

# Jackson County, Missouri

**Commissioners**  
Howard Lotven, Chairman  
Keith Curnutt  
Jacquelyn Eidson  
Mary Shannon



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

## **Ethics, Human Relations, and Citizen Complaints Commission**

<p><b>Meeting Minutes</b> <b>Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 5:15 p.m.</b> <b>Seventh Regular Meeting</b></p>
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### **1. Call to Order**

Howard Lotven, Chairman, called the seventh regular meeting of the Ethics, Human Relations, and Citizen Complaints Commission to order at 5:15p.m.

### **2. Roll Call**

Present 3 – Howard Lotven, Mary Shannon, Jacquelyn Eidson

Absent 1 – Keith Curnutt

Excused – NONE

### **3. Introduction of OEHRCC Staff and Members of the Public**

Present 3 – Director Chris Crawford, Complaint Officer Alexandra Gold-Barnes, 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 Sixth regular meeting minutes will be available to the public in compliance with state law.

### **5. Director's Report**

#### **County Executive/Administration**

Since the previous director's report, the new county executive, Phil LeVota, has been sworn in. Mr. LeVota inherited many issues and large projects on day one and immediately began hiring executive staff to help. Below, you can find the current

executive staff hired by the county executive. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you'd like to learn more about any of these individuals, their roles, or their background.

Theresa Garza – Chief of Staff Stephen Arbo – County Administrator Chris Whiting – Chief Policy Advisor Jennifer Nussbeck – Chief Public Affairs Officer Mr. LeVota will serve the remainder of Mr. White's term, which concludes at the end of 2026. As a condition of his appointment by the legislature, Mr. LeVota has agreed not to seek election at the conclusion of this term. Commission Vacancies

OEHRCC has had several opportunities to meet with members of the new administration over the past 30 days. During each of these meetings, we have reiterated the importance of filling commission vacancies and reappointing current commissioners. We've confirmed that Mr. Whiting is spearheading the issue of vacancies on boards and commissions throughout the county and have been communicating with him about the process for filling the EHRCC Commission and our recommendations. I am confident that the new administration is working diligently on filling these vacancies and that our commission will be filled as soon as possible.

### **Assessment**

The former director of assessment is no longer employed by the county, and her duties are currently being fulfilled by the deputy director of the assessment department. The county executive announced that the assessment department would follow the state tax commission's prior order to cap residential property value increases at 15% for 2023 and 2025. The department will be going back through values and making adjustments as needed to ensure they're complying with this policy. Taxpayers will not receive refunds for taxes they have already paid, since that money has already been distributed to and spent by taxing jurisdictions. Instead, taxpayers will receive credits on their tax bills over the next 1-3 years if they've overpaid. For taxpayers who have previously come to an agreement with the board of equalization (BOE) or signed a stipulation with the county agreeing to a new value, those agreements will remain in place; the county executive has stated that he will review these on an as-needed individual basis if individual taxpayers express feeling intimidated/coerced/ etc. at the time they entered into the agreement. Reductions in values will not be reflected on the tax bills that residents will be receiving over the next several weeks, since those bills were already prepared prior to this decision being made. However, taxpayers who will see a reduction are being identified and will receive a letter from the county executive's office notifying them that their bill will be changing. The implementation of this policy continues to develop, and we will provide additional details as they become available.

### **Budget**

The county executive's office has provided the legislature with their recommended budget and the legislature's budget committee is holding hearings with departments this week (11/19-11/20). Prior to providing the recommended budget, the administration met with department leaders multiple times to try to identify and understand department needs and requests, but they were working with a very restricted timeline since they were required to present the budget to the legislature in time for review, amendment,

and adoption before the end of the year. Due to the restricted timeline, we suspect there will be many amendments to the recommended budget before its final adoption, but the administration is working closely with departments and legislators throughout this process to ensure everyone is on the same page.

Mary Shannon asked about budget season coming around and is hopeful it does not take as long. Administration did not choose American Rescue Plan Act included 25 budget. Included this year for 26? Director Chris Crawford responds, “Yes and no”. The funds are split into two pools. One is for County improvements, and the other is for community services. There is an expectation that the community service funds will be put out into the community in the first quarter of 2026, as the County Executive has already received and approved some contracts and he plans to use previous bidding processes to get funds out into the community as fast as possible. Other than that, there is no clarity on the other pool funds will be included or what the plan is to spend the funds on. One funding that is undisputed is to make the courthouse downtown ADA compliant. This currently has already been started and plans to be continued. Other than for this purpose no other funding has been agreed upon at this moment on how the remaining funds should be spent.

## **6. Approval of Case Summaries**

Cases were reviewed by commissioners independently, Complaint Officer Alexandra, went case by case requesting any questions.

Howard Lotven had a question on case 25174 about the roads. Not sure what it is about, there was a petition to establish a road at E 39<sup>th</sup> and ending at W 39<sup>th</sup>, but all that I have seen is a bunch of paperwork that doesn't explain or show anything. Complaint Officer Alexandra states that on the petition it was not done formally, there was no contact information on this complaint except for an email address, and no further information was given to give further understanding of the intended outcome of the complaint submitted. When Alexandra reached out to the complainant there was not any response. Director Chris Crawford reiterates this fact stating it was a handwritten petition of signatures with addresses and phone numbers of citizens with no official documentation or information provided in this complaint.

There were no other questions on any of the remaining cases, a quorum was not in place; thus, a vote could not be made to approve the director's report with the case summaries.

Note from Director: We are right on track to end the year with the same amount of complaints as last year. Talking with legislators, hopefully increasing community engagement for the OEHRCC will increase the number of complaints coming in. There are lots of issues and unsatisfied people who are just not aware of our department, we are hoping to bridge this gap to then help solve the issues throughout the county.

## **7. New Business**

NONE

**8. Unfinished Business**

**Updates on Complaints #25092, #25106, and #25107**

All information at this point has been shared about these complaints. Discussed a report to be made but waiting for quorum for the report to pass. These cases are still labeled as Open; they have been resolved but still open until the report passes by vote in the committee.

**9. Public Comments**

NONE

**10. Adjournment**

Due to the lack of a quorum, Howard Lotven declares the meeting adjourned