

Jackson County, Missouri

Commissioners
Howard Lotven, Chairman
Roger Davis
Mary Shannon
Keith Curnutt
Jacquelyn Eidson



Jackson County Courthouse
415 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
(816)881-3670

Ethics, Human Relations, and Citizen Complaints Commission

<p>Meeting Minutes Thursday, October 17th, 2024, 5:15 p.m. Tenth Regular Meeting</p>
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1. Call to Order

Howard Lotven, Chairman, called the ninth regular meeting of the Ethics, Human Relations, and Citizen Complaints Commission to order at 5:17 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present 4 – Howard Lotven, Mary Shannon, Jacquelyn Eidson, Keith Curnutt

Absent – NONE

Excused 1 – Roger Davis

3. Introduction of OEHRCC Staff and Guests

Present – Director Chris Crawford, Administrative Assistant Alexandria Gold-Barnes

4. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mary Shannon, seconded by Keith Curnutt to approve the eighth regular meeting minutes. The motion passed with a voice vote.

A motion was made by Jacquelyn Eidson, seconded by Keith Curnutt to approve the ninth regular meeting minutes. The motion passed with a voice vote.

5. Director's Report.

Detention Center

New Facility

The construction of the new detention center remains on schedule to open in 2025. The

construction has gone vertical and there is a lot of visible progress. The administration reports that they have secured the funding approvals necessary from the legislature and are looking forward to continued progress.

Inmate Monitoring

The detention center reports that they will be adopting “direct supervision” as a standard in the new facility, stating that this will completely modify the county’s approach to corrections and inmate monitoring, and will improve the safety and wellbeing of officers and inmates at the facility. This approach places officers in continuous direct contact and supervision with inmates.

Staffing

The detention center is currently understaffed but reports that they are finding success recruiting new employees with recent pay increases approved by the legislature. They have also participated in county job fairs and promoted ads to attract new applicants. They have also reported that they believe the improved conditions at the new detention center will increase applicant interest.

Recorder of Deeds

The recorder of Deeds has rolled out a new “Property Fraud Alert” program to help county residents track changes to the recordings associated with their property. This program will notify residents of any changes filed with the county so they can be alerted to property fraud and identity theft that may occur before it becomes too late. The program is subscription-based and requires residents to sign up on the county’s website, but there is no cost associated with signing up.

IT

URL Change

IT reports that they will be working to change the county’s URL from “jacksongov.org” to a “.gov” address. The goal of this change is to promote additional internal security and confidence for those doing business with the county online. The change will take time to implement, and the department will be working with directors and county agencies to determine what URL will be best to use.

Credit Monitoring and Identity Protection

Following the 2024 ransomware attack and data breach, the county is offering associates one year of identity protection services through Experian. Although the county claims that there is no evidence that any employee information was compromised in the data breach, they acknowledge that the information was at risk, and they cannot guarantee that every employee’s personal information was protected. Employees should have received a letter notifying them of the opportunity to sign up for the free protection, as well as instructions on how to sign up. Although the county has covered the cost of one year of protection, the deadline to enroll is November 2024.

Collection

The collection department reports that they have received approximately 12,000 applications for the new senior property tax credit program. They anticipate receiving a total of about 20,000 applications by the end of the year. The expected number of

applications continues to increase as the state loosened the requirements for the program, allowing anyone 62 and over to qualify and limiting county income restrictions that had previously been in place. The department reports that they will not know how much financial benefit this will bring taxpayers until all applications have been received and processed, but they should have a good estimate by the beginning of next year.

6. Approval of Case Summaries

Chris Crawford presented case summaries #24145-24168. There were no questions or comments.

A motion was made by Keith Curnutt, seconded by Jacquelyn Eidson to approve the director's report with the case summaries. The motion passed with a voice vote.

7. New Business

NONE

8. Unfinished Business

Chairman Howard Lotven met with the chair of the county legislature regarding the commission's difficulty in functioning with reduced numbers, and the need for new appointments to fill vacancies and expired terms. The chair of the legislature plans to take the issue to the county executive to encourage him to rectify the situation.

Due to the redrawing of the legislative districts during the state's last redistricting process, the commission now has multiple unrepresented districts in the county.

Under the county charter the commission is only required to meet once per quarter. Howard Lotven proposes the idea of moving to a quarterly meeting until the issue of appointments/reappointments is resolved. Mr. Lotven proposes that the commission forgo formal meetings until January 2025. The director will continue to draft and send out a monthly director's report and commissioners would continue to receive the monthly correspondence regarding cases. The commission will meet, with proper notice, should there be an ethical complaint that needs to be addressed. The commissioners present at the meeting agreed with this proposal.

9. Public Comments

NONE

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mary Shannon, seconded by Jacque Eidson. The motion passed with a voice vote and the commission adjourned at 5:47 p.m.