from even getting a hearing. SUCCESS.

What We Lost:

Abandoned Housing: This loss really stung. After working for several years with Rep Stan Frownfelter, City of Topeka and others to pass a law which would help cities deal more effectively with abandoned and blighted housing, the bill passed both the Senate and House. Then, Governor Brownback vetoed the bill for a number of bogus reasons which had been debunked in hearing after hearing. He really vetoed it to punish the Shawnee County/City of Topeka legislative delegation because he didn’t like their position on a totally unrelated issue. Pure politics. DEFEAT.

Rental Licensing: Another major defeat as the Legislature runs roughshod over local control and home rule rights held by cities. This measure will severely damage our ability to ensure rental properties are up to code and safe to live in. It was touted as a property rights measure for tenants. BS. It was about limiting government’s ability to protect people by making landlords meet basic requirements of health and safety. DEFEAT.

Guns: If “happiness is a warm gun” like the Beatles sang, Kansas should be the happiest place on earth. This mega gun bill will intrude into workplace policies and allow public employees to carry guns on the job while out in the field, even if personnel policies prohibit it. It also changes

the definition of “adequate security” in public buildings to mean all security guards at the protected doors must be armed. DEFEAT.

Property Appraisals: This is a complicated bill that was a mixed bag. Some things were good, others bad. The bill passed unanimously in both the Senate and House, but the Governor vetoed the bill because of a tax dispute with a billionaire Pizza Hut franchise owner. The Legislature overrode the veto during the Sine Die session. DEFEAT.

Unclaimed Checks: This UG bill would have made it a lot easier and cheaper to deal with all those small checks written for 10-cents or \$10 that people never cash. The bill had strong bipartisan support and passed unanimously out of the House Tax Committee. But for more than a year, the House Speaker would not let on the floor for debate because he feared it would be amended with other tax issues the Brownback administration didn’t want to deal with. DEFEAT.

Medicaid Expansion: Even though this issue of expanding Medicaid to cover thousands of Wyandotte County residents and 150,000 Kansans across the state has strong support, the Republicans in charge are so opposed to Obamacare; they would rather see people die than allow them to have access to insurance and medical care. DEFEAT.

Mayor Holland said we thank you for your work. We trust you will be in Topeka on the 23rd. **Mr. Taylor** said yes, Mayor, and the thing I will be watching is while they say they’re going to stay focused on schools, which is not our direct issue, I’m always worried about where are you going to come up with that money and whether they reach into our pockets and try to take it so that’s what we will be watching primarily.

Executive Session – 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Markley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bynum, that the Commission go into Executive Session until 7:00 p.m. to discuss confidential matters relating to pending litigation under the attorney/client privilege, to discuss confidential matters regarding strategy related to employer/employee negotiations and confidential

matters regarding purchase price and property locations related to land acquisition all of which are exceptions to the Kansas Open Meetings Act; and that staff designated by the County Administrator be present to participate in the discussions. Motion carried.

Mayor Holland said we will excuse ourselves upstairs to the 9th floor for Executive Session and we will reconvene downstairs at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.

**MAYOR HOLLAND RECONVENED INTO SPECIAL SESSION
AND ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:51 P.M.**

dt

Bridgette Cobbins
Unified Government Clerk

June 9, 2016