

Jackson County, Missouri

Commissioners
Howard Lotven, Chairman
Mary Shannon
Jacquelyn Eidson
Mike Yonke
Brent Herrick
Karen Baker



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

Ethics, Human Relations, and Citizen Complaints Commission

Minutes Fourth Regular Meeting Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 5:15 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Mary Shannon, Acting Chairman, called the fourth regular meeting of the Ethics, Human Relations, and Citizen Complaints Commission to order at 5:15p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present 2 –Mary Shannon, Karen Baker

Excused 4 – Jacquelyn Eidson, Brent Herrick, Howard Lotven, Mike Yonhke

3. Introduction of OEHRCC Staff and Members of the Public

Present 2 – OEHRCC Staff Director Chris Crawford, Administrative Assistant Lisa Kinney

4. Approval of Minutes

A quorum was not in place, thus, a vote to approve the minutes of prior meetings could not be made. The fourth regular meeting minutes will be available to the public in compliance with state law.

5. Director's Report

Updates on Tax Credits and Taxing Jurisdictions

As previously discussed, the county executive has announced that he plans to offer tax credits to taxpayers with property values that were incorrectly/unfairly assessed and overpaid in 2023 and 2024. These tax credits are set to be applied to taxpayer accounts over the next two to three years. Last week, the county executive, along with the legislature and local media outlets, received a joint letter from 12 of the county's school districts calling on him to cancel his plans to offer these tax credits. In the letter, the school districts question the county executive's legal authority to provide these tax credits

and claim that the reduction in revenue from the credits would lead to a reduction in resources and cuts to staff and services.

When asked about the letter and the school districts' concerns, the county executive stated that he has been having productive conversations with the districts about possible solutions, but those conversations have stalled. He stated clearly that he intends to move forward with the credits for taxpayers, and if the districts question his legal authority to do so, they can seek relief through the courts.

The letter from the school districts has been attached to this month's meeting materials for your review.

Complaint Officer Position

The office's complaint officer position is currently vacant, and the position's duties have been temporarily absorbed by the director and the administrative assistant. We have received several applications from qualified candidates and will be conducting interviews throughout the week of 4/20-4/24. We hope to have this position filled by the commission's May meeting. The complaint officer position is vital to the office's daily function and long-term success, and must be a knowledgeable, trusted, and impartial advocate for associates and citizens. Finding the right candidate for this role is important for the success of the office moving forward.

Commissioner Pay

Commissioners should have received their first payment for 2026 last week. Generally, payments will be made on the payroll date following each meeting. This initial 2026 payment was delayed while some of the new commissioners were finalizing their onboarding process. For accounting purposes, we wanted to distribute payments for each meeting to all commissioners at the same time. Moving forward, payments will resume on a monthly (per meeting) basis. Commissioners are paid \$100 per meeting attended. If there are any questions about the payments or schedule, please don't hesitate to reach out to the office.

Employee Parking and County Bus Pass Program

Commissioners who have visited the courthouse recently may have noticed changes/limitations in the availability of parking in the county's lots, specifically in lot A, which is directly behind the courthouse. Parking has been limited for some time in the county's lots, and as the administration has filled some vacant positions and created a few additional positions, space has become more of an issue. There has also been some concern that access to the lot has been too loosely granted to employees/departments over the years, which creates security concerns for judges and certain county officials and compounds the space issues.

To combat these issues, the administration has revoked access to lot A from anyone who does not have an assigned parking space in that lot. As a result, commissioner ID badges will no longer allow access to lot A by the courthouse. We will continue to arrange parking for commissioner for in-person commission meetings and will do our best to coordinate parking for individual commissioners when coming into the office on non-

meeting days. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you plan to come to the office on a non-meeting day and need assistance with parking.

As an additional step to address the space limitations, the administration is reinstating the bus pass program for county associates. This program allows associates to choose between a county-provided parking space (generally assigned in lots a, b, c or the county parking garage) or a \$62.50 monthly transportation subsidy, which covers the cost of a monthly bus pass. This program also benefits county associates who rely on public transportation to get to and from work each day.

Information about the county bus program has been attached to this month's meeting materials for your review.

6. Approval of Case Summaries

Cases were reviewed by commissioners independently. A quorum was not in place; thus, a vote could not be made to approve the director's report with the case summaries. A vote will take place next time a quorum is in place.

7. New Business

NONE

8. Unfinished Business

NONE

9. Public Comments

NONE

10. Adjournment

Due to the lack of a quorum, Mary Shannon declares the meeting adjourned