

CHRONOLOGY OF CONSOLIDATION UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF WYANDOTE COUNTY/KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

Early 80's	Local Chamber of Commerce discusses consolidation concept
Early 90's	Joint City/County Committee appointed to review and research the concept of City/County Consolidation. Committee recommends consolidation be pursued but no action taken
Spring 1995	Debate during KCK Mayoral elections centered around consolidation initiative
1996	
March	Kansas Legislature Authorizes formation of Consolidation Study Commission Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas
April	Governor Appoints Study Commission Members
May - October	Study Commission Convenes Study Commission develops issues, analyzes other consolidated governments and develops preliminary recommendations
November	Public Hearings held
1997	
January/February	Study Commission submits final recommendations to State Legislature and Legislature accepts
April 1, 1997	Voters overwhelming vote for consolidation proposal

1997 CONTINUED

April - September

Transition Team formed
Transition Team responsible for preparation of orderly transfer to new unified form of government and examines the following operational areas:

OPERATIONAL AREAS REVIEWED

- Governance: Responsible for examining, and making recommendation for resolutions and ordinances, rules of procedure, and committee structure and operations.
- Administration & Finance: Responsible for coordinating all financial management including accounting, budget, long term debt management, revenue and cash management, payroll, procurement, grants management, contracts, and records management.
- Communications and Resources: This team set up video conferencing with other consolidated governments, studied new logos, and published employee newsletters.
- Technology: Responsible for studying both long and short term plans for technology, providing computer linkage between the City and County, and establishing direct dial within new government operations.
- Logistics: Surveyed facilities in preparation for consolidating departments after October 1, and outfitted meeting rooms and office space to meet the needs of the new Unified Commissioners.
- Human Resources: Responsible for developing a new personnel policy manual which is equitable to all employees and developing an employee classification and compensation plan to equalize position disparity.

September

Commission elections

October 1, 1997

New Unified Government Commission
Sworn into Office

1998

August

New Unified Commission adopts new unified budget and organization structure

1999

January 1, 1999

Functional date of full consolidation

In the early 1990's Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County were confronted with a number of critical issues, including:

- Significant population loss – In the 20 year period from 1970 to 1990, the County experienced a population loss of nearly 25,000 persons, or 14% of its population.
- Comparatively high property tax rates – Studies indicated that property tax rates in Wyandotte County were among the highest in Kansas and were continuing to increase. Between 1990 and 1995, the combined property tax rate for Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS increased by over 12%.
- Strong dependence on property tax revenue – Per capita sales tax revenue in Wyandotte County was less than half that of Johnson County, and retailers were continuing to locate outside of Wyandotte County in communities with a stronger residential housing market and higher incomes.
- The construction of relatively few new residential construction units – Between 1990 and 1996, Kansas City, KS average approximately 100 new single-family units per year, with an estimated construction value of less than \$9 million annually. Totals were significantly higher, elsewhere in the metropolitan area.
- Low appreciation of existing housing values – Residential housing values were not significantly appreciating. In some instances, homes were not maintaining resell values.
- High housing vacancy rates – The 1990 census reported a housing vacancy rate in 1990 of 11%.

Local governments took a number of steps to address these issues.

- Annexation - In 1992, Kansas City, KS annexed nearly 17 square miles in the northwest area of the County. This area, often referred to as the Piper area, provides an area for the community to expand the community and tax base and increase the efficiency of service delivery.
- Extension of services - Annexation brought attention to improving government service delivery. In 1993, Bonner Springs and Kansas City, KS reached an agreement on the collection of residential trash. Later, Edwardsville entered into an agreement with Kansas City for the treatment of sewage. Later in the decade, the three Wyandotte County cities reached a consensus on countywide emergency dispatching.
- Consolidation – Consolidation followed. Studies were completed in the mid 1990's, with the approval by the electorate in April of 1997 and the actual merger of the Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS governments occurring in October 1997.

Consolidation has changed the decision-making process in Wyandotte County, and has enabled the government to accomplish a number of objectives.

- Decision-making – The government now has a strong single policy making board.

- Workforce reduction – Through attrition the County workforce has declined by over 15%.
- Consolidation of functions – Finance, parks, streets, clerk, technology and human resources are among the offices consolidated and streamlined.
- Establishing a fleet maintenance center – A single fleet maintenance center is an example of efficiencies accomplished through consolidation.
- Streamlined residential development – A consolidated government allows for a less burdensome residential development process. The Unified Government's single operating and capital budgets allow for development plans to proceed in an orderly manner.

Building on the momentum of the consolidation, Kansas City, KS and the State of Kansas developed a proposal to locate an International Speedway Corporation (ISC) facility in Kansas City during the summer of 1997. ISC selected Kansas City in August of 1997. Two sites were presented to ISC. The site eventually selected by ISC was the Unified Government's preferred site. Simply, this location offered the greatest opportunity for adjacent economic development, and the government viewed the speedway as the catalyst for attracting new development to the community.

The 400-acre tourism district was acquired and established by the Unified Government.
(Let Dennis specify the points he wishes to highlight regarding the district.)

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Consolidation, speedway development, and other government initiatives have caused Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas to be viewed in a different light. Change is happening.

- Population has stabilized. The 2000 census revealed a population loss of less than 3% from the prior decade. School enrollments have steadied. The number of births has increased the past three years by an average of 3%, reversing a declining trend earlier in the decade.
- The recently approved tax rate for the combined governments is 13% below the mid-decade level.
- Single-family housing starts are at record levels for Kansas City. Since consolidation, the average number of new starts has risen by nearly 70%. Residential developments are occurring both in the older areas of the county (Turtle Hill, Mt. Zion, and Mt. Carmel), in addition to the more-recently developed areas of the county.
- For the first time in recent years, Kansas City, KS is ranked among the top ten in single-family housing starts among area cities. In 2002, it is projected that permits will be issued for 250 new units, with an estimated construction value exceeding \$31 million.

- For each of the past three years, the estimated construction value of building permits will exceed \$110 million, a figure significantly higher than earlier in the decade.
- A new hotel and remodeled convention center has opened in the downtown. The EPA's commitment to the downtown has resulted in a new office building and laboratory.
- Citizens are willing to invest in their communities and schools. In the last three years, three of the County's school districts have approved and undertaken major bond improvement issues. (KCK, Turner, and Bonner Springs)
- Social indicators are improving for the county. The 2000 census showed that vacancy rates have dropped by nearly 2%. Per capita income increased by 50% during the decade.
- Property values are increasing on a consistent basis in the county. Over the past two years, residential and commercial properties have experienced average property value increases in excess of 10%.
- The outlook is positive. The tourism district will provide shopping opportunities for our residents and attract shoppers and visitors from outside the community. Sales tax revenues are expected to increase, as development outside the tourism district occurs, and existing retailers are positively impacted. The tax base is growing and becoming stronger.

Consolidation Recommendations

BY

Wyandotte County /Kansas City
Consolidation Study Commission

Commissioners:

Rev. Robert L. Baynham, Chairman
Gary D. Grable, Vice-Chairman
Dr. Thomas R. Burke, Member
Aileen C. Eidson, Member
Richard A. Ruiz, Member

January 13, 1997

**Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas
Consolidation Study Commission**

**Final Draft Recommendation
for the
Unification of the Governments
of
Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas**

December 10, 1996

First Draft Recommendation

Preserving the history of Wyandotte County, the ethnic diversity that is its strength and the cultural past of each of its cities;

Building on the legacy of past and current governments while recognizing the need for affordable, simple, and responsive government for the future;

Understanding the need for a more efficient and effective form of government to identify and respond to citizen and community needs;

Strengthening the checks and balances in government and providing for independent assessments of the organization, its policies and its elected and appointed officials;

Believing in the wisdom, integrity and intelligence of the voters and their right to choose their representatives and their form of government,

The Wyandotte County/ Kansas City, Kansas Consolidation Study Commission recommends:

A Unified and Simplified Structure

The newly created **Unified Government** will have a Legislative, Executive and Judicial branch directly responsible to the citizens of Wyandotte County. The proposed structure unites the County and City governments into a streamlined administration. It provides the elected officials with the authority to respond directly to its citizens in the most efficient and effective ways. Consolidated departments make it easier for citizens to obtain the necessary services and to receive prompt response to their requests.

PLAN:

Legislative Branch

Legislators: The new Unified Government will have a legislative branch which will consist of the **Unified Board of Commissioners** elected in Non-Partisan elections held in April of odd numbered calendar years. Eight of the Commissioners will be nominated and elected "in-districts" newly designated

(see Unified County Commission District map, Alternative 6, change 2, Annex A) in order to increase the diversity of representation in the new Unified Government. Two more Commissioners will be nominated from within two newly designated Unified County Commission districts and elected at-large by eligible County voters. These two new County-wide districts will comprise the four Northern-most Unified County Commission districts and the four Southern-most Unified County Commission districts of the County. The Chief Executive/Mayor will act as the eleventh member and will be elected at-large.

Succession: In the case of a vacancy, the Unified Board of Commissioners will solicit recommendations from eligible voters in the district affected. The Unified Board of Commissioners will appoint from that list an individual to serve as that Commissioner until the next election period.

Duties: The Unified Board of Commissioners will have the power to adopt codes and ordinances and approve and adopt a budget. The Board will retain all County policy making authority except those administrative duties which will be handled by the County Administrator. The Unified Board of Commissioners will review and revise, as required, the Commission districts at the conclusion of each Federal Census period.

Terms: The Commissioners will serve four-year staggered terms, with the exception of the very first election. In the first special general election, the four Commissioners receiving the highest number of votes will serve a four-year term. The four Commissioners receiving the lowest number of votes from the eight "in-district" areas will serve a two-year term. The "at-large" Commissioner receiving the highest number of votes will serve a four-year term. The "at large" Commissioner receiving the lowest number of votes of the two "at-large" areas will serve a two-year term and will be designated Mayor Pro Tem for the first two-year period and will rotate the position to the remaining "at-large" Commissioner. The Mayor Pro Tem position will rotate thereafter every two years among the two "at-large" Commissioners.

Compensation: All commissioners will serve part-time and will be eligible to receive medical and dental insurance for themselves and participate in KPERS if they so choose. They may participate in a life insurance program at their own expense. The eight Commissioners elected from "in-district" areas will receive \$1000 a month as compensation. The two Commissioners elected from "at-large" districts will receive \$1200 a month in view of their additional responsibilities and extra committee chair assignments. (See Standing Committees). All Commissioners will be reimbursed for car expenses by a per-mile rate set by the Federal Internal Revenue Service.

Executive Branch

Chief Executive of the County and Mayor: The Chief Executive and Mayor is the visible head of Government. The Chief Executive of the County provides unified vision and leadership to the people in the community. As Chief

Executive/Mayor of Kansas City, Kansas, he/she represents and officiates on behalf of the City at all official functions and events.

Succession: In the absences of the Chief Executive/Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tem will assume daily responsibilities of the Chief Executive/Mayor. In the event of a vacancy of the office, the Mayor Pro Tem will serve as Chief Executive/Mayor until the next scheduled election period.

Duties: 1) The Chief Executive/Mayor will preside over the Legislature. 2) Like its national counter part, the Chief Executive/Mayor of the new Unified Government will have veto power which can be overridden by 2/3 of the Legislature. 3) In the case of a tie within the Unified Board of Commissioners, the Chief Executive/Mayor casts the deciding vote. 4) The Chief Executive/Mayor is an ex officio member of all committees. 5) The Chief Executive/Mayor appoints and removes the County Administrator with the consent of the legislative body.

Term: The new executive will be elected by the voters of the County in a Non-Partisan, at-large election and will serve a four year term.

Compensation: The new Chief Executive/Mayor will be compensated at the same rate as the current Chief Executive/Mayor of Kansas City, Kansas. The same benefits that are authorized to the Chief Executive/Mayor now will be authorized to the new Chief Executive/Mayor. However, a government car will be provided for the official use of the Chief Executive/Mayor in lieu of mileage reimbursement.

County Administrator: A County Administrator will be appointed and dismissed by the Chief Executive/Mayor with the consent of the Unified Board of Commissioners. The County Administrator will report directly to the Chief Executive/Mayor and will be reviewed by the Unified Board of Commissioners for retention on an annual basis. The County Administrator is directly responsible for the daily functions of the Unified Administration. The County Administrator will organize the Unified Administration. The County Administrator will select/dismiss only key division heads (cabinet level positions) with the consent of the Unified Board of Commissioners. All other department head selections/dismissals and personnel actions will be in accordance with the personnel classification system under the sole jurisdiction of the County Administrator.

Judicial Branch

Courts and Court Officers: Both the District Courts and the Municipal Courts are elements of the Judicial Branch of the Unified Government. Since the elected office of Public Administrator will not be retained, that position and its functions will be transferred to the Judicial Branch for proper alignment within that Branch.

More Responsive to the People

The Unified Government provides more representation for its citizens while preserving the cultural, ethnic and neighborhood affiliations that have molded the community. It provides for the local authority of each district while maintaining the historic flavor of the County as a whole. The County and each city in the County will retain their own identities.

PLAN: In every case, the voters of Wyandotte County will select their own representatives to govern them on a Non-Partisan basis. The roles and functions of each branch of the Unified Government will ensure systemic checks and balances. Mechanisms for grievances established in an Ethics Commission and a Legislative Auditor will provide direct access into the system for the citizens suspecting organizational failure or personal improprieties of government officials.

Checks and Balances

The three-tier approach (legislative, executive, and judicial) to government will provide the community with the traditional, democratic safeguards of our country. By differentiating roles and functions of a Unified Government, the people of Wyandotte County can be assured that their interests will be represented fairly. The unique powers of each branch of government to perform the functions required of it provide the checks on the other two branches and offer the balance for the community.

PLAN: All branches of the new government are directly elected by the voters of the County. The Legislative Branch - the Unified Board of Commissioners- has the responsibility to consent to the appointments and dismissals of the Chief Executive/Mayor. The Executive Branch - the Chief Executive/Mayor, with the consent of the Unified Board of Commissioners, appoints the County Administrator. The County Administrator has the responsibility of executing the policies of the Unified Board of Commissioners through the functional divisions and departments. The Chief Executive/Mayor, presiding over the Legislative Branch, has veto authority over policies enacted. That power is tempered by a 2/3 over-ride authority of the Legislative Branch. The Judicial Branch enforces State, County and Kansas City, Kansas municipal laws. The Judges of the District Court, through the Administrative Judge of the Court, also appoint and dismiss the Legislative Auditor with the consent of the Unified Board of Commissioners and appoint and dismiss the Ethics Commission. The District Court Judges themselves are responsible to the voters through the election process.

Ethics Commission: An Ethics Commission will be created as an additional safe guard against unethical behavior in the new Unified Government. The new Unified Board of Commissioners will draft and adopt a Code of Ethics. The Ethics Commission members, appointed by the Administrative Judge of the District Court with the consent of the sitting District Judges of Wyandotte County, will serve a single, full, four year term. The terms will be staggered at the initial appointment with one-half of the Commission serving a two-year term and one-half serving a single, full, four-year term. The Ethics Commission may recommend ways to improve the Ethics Code to the Unified Board of Commissioners. The Ethics Commission will have the power to make recommendations for actions to be taken for violations of the Ethics Code to the Unified Board of Commissioners. The Ethics Commission will also have subpoena power, the ability to swear witnesses and may censure those in violation of the Ethics Code. All elected officials, and any appointed board and/or committee member as the Unified Legislature may include, will be subject to this Code.

Citizen Oversight

Two additional safeguards will ensure each citizen can question, challenge and seek redress for unethical or illegal behavior of its government officials. An Ethics Commission is established to up-hold the behavior of its elected officials. A Legislative Auditor will provide independent scrutiny of the performance and operations of government offices and employees. Mindful of the right of the citizenry to demand the highest standards of conduct from its public servants, these safeguards give the community its own checks and balances.

PLAN:

The current governing positions of County Commissioners, City Council and City Mayor will be eliminated and replaced by the Unified Government structure in Non-Partisan election conducted in April of odd calendar years. The first election will be a special election. The new governing positions, 8 in-district County Commissioners and 2 at-large County Commissioners will serve four-year staggered terms, with the exception of those elected in the first special election. The Chief Executive/Mayor will serve a four-year term.

Retained Elected Officials: Several offices have been retained for county-wide elections: Sheriff, District Attorney and the Register of Deeds. These offices provide unique functions for the County as a whole and are not duplicated within the Kansas City, Kansas municipal structure. Budgetary and

administrative support for these offices will be the responsibility of the County Administrator.

Sheriff: The Sheriff is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in the County and retains all current responsibilities. In addition, the Sheriff will assume overall responsibility for the Juvenile Detention Center insuring that it is kept separate from the Adult Detention Center. The Sheriff will be elected in Non-Partisan elections held in April of odd numbered calendar years. The Under Sheriff will succeed the Sheriff in the event of a vacancy until the next election period.

District Attorney: The District Attorney will be retained as it presently exists.

Register of Deeds: This office will retain the same duties and compensation outlined by State Statute. Elections for this position will be Non-Partisan and held in April of odd numbered calendar years.

Non-retained Elected Officials: The current elected offices of County Clerk, Treasurer, Public Administrator and Surveyor will become appointed positions. The County Clerk, County Treasurer, and County Surveyor will be incorporated into the Unified Administration's departments of the Executive Branch. The Public Administrator's position and functions will be incorporated into the appropriate element of the Judicial Branch. The County Administrator will establish positions of Unified Clerk and Unified Treasurer in order to consolidate the duties and responsibilities of the present County and City Clerks and the current County and City Treasurers. All functions currently performed by these offices will be retained in a re-organized administrative structure to best serve the community as a whole. The County Administrator will be responsible for the appointment of the re-organized department directors and will ensure a separation of County functions through an activity based accounting system. This system will become a management tool for analysis of efficiency and effectiveness and will provide other cities in the County a means to review County support costs.

Retained Appointed Officials: The County Auditor will be retained under a new title of Legislative Auditor and the Election Commissioner will be retained as it currently exists. Budgetary and administrative support for these offices will be the responsibility of the County Administrator.

Legislative Auditor: The routine financial auditing functions of the present County Auditor will be transferred to the Chief Financial Officer of the Unified Administration. The Legislative Auditor will retain all performance and financial auditing functions that may be required to oversee, examine or inquire into any aspect of the Unified Government in order to prevent or discover irregularities of the system or individuals

in the system. The Legislative Auditor will be appointed and dismissed by the Administrative Judge of the District Court with the approval of a majority of the Judges of the District Court of the Twenty-ninth Judicial District and with the consent of the Unified Board of Commissioners. The appointment and retention of the Legislative Auditor will be for a two-year period. The Legislative Auditor will report all findings to the Unified Board of Commissioners.

Non-retained Appointed Officials: The appointed County Offices of the Appraiser, Counselor and Coroner will be absorbed into the Unified Administration structure. These functions will be retained in accordance with the Kansas State Statutes under which they operate.

Employment Safeguards

The Unified Government is founded on the principle of employee protection. Reduction in job positions will be accomplished over time and through attrition. The County Administer will ensure that a personnel classification plan is developed which allows the Unified Government to systematically and fairly identify and select individuals with the proper level of skills, abilities and knowledge associated with each position that is required for the new government. A compensation plan which corresponds to the classification system will also be developed. This plan will provide a just wage for graduated levels of skills and responsibilities. During the transition period -- from the effective date of unification to full integration -- employees will continue to provide the services they currently do until such time as their positions are considered for consolidation and they are re-classified into a new system. Attrition based reductions will provide current employees with a sense of stability while allowing the Unified Government the flexibility to adjust to new situations in governance and service. All current union negotiated contracts will be honored.

Managed Transition

The "Interim" period between an affirmative vote of the community - April 1, 1997 - and the effective date of Unification - October 1, 1997 - will allow sufficient time for a Joint Transition Committee to establish procedures for a smooth transition of power into the hands of the newly elected government.

This transition team will also recommend and prioritize policy issues that the new government will undertake in the first period of governance.

PLAN:

Effective Date: New elections will be held July 8, 1997, for the primary election and September 9, 1997, for the general election. The newly elected unified officials will take office on October 1, 1997, which will be the effective date of consolidation

Joint Transition Committee: Immediately following the passage of this recommendation, a transition team shall be formed and will serve until October 1, 1997. The City Administrator and the County Auditor will co-chair the transition team. The team will also include both Chief Financial Officers of the City and the County, the City Attorney and the County Counselor, and other members as required. The team members will establish procedures for the transfer of authority to the Unified Government, recommend priorities for policy formation during the first period of governance and will set an effective date for functional consolidation.

Transfer of Authority: Immediately upon swearing-in of the Unified Board of Commissioners and the County Chief Executive/Mayor, all authority inherent in existing County Resolutions and City Ordinances will transfer to the Unified Government.

Standing Committees: The Unified Board of Commissioner will establish six permanent committees to address all aspects of community life. The Chief Executive/Mayor will appoint at least two of the eight "in-district" Commissioner to each Committee. The two "at-large" Commissioners will serve on three separate committees each and will determine the Chair for each of their Committees. The Committees will discuss aspects of community life according to their areas of responsibility and will recommend policy or policy changes for action to the Unified Board of Commissioners as a whole. These Committees will review applicable existing County Resolutions and Kansas City Ordinances and will recommend appropriate changes to the Unified Board of Commissioners for adoption. Upon enactment by a majority of the Board, these Unified Resolutions will supersede existing County Resolutions and Kansas City Ordinances and will be effective immediately.

Committees:

- 1) Rules and government support
- 2) Human services
- 3) Economic and Community Development (includes 1 BPU board member as a voting member and at least one member from each of the other five standing committees).

- 4) Public Safety
- 5) Public Works (includes 1 BPU Board member as a voting member).
- 6) Finance and Budget (includes BPU board member as a voting member. The Chair of the Finance and Budget Committee will serve as a voting member of the BPU Finance and Budget Committee)

Appointed Boards and Commissions: The Unified Board of Commissioners will set the number of members on each Board/Commission and will determine how the appointments will be made, except those specified by contract or outside authority. All existing Boards and Commissions will continue to function as currently mandated until such time as they are reviewed and re-appointed by the Unified Board of Commissioners.

Joint Legislative-BPU Committee: Functional consolidation issues between the Unified Board of Commissioners and the BPU will be studied by a joint committee composed of six voting members-three elected BPU Board members and three Unified Board of Commissioners (excluding the 2 "at-large" Commissioners and the Commissioner from the Bonner Springs/Edwardsville district. This is because the BPU does not provide electric retail service to Bonner Springs and Edwardsville). The joint committee will make recommendations to the Unified Board of Commissioners for decision. The Unified Government Attorney may hire an attorney to report to the General Manager of the BPU to assist the BPU in deregulation.

Cost Savings: The Consolidation Study Commission recommends that the Unified Board of Commissioners 1) target a minimum of 8% reduction in per capita costs of daily operations over a five year period based on 1997 budget figures (an estimated \$8.7 million savings). That these savings will be targeted at 2% a year after the first year of transition; 2) that the Unified Board of Commissioners cap the general obligation debt service at \$20 million per year, and 3) that the Unified Board of Commissioners be the establishing authority for user fees for sanitary and storm water.

Conclusion: The Consolidation Study Commission strongly believes that the Unification of Governments of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas will provide its citizens with the kind of representative, efficient, and responsive government they need to carry them into the next century and the new millennium. It is with this in mind that the Commission invites each member of the County to review and comment on this first draft. Responses may be made through the

Citizen's Response Network

Telephone: 596-9694 (1 minute messages)
Fax: (same): 596-9694
Internet: Home Page -- URL: <http://www.kckcc.cc.ks.us/kck/>
E-mail: stockwel@toto.net (please note only one "L" in stockwell)
Postal Mail: Robert L. Stockwell
Executive Director, CSC
CEB, KCK Community College
7250 State Ave
Kansas City, Kansas 66112

CONSOLIDATION STUDY COMMITTEE

EIGHT DISTRICTS - CHANGE #2

November 25, 1996

	TOTAL POP.		WHITE POP.		BLACK POP.		AM. IND POP.		ASIAN POP.		OTHER POP.		HISP. POP.	
	#	PCT.	#	PCT.	#	PCT.	#	PCT.	#	PCT.	#	PCT.	#	PCT.
C.D.-1	20,522	12.7	5,721	27.9	14,549	70.9	57	0.3	58	0.3	137	0.7	370	1.8
C.D.-2	20,075	12.4	14,239	70.9	2,886	14.4	264	1.3	586	2.9	2,100	10.5	3,480	17.3
C.D.-3	20,407	12.6	14,623	71.7	2,898	14.2	170	0.8	614	3.0	2,102	10.3	3,608	17.7
C.D.-4	19,874	12.3	7,639	38.4	11,673	58.7	112	0.6	181	0.9	269	1.4	657	3.3
C.D.-5	20,029	12.4	16,223	81.0	3,454	17.2	100	0.5	60	0.3	192	1.0	531	2.7
C.D.-6	20,672	12.8	19,000	91.9	766	3.7	152	0.7	248	1.2	506	2.4	1,150	5.6
C.D.-7	20,651	12.7	17,803	86.2	2,414	11.7	143	0.7	59	0.3	232	1.1	631	3.1
C.D.-8	19,763	12.2	13,480	68.2	5,829	29.5	112	0.6	70	0.4	272	1.4	570	2.9
TOTAL	161,993	100.0	108,728	67.1	44,469	27.5	1,110	0.7	1,876	1.2	5,810	3.6	10,997	6.8

* Hispanic origin is considered an ethnic category. Persons of hispanic origin are included in the counts of the other racial groups.

Source: Population by Ward and Precinct, 1990 Census.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Unified Government came into legal existence through the adoption of Senate Bill No. 464 and codified at K.S.A. 12-340 et seq., which created the Wyandotte County/Kansas City Consolidation Study Commission whose members were appointed by the Governor and charged with the responsibility of formulating a plan to be presented to the voters. On April 4, 1997, the Plan as recommended by the Study Commission was submitted to and approved by the voters, merging County and City government into a single operating entity. The Unified Government came into existence on October 1, 1997, under the auspices of the Plan adopted earlier by the voters.

The founding document or Charter of the Unified Government is reflected in the Consolidation Study Report, which sets forth the basic principles and intent under which the Unified Government is expected by the voters to operate. The validity of the legislation and subsequent merger of the two (2) governments has twice been approved by the Kansas Supreme Court.

A transition team comprised of County and City officials working under the principles approved by the voters developed policies designed to implement the intent of the Charter. Resolution No. R-1-97, approved by the Unified Commission as one of its first acts, established policies defining the duties and responsibilities of the Mayor, Unified Commission, County Administrator and subordinate staff and the inner-relationship of these roles and responsibilities with each other. While preserving the basic integrity of the Plan as approved, these policies defined in more detail, the general guiding principles and

recommendations of the Plan, adding clarity to matters which were left for the Unified Commission to adopt.

Resolution No. R-2-97 defines primarily the procedures and manner in which the Mayor and Unified Commission are to conduct business. A more traditional view of this Resolution would be that it established parliamentary procedures for the Unified Commission.

One aspect of Unified Government meetings needing discussion is the executive session. The presumption that all meetings of the Unified Commission, defined as a majority of a quorum or four members, are open meetings that must follow mandated procedures to occur is fundamental. State law authorizes and limits the exceptions to the open meeting requirement and is strictly followed by the Unified Commission. The document contained here represents a summary concerning when and under what circumstances the executive session may take place. Typically, the Unified Commission will adjourn into executive session to discuss labor negotiations, matters impacting and affecting litigation and personnel matters in which a specific employee may be identified or conduct discussed. While other exceptions do exist to the basic rule, these are rarely invoked as justification for an executive session.