

# Jackson County, Missouri

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



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, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 5:15p.m..</b> <b>First Regular Meeting</b></p>
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### **1. Call to Order**

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

### **2. Roll Call**

Present 2 – Howard Lotven, Jacquelyn Eidson

Absent – NONE

Excused – NONE

### **3. Introduction of OEHRCC Staff and Guests**

Present – Director Chris Crawford, Complaint Officer Alexandra Gold-Barnes

### **4. Approval of Minutes**

Due to the absence of a quorum, the minutes of the previous meeting of the commission were not approved. The minutes will be taken up at the next regular meeting of the commission.

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

#### **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding**

The county legislature approved the available \$70 million in federal ARPA funds before the deadline at the end of 2024. The approved plan designates 50% of the funds for community programs in disadvantaged communities and the remaining 50% for county

infrastructure projects. The legislation designating these funds requires them to be appropriated by December 31, 2025, so the county administration and the legislature have until that time to agree on specific projects to be funded. The expectation is that part of the infrastructure funds will be used to make improvements to the downtown courthouse to bring it into ADA compliance. Part of these funds may also be used to make the space at 1300 Washington usable for county services.

### **Community Outreach**

As part of our community outreach goals, OEHRCC wants to create opportunities to meet community members where they are rather than requiring them to come to our office downtown. We believe this will improve community awareness of our offices and the services we offer. We also believe it will allow us to reach more citizens and assist them with issues they are experiencing with county services. As part of this effort, OEHRCC will be collaborating with legislators in their districts to hold community forums throughout the county. We are hopeful that this collaboration will establish a relationship with community members who may not regularly reach out to our office.

### **Staffing**

Alexandrea Gold-Barnes has been promoted to serve as the office's complaint officer. This selection was made after an open search, consisting of applications and interviews with several public and internal candidates. Ms. Gold-Barnes brings valuable experience and education as she transitions into this new role, and we are confident that she will be successful as the office continues to move forward.

### **Assessment/Collection**

The valuation phase of the 2025 reassessment process is nearly complete, and property owners will receive valuation notices in May. Property owners will have until July to appeal their property values with the assessment department and the Board of Equalization (BOE), unless the BOE extends the deadline as they have in previous years. The personal property declaration process is underway within the assessment department. Taxpayers will receive a notice in the mail to complete their personal property declarations online using a provided PIN or in person at one of the assessment office locations. The deadline to submit declarations is March 1, with penalties being applied after May 1. In previous years, this process has generated many complaints for OEHRCC due to the congestion and long lines at the Truman Courthouse, and difficulties navigating the online system

All 2024 property tax bills were due on 12/31/24, and the collection department must now apply penalties and fees to any accounts that were not paid by that time. In the past, collection department complaints have increased during this time. Many citizens find the penalties and fees to be too high and request that they be waived, but the rates are set by state statute. There have been several unsuccessful efforts to adjust these rates at the state level.

**6. Approval of Case Summaries & Director’s Report**

Cases were reviewed by commissioners independently. Due to the lack of a quorum, a motion could not be made to approve the director’s report and case summaries. These will be reviewed at the next meeting of the commission.

**7. New Business**

NONE

**8. Unfinished Business**

**OEHRCC Commissioners**

Director Crawford has been in contact with the county executive to fill the empty seats on the OEHRCC commission. Most of the current commissioners are serving on expired terms and have expressed their disinterest in continuing to serve past their term’s deadline. The county executive’s office said the staffing issue will be raised to a higher priority and director Crawford will be meeting with them in the coming weeks.

**Case Summaries**

Due to a continuous lack of a quorum, the OEHRCC has approximately fifty complaints that have not been approved by the commission. Director Crawford states that a report will be created with all case numbers, types, and summaries, which will then be presented to the legislators.

**9. Public Comments**

NONE

**10. Adjournment**

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