

Sedgwick County

525 North Main Street 3rd Floor
Wichita, KS 67203



*Sedgwick County...
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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

9:00 AM

BOCC Meeting Room

Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners

Pursuant to Resolution #007-2016, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on January 20, 2016, members of the public are allowed to address the County Commission for a period of time limited to not more than five minutes or such time limits as may become necessary.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of Sedgwick County, should contact the office of Crissy Magee, Sedgwick County ADA Coordinator, 510 N. Main, Suite 306, Wichita, Kansas 67203. Phone: 316-660-7056, TDD: Kansas Relay at 711 or 800-766-3777

Email: Crissy.Magee@sedgwick.gov, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event. Please include the name, location, date and time of the service or program, your contact information and the type of aid, service, or policy modification needed.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Regular Meeting of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sedgwick County, Kansas, was called to order at 9:04 a.m. on July 6, 2016 in the County Commission Meeting Room in the Courthouse in Wichita, Kansas, by Chairman James M. Howell, with the following present: Chair Pro-Tem Commissioner Richard Ranzau; Commissioner David Unruh; Commissioner Tim Norton; Commissioner Karl Peterjohn; Mr. Michael Scholes, County Manager; Mr. Eric Yost, County Counselor; Mr. David Spears, Director, Bureau of Public Works; Sheriff Jeff Easter, Mr. Kelly Arnold, County Clerk; Mr. Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager; Mr. Joe Thomas, Director of Purchasing; Mr. Justin Waggoner, Assistant County Counselor, Ms. Kate Flavin, Public Information Officer; Ms. Laura Billups, Deputy County Clerk.

Guests:

*Mr. Randolph Cabral, President Kansas Braille Institute
Mr. Kent Thomas PhD, 2131 North Tee Time Court, Wichita
Ms. Billie Knighton, 7 Lansdowne Drive, Wichita
Mr. Roger Hughey, 974 Whitetail Circle, Wichita
Mr. Djuan Wash, 547 Trotter, Maize
Ms. Gretchen Eick, 1536 North Park Place, Wichita
Mr. Bill Anderson, 1227 Jefferson, Wichita
Ms. Jane Byrnes, 322 South Lorraine, Wichita
Mr. Joseph Shepard, 1945 North Madison, Wichita
Ms. Claudia Yaujar, 6602 East Harry Street, #1010, Wichita
Ms. Cristal Magdaleno, 814 North Chautauqua, Wichita
Ms. Guadelupe Magdaleno, 814 North Chautauqua, Wichita
Ms. Gail Kinzer, 3202 North Lakecrest Street, Wichita
Mr. Sherman Padget, 9575 West Brookridge Circle, Wichita
Mr. Kelly Parks, 8005 Hoover Rd, Wichita
Ms. Janice Bradley, 214 Buckridge, Wichita
Reverend Michael Pogue, 1536 N Park Place, Wichita
Mr. Willard Ebbersole, 3012 E Orme Street, Wichita
Mr. Walt Chapel, 3165 North Porter, Wichita
Mr. Gerald Domitrovic, 1219 South George Washington Drive, Wichita
Ms. Sandrine Lisk, 700 North Market, Ste B, Wichita*

INVOCATION: Father Michael C. Brockman, Grace Lutheran Church.

FLAG SALUTE

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

The Clerk reported, after calling roll, that all Commissioners were present.

PUBLIC INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC AGENDA

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Approved

A [16-388](#) REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2016.
All Commissioners were present.

B [16-432](#) REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 1, 2016.
All Commissioners were present.

Chairman Howell said, "Commissioners, what's the will of the board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to make a motion to approve the minutes of May 18, 2016 and June 2, 2016.

Commissioner Ranzau seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion and a vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Ranzau	Aye
Chairman Howell	Aye

Chairman Howell said, "Madam Clerk, next item, please."

Approved

PROCLAMATIONS

C [16-438](#) PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEDGWICK COUNTY LAW CAMP
DAYS.
Read by: Chairman Jim Howell or his designee.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt the proclamation.

Chairman Howell said, "Commissioners, I do have a resolution I need to read. It says,

*WHEREAS, approximately 150 youth between the ages of 10 and 14 will
attend the 21st Annual Sedgwick County L.A.W. Camp July 12 - 15, 2016 at Lake
Afton*

Park; and

*WHEREAS, the mission of the Leaders, Achievers, Winners Camp, known as the
L.A.W. Camp, is to create a partnership between law enforcement and youth by
providing a positive experience using law enforcement and National Guard personnel
as*

role models to build self-esteem, confidence and trust; and

*WHEREAS, the youth will be assigned to mentors who will keep track of the activity
schedule. The mentors will operate in teams of two, consisting of one deputy and one
soldier from the Kansas Army National Guard; and*

WHEREAS, L.A.W. Camp is a partnership involving more than 32 public and private organizations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Jim Howell, chairman of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim July 12 – 15, 2016 as SEDGWICK COUNTY L.A.W. CAMP DAYS

In recognition of this effort to involve our youth in alternatives to crime and violence.

"Commissioners, what's the will of the board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to make a motion to adopt the Proclamation.

Commissioner Peterjohn seconded the motion

VOICE VOTE

After the voice vote was called, Chairman Howell announced the adoption of the proclamation.

Chairman Howell said, "I think to receive this, I've got our Sedgwick County Sheriff, Jeff Easter. I'd like to ask him if he'd like to say something about Law Camp."

Sheriff Jeff Easter greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you, Commissioners, for the proclamation. As you stated earlier, its 21 years, 150 kids a year for 21 years. These are at-risk youth that come out and stay with us for approximately four days, get to see, oh, different projects that they'd never get to do in the inner cities, and it's been a very good experience for not only the kids but also for law enforcement and the [Kansas] National Guard, so this year, a little bit strained on resources with the National Guard and stuff, but we're going to make it work and hopefully be another successful year, so thank you very much."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Sheriff Easter. Appreciate you doing the program. It's really good for our community."

Sheriff Easter said, "Thank you."

Chairman Howell said, "Madam Clerk, next item, please."

Adopted

CITIZEN INQUIRIES

D [16-423](#)

**PRESENTATION ON THE EXPANSION OF KANSAS BRAILLE
TRANSCRIPTION INSTITUTE.**

Presented by: Randolph Cabral.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive and file.

Chairman Howell said, "I'd like to welcome Mr. Randolph Cabral. If I'm not saying your name correctly, please correct me."

Mr. Randolph Cabral, President and Founder, Kansas Braille Transcription Institute, greeted the Commissioners and said, "The Braille Transcription Institute was founded

here in Wichita officially in 2000, though it was first established in 1998. One of the things we realized early on in '99 after doing research is that there was no centralized service to provide opportunities, training and employment to our citizens who are blind. Moreover, services in terms of providing instructional material to the blind did not exist to a very high proportion either. So we established this institute here for that purpose.

"Hopefully I'm doing this correctly. One of the things that we primarily do, our mission is to train individuals who are blind and sighted to become nationally certified braille transcribers, and those who are blind to become nationally certified proofreaders. However, through the instruction of braille and literacy, what this also does, it allows our blind to go on to college to establish meaningful employment and other opportunities for which they might not otherwise have had the opportunity. Something more that was realized early on is that our state has approximately 1,125 blind children currently enrolled in public schools.

"Unfortunately, only 1 out of 10 is literate. The other 9 out of 10 are illiterate, which creates multiple challenges for them over and above being blind. So through the innovation of our program, we are able to educate not only the teachers, who work with the blind children, but the parents of these children and other members of the community who provide services to our blind. Kansas has about 18,000 blind citizens age 40 and above. As I mentioned, 1,125 blind children, over 700,000 citizens who are age 40 or above that have difficulty reading a newspaper without some kind of assistive technologies.

"Most recently, we have begun working with the state of Kansas to help provide a greater level of training across the board with the blind and the sighted. We visited in Topeka about three weeks ago with the head of the Vocational Rehabilitation and the [Kansas] Department of Children and Families. We wanted to bring to their attention that of the 1,125 students and the 10 who are actually, or rather the 1 out of 10 who are actually braille users, the state of Kansas pays approximately \$2 million every year for that braille to be, for their course material to be produced to braille. Ninety percent of that \$2 million is outsourced. It goes to other states, and it has for decades, primarily because there's never been an institute like ours in the state that has the ability to train on multiple levels.

"So we addressed the state to join with us in making it possible for members of our community that are disabled to receive training from us as well as teachers and other citizens of the community that would be interested in working with the blind. The average salary for a braille transcriber is \$18,000 to \$50,000 a year. For those that clean and repair the machine, and these figures come from the U.S. Department of Labor, and the average wage for a transcriber in Wichita is \$12.50 an hour starting. To look at individuals that are disabled probably earning somewhere between \$8[000] and \$10,000 a year and to be able to train them to become certified transcribers would mean not only removing them from living, or existing, off of their SSDI, Social Security Disability Income, but it would also mean them earning three to four times what they're presently earning.

"That would be a savings to the state annually, for just 25 transcribers, of about a quarter of a million dollars just in saving tax dollars. If you look at the Wichita State University (WSU) study that says for each individual who is on disability that earns \$1.00, \$1.66 is also earned through the economy. So if you took those same 25 employees and you multiplied that out, they would be bringing in about \$101.2 million annually into Wichita, Kansas for the 25 that would be working. It would also be creating approximately 50 new jobs through this as well.

"In the interest of time, and I wanted to share as well that I was invited by Vice Mayor, LaVonta Williams to come out and speak with her, presently, they have an RFP, request for proposal, in the amount of \$160,000, which they would like us to apply for, and this would enable us to train 16 to 20 individuals in the city who live below the poverty line. We have found that there are many families, especially single parent mothers, who kind of fall through the cracks. They're not eligible for welfare, but nor do they earn enough to actually provide for their families. So they are one of the targeted populations that we would be looking at as well as displaced housewives and individuals who are unemployed or underemployed.

"Again, visiting with the state of Kansas, our loosely termed agreement right now is that we would train 20 to 25 people beginning later this year. Some of you may be familiar with former Congressman Tiahrt. We engaged him a couple of months ago to work with us. We've also been working very closely with Envision. We are now providing training and opportunities to them as well. In return, they're going to be doing work for us. So, it's great to have them working with us as well as other companies and organizations in the community. One of the things that we're especially hoping for is that the county would consider working with us to acquire the former tax, what is it? It's the building where you get your tags. The Tag Office. We've looked at the building, and it would allow us to expand.

"We have approximately 350,000 to a half million dollars that we would be eligible for to renovate the building. And to be able to renovate it would be to maintain it and to make it very functional, and it would be ideal for what we have in mind. I failed to mention too, that we've been visiting with the Secretary of Corrections and the warden at the El Dorado Correctional Facility. They're interested in our training the inmates there to be transcribers, as well. The need for transcribers today, just for those 125 children who are blind and are braille users would require 100 braille transcribers. Our objective is to train 25 a year for four years. That would potentially take care of that 125 blind students. But for all of the students that we would insist of becoming literate, we would have to increase the number of transcribers, even if we only brought that number up by a couple a percent, we would have to increase the number of transcribers by almost 50 percent.

"There is no other place like our facility in the United States. We are, we were the first to ever establish a central braille transcription service. There are places around the country today that get guide posts from us, and we are teaching them to do what we do here. The Kansas State Use Law catalog allows anybody adopted into it to work hand-in-hand in the state of Kansas; Envision, Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation, KETCH (Kansas Elks Training Center for the Handicapped), many others in Wichita make up the bulk of that committee, and have pledged their support with allowing us to also come in to the catalog and by virtue of doing that, we will be able to eventually employ 100 transcribers. But I think even starting with 25, it's going to prove to be a major boost to not only the economy in Wichita and in Kansas, but more importantly, far more importantly, it is going to allow more of the children in our state to become literate. Without the ability to read and write, they have little future at all, and so this is the opportunity we have today in Wichita, is to make a lasting impact on the blind community in our state and eventually around the country.

"In closing, I wanted to share this flag with you, Commissioners, and with our city. This flag was created in honor of a blinded World War II Veteran who can no longer see the flag for which he fought and sacrificed. Today as a monument, it is the first monument you see at Arlington National Cemetery.

"Also, if you go to the former site of the World Trade Center, will you find two of them there. You will find three of them here in Wichita, one at the Veterans Memorial Park,

two at the VA (Department of Veterans Affairs) hospital which I'd like to mention they just ordered three more of them. You'll find one in the state capitol here in Topeka, and you'll find one at the Veterans Park there, and you'll find five in Emporia, the founding City of Veterans Day. We are currently being asked by the U.S. Congress to study what it would cost to manufacture these in bronze and place them in every federal building throughout the United States and all of its territories, which would come to about a half million of them. And this would be employment as well for here in Wichita.

"So what we hope to bring to Wichita or rather what we hope to accomplish in the expansion is to create many well-paying jobs and to assist the blind in our community and our state to become literate and to have the same opportunities that we enjoy and oftentimes take for granted. So thank you for this opportunity, and we look forward to visiting with you going forward. "

Chairman Howell said, "Mr. Cabral, thank you so much for the presentation and again for the beautiful plaque. We will work to find an appropriate place to put that. I want to say thank you for all you do. I don't know if other Commissioners have other comments. Unless a light goes on, I'll just keep talking here. I want to say, I worked with you over the last few years, and I've come and visited your facility and we've talked about how to the state of Kansas. The illiteracy rates are alarming in my opinion, and the unemployment rate of people who are blind and illiterate is staggering. So this is an important aspect of our community that I want to, I have been engaged in and want to continue to be engaged in.

"I think there's a couple of issues you've raised this morning. One is that Kansas sends out \$2 million in transcription service out of our state because they're not in the State Use Catalog. I believe legislators ought to change that. I know there has been a bipartisan effort to make that change over the years and I have supported that personally. There is plenty of support, as I've talked to people about this issue, to move this issue forward. I think that we're winning that battle, and I think it's important to say we've also created some bridges to other organizations that also provide work opportunities for disadvantaged people in our community with such a KETCH and Envision especially. I think Envision is really important because they provide work opportunities for people with impaired vision, so there's a nice connection there. And I think that these two organizations working together is very, very good for this community. So I appreciate the good news on that regard. I think there is still work to do, and I look forward to working with you in the future. I think there are things we can do. We will continue this discussion I'm sure. Thank you for your presentation."

Mr. Cabral said, "Thank you, thank all of you."

MOTION

Chairman Howell moved to receive and file.

Commissioner Peterjohn seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion and a vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Ranzau	Aye

Chairman Howell

Aye

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Cabral."

Mr. Cabral said, "Thank you, Chairman."

Chairman Howell said, "Madam Clerk, next item, please."

Received and Filed

APPOINTMENTS

E

16-414

RESOLUTION APPOINTING KENT THOMAS (COMMISSIONER NORTON'S APPOINTMENT) TO THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ANIMAL CARE ADVISORY BOARD.

Presented by: Eric Yost, County Counselor.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt the Resolution.

Mr. Eric Yost, County Counselor, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Item E is a resolution appointing Kent Thomas to the Sedgwick County Animal Care Advisory Board. His appointment would be Commissioner Norton's appointment. The paperwork appears to be in order. It's my understanding that Mr. Thomas is present, and I would urge adoption of the resolution."

MOTION

Commissioner Norton moved to accept the resolution appointing Kent Thomas to the Sedgwick County Animal Care Advisory Board.

Commissioner Peterjohn seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion and a vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh Aye

Commissioner Norton Aye

Commissioner Peterjohn Aye

Commissioner Ranzau Aye

Chairman Howell Aye

Chairman Howell said, "Mr. Thomas, if you're here, our Clerk is ready to do the oath with you."

Mr. Kelly Arnold, County Clerk greeted the Commissioners and said, "I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the constitution of the state of Kansas, and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Sedgwick County Animal Care Advisory Board so help me God."

Mr. Kent Thomas, greeted the Commission and said, "I do."

Mr. Arnold said, "Congratulations."

Mr. Thomas said, "I retired from Wichita State [University] about five years ago. Now

in my retirement, I am eager to pursue all of these things I'm interested in like retirement is all about. One of those is animal welfare and animal care, so I'm involved in a number of groups in which we rescue animals following disasters. We do various things involving animal welfare. So this is one of the things I've really been enthusiastic about. I've been going to their meetings for the Animal [Care] Advisory Board, very enthusiastic about the work they're doing and very pleased to be able to join the group. So thank you very much for the appointment."

Chairman Howell said, "Commissioner Norton."

Commissioner Norton thanked the Chairman and said, "Well, I want to thank Kent for being available and being willing to accept this appointment. I look forward to him being on there and there's good work to be done, and I think he has the heart and the intellect to help us along with that. So thanks, Kent."

Mr. Thomas said, "Thank you."

Chairman Howell said, "Mr. Thomas, thank you for your service and for your willingness to be on this Board and serve the county. Madam Clerk, next item, please."

Approved

F [16-435](#)

RESOLUTION APPOINTING THOMAS STOLZ (BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION APPOINTMENT) TO THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY COUNCIL REPRESENTING SEDGWICK COUNTY.
Presented by: Eric Yost, County Counselor.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt the Resolution.

Mr. Yost said, "Item F is a resolution appointing Thomas Stolz to be the Sedgwick County representative on the South Central Regional Homeland Security Council. Mr. Stolz is not present, but I would urge adoption of the resolution."

MOTION

Commissioner Ranzau moved to make a adopt the Resolution appointing Thomas Stolz to the Sedgwick County South Central Regional Homeland Security Council.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion a vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Ranzau	Aye
Chairman Howell	Aye

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you. Madam Clerk, next item, please."

Approved

NEW BUSINESS

**G [16-393](#) LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
LAKE AFTON PUBLIC OBSERVATORY.**

Presented by: Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorize the Chairman to sign the lease agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ron Holt, Assistant County Manager greeted the Commissioners and said, "As you know, the Lake Afton Observatory closed last August after 35 years of operation. The observatory was built in 1979 through an agreement with WSU, the Wichita School District, the City of Wichita, and Sedgwick County. The city and the school district pulled out of the project some time ago, and then due to budget concerns, WSU ended its partnership with the county last year, leaving the county with the property, with the building, but no one responsible for the operations of the facility.

"Since that time, we've been working with a local enthusiast club called the Kansas Astronomical Observers to reopen the Observatory, and the full responsibility will be theirs. They will take on the full responsibility for operations. The old Lake Afton Public Observatory Board was reconstituted with the Kansas Astronomical Observers Members, and they are again, I think, excited about taking on this responsibility and beginning operations on or around the first of August. Before you today is a resolution regarding a lease with the newly constituted Board of the Lake Afton Public Observatory.

"This will be a two-year lease with a three-year renewal option, and so with that I would recommend you approve the resolution which approves the lease between Sedgwick County and the Board of Lake Afton Public Observatory and authorize the Chairman to sign the lease. I would be happy to answer any questions. I'm not sure if we have anyone representing, yes, there they are. We have a couple of folks representing the newly constituted board and the observatory here if you have any questions for them."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Holt. I don't have any questions right now, but I think there are going to be some questions and comments from Commissioners, and then we have an opportunity for public comment as well. So I'll start with Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn thanked the Chairman and said, "I have taken my children out to Lake Afton Observatory before it closed on a number of occasions. And I'm absolutely delighted there is an effort that I think we're reaching a milestone today. Of course we won't culminate that achievement until we actually get the doors actually reopened and the public can return. But this is a valuable facility and Sedgwick County has been a participant and a partner in this with the institutions that Assistant County Manager Holt had described. And I think it's very important that we have this facility available, you never know what's going to pop up in the night sky, but I'm wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Lake Afton Observatory Organization, and particularly the board members, who I know have been working incredibly hard to try and bring us to this day and to get this facility reopened and appreciate seeing both Fred [Gassert] and Harold [Henderson] here in the audience. They have some

comments. I'll be all ears, and I appreciate the work for not only the Lake Afton Observatory but also the county staff, both in the Manager and Counselor's Office to bring us at least to this important milestone. Thank you."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Ranzau. "

Commissioner Ranzau thanked the Chairman and said, "Just a quick question. Maybe I missed it, but is there a date scheduled to formally reopen?"

Mr. Holt said, "I think the date is August 1. The lease doesn't, the lease is effective as of today, but I think Harold and Fred can talk about the date they plan to announce a formal reopening."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "Okay. When they're ready to speak, they can share that with us."

Mr. Holt said, "Yes."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "Thank you."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Commissioner. I'll go ahead and take this to the audience. Is there anybody here today that would like to speak regarding this agenda item? No pressure. All right. Please state your name and address for the record."

Mr. Harold Henderson, Director, Lake Afton Public Observatory greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'd like to thank Chairman Howell and the rest of the Commissioners for this opportunity. At the current point in time, we are looking at reopening sometime in August with a hard target date of before Labor Day weekend, just as a clarification. August 1 is a little soon. I'm sure Mr. Holt is very anxious to bring himself and his family out there and look through the telescopes and look at the programs, but August 1st may be a little early. But we do plan to be open by Labor Day weekend."

Chairman Howell said, "Well, I consider this to be good news. In fact, I would say there are a lot of folks anxious about getting this opened, anxious meaning it's a good thing, and we're excited for it. After 35 years of having this in our community, we'd love to see it continue. My only question would be, are we going to, do we expect to have our students from our K-12 schools participating in the programs out there, the observatory, as they have in the past? Is that something that we expect?"

Mr. Henderson said, "That is an option. However, the more likely option is the fact that now we're in association with the Kansas Astronomical Observers, private individuals owning personal telescopes that are more portable. We can actually bring telescopes and equipment to the students as an option as well. So it's not just a single point of brick and mortar, bring all your students, look through a telescope, go back to school, go on home."

Chairman Howell said, "I only have one question, and I think it would be okay if you could answer this for me. As I'm reading in the contract, again, this is not any huge issue, I don't think, but Sedgwick County has done a lot to open up our buildings to concealed carry holders, law abiding citizens that want to concealed carry in our buildings, and so this is now going to a 501c3. Is it the intent of that organization to allow that to continue there at that facility?"

Mr. Henderson said, "As a concealed carry permit holder myself, I share your concerns, and we are looking more along the lines of no open carry. Persons

permitted and authorized to carry concealed are welcomed to do so. If I don't see it, I don't worry."

Chairman Howell said "Right. That is certainly an option. Again, of course, the state of Kansas does allow of concealed carry without a permit as well. Now that that law is passed, I think open carry is less interesting to a lot of folks, so concealed carry out of sight out of mind. I guess I just wanted to know if you were planning to post the building as no carry or just no open carry?"

Mr. Henderson said, "The last discussion I had is we were going to post it as no open carry due to the tight confines of the building, potentially large number of people in the building in a confined space, open carry just does not really sound like a practical matter."

Chairman Howell said, "It does make sense."

MOTION

Commissioner Peterjohn moved to authorize the Chairman to sign the lease agreement.

Chairman Howell seconded the motion.

Chairman Howell said, "I would like to give Commissioner Peterjohn credit. He has really led this issue. He had worked a very long time. It has always been important to him specifically to see this reopen. He's attended, I guess, a number of meetings and has worked with our staff, I guess, to get this resolution before us today. So I want to say thank you specifically to his work and his commitment to make this happen today. And we have a motion and a second, seeing no other discussion. Madam Clerk, please call the vote."

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Ranzau	Aye
Chairman Howell	Aye

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you. Madam Clerk, next item, please."

Approved

H [16-396](#)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BIDS AND CONTRACTS' REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS ON JUNE 30, 2016.

Presented by: Joe Thomas, Director, Purchasing Department.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the recommendations of the Board of Bids and Contracts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Joe Thomas, Purchasing Director greeted the Commissioners and said, "As was stated, we have three items that were the result of our regular meeting of the Board of Bids and Contracts of June 30th, and then we have an item that results from a convening of a special meeting of the Board of Bids and Contracts later that

afternoon. So we'll start with the regular meeting.

1. COX METRO E CIRCUIT RENEWALS AND ADDITION OF SERVICE AT EMS POST 11, 60 MONTHS.

"Recommendation is to accept the quote from Cox Communications Kansas, LLC at a monthly rate of \$1,005.00 for 60 months, for a grand total of \$60,300.

2. MAIL INSERTER, DIVISION OF INFORMATION AND OPERATIONS (DIO) FUNDING, DIO.

"Recommendation is to accept the quote from Pitney Bowes at the amount of \$1,635.62 per month for 48 months, for a grand total of \$78,509.76.

3. EXTRICATION TOOLS, SEDGWICK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1 FUNDING, EXTRICATION TOOLS/FIRE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

"Recommendation is to accept the low responsive bid from Okie Extrication in the amount of \$44,680.00.

4. TENDER / PUMPER TRUCKS, SEDGWICK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1 FUNDING, FIRE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

"Recommendation is to reject all proposals submitted and rebid at a later date.

Mr. Thomas said, "As mentioned, later that day we convened a Special Bid Board, and it will give you a recent history of what this involves. This is the tender pumper trucks for Fire District No. 1. As you remember, the Commission approved by majority vote at the June 22nd meeting to take the recommendation of Pierce Manufacturing, but since that time, new information has come to light from the Fire District [No. 1] that some incorrect information was provided, both to the Bid Board and the BoCC (Board of County Commission) that needed to be corrected, and so the special meeting of the Board of Bids and Contracts was convened.

"This corrected information was presented to the Bid Board for re-evaluation, and after that proper re-evaluation took place, Bid Board has come up with this recommendation regarding what was formerly recommended for the tender pumper trucks. The recommendation now is to reject all proposals submitted and rebid at a later date. We have representatives from the Fire District who are here to answer any questions regarding that information, and I recommend approval not only of this special item but also the preceding three items. "

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Thomas. Commissioners, any questions or comments? Commissioner Ranzau."

MOTION

Commissioner Ranzau moved to make a motion to approve the report for the Board of Bids and Contracts regular meeting.

Commissioner Unruh seconded the motion.

Chairman Howell said, "So what we're going to do with this motion is we're going to work through the first three items. The motion is to accept those. And then the last item that you presented on the tender/pumper trucks will be a separate item. We'll deal with that in just a moment. Okay. The motion is to accept the first three items.

And we have a motion and a second. Any other discussion? Before we go on to that, is there anybody from the audience that would like to speak to this agenda item. Seeing none, we have a motion and a second. Madam Clerk, please call the vote."

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh Aye
Commissioner Norton Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn Aye
Commissioner Ranzau Aye
Chairman Howell Aye

Chairman Howell said, "We're on the last of the presentations from Mr. Thomas. Commissioners, what's the will of the board?"

MOTION

Commissioner Unruh moved to accept the recommendation of the Board of Bids and Contracts regarding the Board of Bids and Contracts Special Meeting, to rescind the previous offer made to Pierce Manufacturing and reject all bids.

Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.

Chairman Howell said, "We have a motion and a second. Any other discussion? Commissioner Ranzau."

Commissioner Ranzau thanked the Chairman and said, "Well, I'll just want to say that I'm disappointed that we can be given factually incorrect information on this item over and over and over again, and I hope the Manager and the Fire District will address that issue as we move forward. A big deal was made about the frame repeatedly, and this just can't happen. That being said I'll support this motion today."

Chairman Howell said, "Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh thanked the Chairman and said, "I appreciate the comment from my colleague. I just want to express that my understanding, this was done not intentionally but with some sort of confusion between our staff people and the bidder. I understand mistakes happen, and we need to eliminate mistakes, but I just want to make sure folks know this was not any sort of deliberate mistake. That's all I have."

Chairman Howell said, "I'd like to further say again, I appreciate those involved in bringing us these recommendations. I know nobody intended to do that. It was certainly just an oversight, I believe. It does make, potentially, if we were to look at the bids before us, a \$134,000 difference in what we selected versus probably one of the options that would have provided adequate equipment for the Fire District. And in light of the fact that the Fire District is trying to do everything they can to, I think, to create solvency in their budgets, \$134,000 is a lot of money. And so I think that it's appropriate at this time that we have a cooling off period. There's been so much discussion about this, and this is the third time we've visited this issue on this board. I think it's time for us to set this aside for a while and start the process over again and let's try this down the road in a way that I think creates a better, more clear set of options for the commissioners. Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn thanked the Chairman and said, "I plan to be supportive of this motion, and largely find myself in agreement with the Chairman's comments. Thank you."

Chairman Howell said, "Yes, Commissioner."

Mr. Yost said, "Mr. Chairman, I just want to clarify one thing. Commissioner Unruh's motion I assume includes recinding of the current offer that was made as a result of last weeks vote?"

Chairman Howell said, "Commissioner, I believe Commissioner Ranzau made the motion."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "No."

Chairman Howell said, "You made the motion."

Commissioner Unruh thanked the Chairman and said, "Thank you for the clarification. I appreciate that."

Mr. Yost said, "I wanted to clarify that."

Chairman Howell said, "So the motion is to rescind the previous vote that had accepted Pierce Manufacturing. We're going to nullify that vote and table this for now and visit this at a later date. My assumption is probably not any time soon. So, all right. We have a motion and a second. Any other discussion? Anybody from the, yes, sir."

Commissioner Ranzau thanked the Chairman and said, "Let me just clarify. We're not going to table it. We're going to reject all bids."

Chairman Howell said, "We're rejecting all bids. That's the motion."

Mr. Yost said, "But we're also rescinding the offer that we made last week."

Chairman Howell said, "Okay. Are we clear on the motion everyone? Rescinding the previous offer and rejecting all bids on this item. Anybody from the community that would like to, from the public, the audience, would like to speak on this agenda item? Seeing none, Madam Clerk, we have a motion and a second. Please call the vote."

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	Aye
Commissioner Norton	Aye
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Ranzau	Aye
Chairman Howell	Aye

Mr. Thomas said, "Thank you, Commissioners."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Thomas. Alright. Madam Clerk, next item, please."

Approved

I [16-363](#)

RESOLUTION REGARDING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.

Presented by: Justin Waggoner, Assistant County Counselor.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt the resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Justin Waggoner, Assistant County Counselor greeted the Commission and said, "Two weeks ago, this item was in front of you, and after a robust discussion, the matter was deferred. As a reminder, the resolution that's in front of you today contains two distinct requests. First, it requests the Kansas Legislature to modify state statute to remove provisions allowing persons without lawful immigration status to receive the benefit of in-state tuition, and then secondly, there is a request to the KDHE (Kansas Department of Health and Environment) and also the Governor to take action as permitted under the Federal regulations that govern WIC (Women Infants and Children) to limit WIC participation to U.S. Citizens, Nationals and Qualified Aliens. The resolution remains the same as it was two weeks ago. I'd be happy to stand for any questions you may have during discussion on this item. Thank you."

Chairman Howell said, "We have a number of people who have signed up to speak, and before I get to that, let me just make a couple of quick comments, and that is, last time we dealt with this was, I think two weeks ago, and the motion eventually was to table the item and bring it back at a later date, which is now today. And the reason I did that, I made that motion because I wanted to take time to study the issue and talk to people in the community and find out more information about some of the discussion items that were brought up during that meeting. And since that time, let me say I have met for more than eight hours with at least 12 different people from the community. A lot of this was with Commissioner Ranzau. I've had a number of e-mails that I've discussed this as well."

"I've talked with, let me go through this list real quickly, because some of these folks I believe are the same people that will speak today and have already spoken to this at the previous meeting. I just want to be clear that we have spent a lot of time having discussions about this, both at the last meeting, since the last meeting, and I assume they'll speak again today. I spoke with Crystal Magdaleno, Billie Knighten, Lupe Magdaleno, Gretchen Eike, Crystal Magdaleno, Sandrine Lisk and then Margie Djuan Wash. We had the President Joseph Shepherd with the Wichita State [University] Student Government Association. He's the student body President, as well as the Vice President, Taben Azad. I also spoke with Reuben Lebron and Kevin Lopez. So those are some of the folks I've spent time over the last two weeks speaking with at length. We've had again more than 8 hours of discussion with those folks. I've done a lot of study personally to get ready for today."

"So I expect we'll have a good discussion, but I would like to say that, again, I would like to provide, again, opportunities for everyone to speak. We do have right now about 14 people signed up to speak, so I would like to do three minutes if possible. Three minutes would be, I think an appropriate amount of time for you to come to the podium and give us your thoughts. And with that, I would like to start by calling up Billie Knighten, and again, please state your name and address for the record, and you have three minutes, please."

Ms. Billie Knighten, 7 Lansdowne Drive, Wichita greeted the Commissioners and said, "I so appreciate the time you've put into listening to the public on this. I'm very grateful for the opportunity. So thank you. You know, we've gone over a lot of things. I know you've been studying, we have been studying, and there are people here who, other people who want to address things fairly specifically. What I would like to do, well I think before I go to that, I think it was a better part of wisdom that this resolution was deferred, because it's given us all time to think about it. And you know that old saying, act in haste, regret at your leisure, or whatever that is. We don't want regrets."

We want to know that we've made some wise decisions.

"So what I specifically wanted to point out, though, I don't think we had looked into before is long-standing status, for instance, of the WIC program, the Women's Infants Children's nutrition program. It was passed 44 years ago in the Nixon administration and has served its purpose beautifully. It's been studied over and over and over of course, in that time, and there have been no serious proposals to change or abandon. So that is something seriously to be taken into consideration.

"The statute that we're wanting to have changed on in-state tuition for people who are undocumented, we have copies of the statute, its pretty detailed and incredibly thought out. So maybe we could, you know, look into that a little bit more, because I think it actually addresses some of the issues you have Mr. Howell. And it's also important to know that that didn't, even though it was enacted, you know, fairly recently for Kansas, it follows upon laws and policies, it is that it began, well let's see, it was the Reagan Presidency, and were expanded by the first Bush Presidency. So it's not as though these are just all of a sudden new things. I have only a few seconds left. So anyway, I think given these considerations, it is wise to consider these changes and not adopt them. Thank you. Thank you very much."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Ms. Knighten. We had a really nice long discussion a couple of different times even on the same day, and I just want to say thank you for the respectful discussion we've had in the past. Thank you so much. I'm going to call up next Roger Hughey. Welcome Roger, and please state your name and address for the record."

Mr. Roger Hughey, 974 White Tail Circle, Wichita thanked the Commission and said, "I'm a retired commercial real estate lawyer. I've reviewed this, and I am speaking in opposition to adoption of the resolution. I know you all are familiar in detail with what it says, but just in general, this is not local. This is arbitrary. It's unnecessary, and it looks like its just mean spirited, and as a member of this community, I don't want our elected representatives to be perceived as just mean, and I don't think that's what you want to do. That's all."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you so much, Mr. Huey. Next I'd like to call up Djuan Wash."

Mr. Djuan Wash, 547 Trotter, Maize greeted the Commissioners and said, "Chairman Howell, thank you so much for acknowledging all of the meetings and times that we've been able to spend together talking about this issue. The group that we put together really appreciates your time. I'll be reading a petition that we have circulated in this community and gathered over 200 signatures from. A couple of you have already received this. However, this is from the Kansas Stronger Together Coalition, which includes the American Civil Liberties Union, El Centro and Kansas Apple Seed, of which I'm a part.

"Dear Commissioners, we noted with grave concern that the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners is considering asking the Kansas Legislature to repeal the state's policy regarding the granting of in-state tuition regardless of immigration status. The current law adopted in 2004 states that in order to be eligible to pay in-state tuition at a state school, an undocumented student must attend a Kansas high school for at least three years, graduate or obtain a GED (General Education Degree) and sign an affidavit declaring that he or she will seek to adjust her immigration status as soon as such option becomes available.

"We strongly support the current law on in-state tuition and ask that the commission

reject any proposal that seeks to overturn it. The signatories to this letter are part of Kansas Stronger Together, a statewide coalition that advocates on immigration-related issues. Our coalition believes that Kansas is a stronger, healthier, more prosperous, and more just place when all Kansas residents are treated fairly, equitably, and without discrimination on the basis of national origin, immigration status, race, or ethnicity.

"We strongly support the current law on in-state tuition, because: Kansas is in good company in providing in-state tuition to all residents. There are at least 17 states that currently have in-state tuition laws, including Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas and Utah, and a number of public university systems opt to provide in-state tuition for undocumented students without any legislative requirement to do so.

"The current in-state tuition law is a wise economic investment, one that promotes economic development and prosperity for all Kansans. Our state already invests in providing primary education to all of our youth; in-state tuition is simply a good return on our investment. If we are to repeal in-state tuition, most of these students would not be able to pursue their dream of going to college. In today's economy, we need a work force with skilled workers and a college degree is a precursor to working, paying taxes and contributing to our state. Rather than creating barriers to higher education, we ought to create policies that increase access to an affordable education for all Kansas youth who work hard, apply and earn admission to college, and who demonstrate that they want to and can contribute to our state and our economy. In-state is not merely good for these students and their futures, but it is good for our state and our collective future.

"Repealing the law would limit access to higher education for Kansas youth solely on the basis of their immigration status, with no regard for their scholastic achievement or merit. Many of the affected students are brought to this country at a young age and grow up going to our public schools just like any other Kansas teen. By the time they are applying to college, they are virtually indistinguishable from their peers. To single out these students for exclusion from in-state tuition would create a disincentive to their working hard to succeed in high school, as it would place yet another barrier to achieving a college education.

"The legality and constitutionality of in-state tuition laws is not in question. State courts around the country have upheld laws that grant in-state tuition to all state residents, regardless of immigration status. A challenge to the Kansas law was dismissed from federal court, and the dismissal was upheld by the 10th Circuit Court.

"The current state law creates a strong incentive for undocumented students to adjust their immigration status, within the confines of federal law. The state law requires students to sign an affidavit, a legal document, that they will adjust their immigration status as soon as they are able to do so. As a result of that requirement, many students either become documented immigrants or initiate the naturalization process.

"For these reasons, we respectfully but strongly urge the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners not to adopt a policy statement that calls on the Kansas Legislature to repeal the in-state tuition law. In addition to that, we are also against any changes to the WIC program. Thank you, Commissioners. I'll now provide you with copies of this."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you for that. Appreciate that. We'll make a motion to receive and file comments at the end of the public comment time. Thank you for the petition. I appreciate that very much. All right. Next up is Gretchen Eick."

Ms. Gretchen Eick, 1536 North Park Place, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Ninety people in my district, in one hour on Sunday, signed a petition against this resolution in your district Mr. Ranzau, and I have those signatures for you. All of you commissioners have said that you believe immigration is good for that country and for this county. Mr. Peterjohn, you have a degree in economics, and you know that tax dollars are saved if you produce a skilled and educated workforce that will remain here and give back to this country and community."

"You know that preventive health care practice and sound nutrition reduce expensive emergency room visits, that having babies who are healthy saves taxpayers in the years ahead because those children thrive as healthy kids, healthy teens, healthy young adults, etcetera. I know that you know this. So I wonder why you advocate changing the state law in a way that will cost the county and this City of Wichita and our state."

"Let's dispel some myths. All people who live in Kansas can go to Kansas higher education institutions paying in-state tuition. All people who live in Kansas. This is not a freebie. This is not a welfare program. Since 2004, that has included young people born outside the United States but living in Kansas and graduating from Kansas high schools if they file their paperwork as soon as they are eligible to become citizens. You heard the 2004 law part of it read to you. The part you didn't hear read is the part that says they have to pay back if they don't pursue the course to citizenship. The last paragraph, I urge you to read it carefully. They have to pay it back and they have to pay interest at 10 percent on what they have been granted, on the part of the tuition they have not paid by getting in-state tuition."

"The only people in Kansas who have to pay the state the difference between in-state tuition, what residents pay, and out of state tuition, which is twice as much or more, are undocumented young people who don't choose to pursue their citizenship when they become eligible. Those are the only people who have to pay the state back. They are held to a much higher standard of accountability than any Kansas resident who is a citizen, allowing them to pay what other residents pay is not giving them a scholarship, is not giving them money that would go to some other students. These undocumented students must be on a path towards citizenship through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which has been in place since 2012. That program temporarily defers deportations for 1.9 million eligible documented youth and young adults. It gives them two-year work permits and temporary social security numbers, and they graduate and can go into a Kansas state school. They are not allowed to receive Pell Grants or student loans and their families must pay the entire cost of that in-state tuition rate."

"Those of you with children and grandchildren certainly can understand that without access to loans or grants, this requires a very strongly motivated young student to make this effort to go to college. Their parents are paying taxes, and this is something that we've researched and since we talked with you we gathered the data and I would ask permission to be able to share it with you, because it's very, very important. We know from a sample of 900 undocumented households that 70 percent of undocumented households in Sedgwick County are purchasing homes and paying personal property tax on those homes. That amounts to, if you think the average home is probably \$50,000 that a person who is undocumented, a family that's undocumented is buying, they pay \$916.50 per home per year and for this year, which amounts to almost \$8 million in property tax being paid by undocumented people in this county, \$8 million."

"Of course, the 30 percent who are not purchasing homes are still paying property tax because it's written into their rent payments."

Chairman Howell said, "Your time is up, actually. Please..."

Ms. Eick said, "Are you not willing to hear the rest of it? We have not given you this information before."

Chairman Howell said, "Well, anyway, we'd like three minutes, because we have 14 people who need to speak."

Ms. Eick said, "You're not willing to hear the rest of it?"

Chairman Howell said, "I would love to hear, do you have copies for us this morning?"

Ms. Eick said, "I just have my own copy."

Chairman Howell said, "We have our clerk that can make copies for us."

Ms. Eick said, "This is extremely important."

Chairman Howell said, "Thanks for your time. Alright, next up is Bill Anderson."

Mr. Bill Anderson, 1227 North Jefferson Avenue, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "She's a very hard act to follow, guys, in case you're wondering. I'm also a constituent of Commissioner Ranzau. They get for those taxes schools, roads and Fire, Police. But remember, quote, this is emphasized, they get no other services like food stamps, unemployment insurance, Medicaid, Medicare or Social Security. Undocumented people also pay state and federal income tax. Fifty percent of undocumented file income tax. Most of the rest pay income tax through payroll deductions. The 75,000 undocumented people in Kansas pay \$59 million in state and local taxes according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy Report, 'Undocumented Immigrant's State and Local Tax Contributions'.

"Also most undocumented people settle here and put down roots here, buy homes, fixing them up, paying taxes, improving neighborhoods. I see that in my midtown neighborhood. That's Gretchen's. I see that in my midtown neighborhood in your district, Mr. Ranzau, where 90 people had signed the petition. So in-state tuition is not welfare. They pay for it with their taxes like other residents of this state.

"The WIC program is open to citizens and undocumented people who meet the income guidelines in every state in the United States. No state has tried to restrict undocumented people from access to this program because it is so successful. Women Infant and Children nutrition program has, since President Nixon provided nutritious food eggs, cheese, milk, baby formula etcetera to low income mothers of children five and under and pregnant women. It provides health checkups for pregnant women, it is a preventive health care program that promotes healthy weight babies and avoids the high cost of complicated births and extended hospital stays.

"In short, WIC saves the county money. I will repeat that. She didn't ask me to, but I will. In short, WIC saves the county money. Indeed, the GAO (Government Accountability Office) says every dollar spent on WIC returns \$3.50 in health care savings. Let me repeat that again. The GAO says that every dollar spent on WIC returns \$3.50 in health care savings.

"Its success has been documented for 44 years, acclaimed by international development agencies, it has been copied by other nations. Mr. Ranzau told us on Thursday that if you got an answer from the Kansas Department of Health and

Environment toward you're asking them to rewrite the regulations for eligibility for WIC that you would be ready to reconsider your promoting of this resolution. We have talked with the top WIC administrator in Topeka and read the correspondence with the Commission. They informed you in April that collecting data about undocumented status would change the contract the county has with WIC to distribute this federal money. They told you changing the rules for Sedgwick County would involve changing them for all 105 counties and that the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers WIC, told state officials that asking for WIC client's immigration status would be out of compliance and in danger of federal grant dollars. Wow.

"You have received your answer. What you were asking would close down the WIC program for the state of Kansas, the state that has a serious problem with infants dying in the first year of life, especially African American Kansans who suffer the highest infant mortality rate in the entire United States, but also among Hispanic Kansans whose babies die at almost twice the rate as Caucasian babies in their first year of life. That's sad. These babies who die are residents of this county, citizens and the high rate of death in their first year of life is documented by your own Sedgwick County Health Department.

"There's a flyer, which Gretchen has the flyer. WIC combats infant mortality by giving pregnant low income women and their babies' nutritional support. That doesn't seem too bad to me. It seems the height of folly to seek new regulations that would cut from this program low income undocumented women and their babies and young children who are the most vulnerable to dying in their first year of life. If you are trying to be fiscally responsible, you must recognize the fiscal consequences of cutting the eligibility of undocumented women and children from this time tested prevention program. Please behave responsibly and vote down this resolution. Thank you for giving me the time to finish that."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Anderson. Next up we have Jane Byrnes, please state your name and address for the record."

Ms. Jane Byrnes, 322 South Lorraine, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I am a registered licensed dietitian, registered nationally, licensed by the state of Kansas. Although most dietitians work in hospitals, my career focus has been on wellness. My career and my continuing interest is on keeping people healthy as opposed to the far more expensive alternative of curing them or getting them back to health.

"Nutrition, unfortunately, is considered lightweight by many policy makers. But I'm here to state that it is important, and it's especially critical at the beginning of life during pregnancy, infancy and childhood. Unfortunately, there are not too many role models or public education sources for nutrition. Marketing is very powerful for highly processed, highly expensive foods, but for basic wellness ingredients, every day, every week throughout the beginning of life, nutrition is one important risk factor that can be controlled.

"As Gretchen researched and found, WIC is cost effective. The return on investment for a \$ spent on WIC is a three dollar savings in health care costs. No matter who that person is, health care is expensive. Wellness is cost effective. I'd like to speak up to retain all aspects of WIC citizens, for all residents of Kansas. Thank you so much for the accurate shaping of nutritious habits through those growing, those pivotal early moments and years and throughout lifetimes. Thank you so much. Are there any questions?"

Chairman Howell said, "No, ma'am. Thank you, thank you so much. It's your time to speak. Do you have anything else you have to say? You have a few minutes. Is your time up?"

Ms. Byrnes said, "I'll donate it."

Chairman Howell said, "Its okay. Again, out of fairness, we have people on both sides of the issue in the audience, and Commissioners are here to listen. We would like everyone to just be respectful to everyone in the room. So try to make your comments within three minutes if possible, and I'd rather not have the audience reacting to any of the comments being made. I think it's disrespectful to others in the audience as well."

Ms. Byrnes said, "So my bottom line is I would be grateful if you could consider the health, the wellness of especially young folks versus the health care costs. Thank you so much."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Ms. Byrnes. Appreciate your comments. All right. Next up is Joseph Shephard."

Mr. Joseph Shepard, 1945 North Madison, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm currently serving as Student Body President of Wichita State University. I want to thank you all for this time and thank you for this opportunity to speak in regards to this resolution. Commissioner Howell and Ranzau I would like to say thank you for meeting with both Student Body Vice President Taben Azad and I last week in our efforts in a better understanding of this resolution and its intended purpose."

"Kansas is home to several undocumented students living here in the state of Kansas. And for a large number of those undocumented students, they can't tell you about their native country, because when they came to the United States they were brought here young by their parents with aspirations to create a better life for them and give them the opportunity to have access to the tools and resources needed in order to live a successful life."

"In America, we teach our young people that the key to success is education. However, that education comes at a higher cost for undocumented students. For some undocumented students and most of them, quite frankly, they're ineligible for financial aid in most cases, and these students pay their entire tuition costs out-of-pocket. Commissioner Ranzau, you made a comment in the Wichita Eagle stating, and I quote, 'The question is, why are we subsidizing people who are here illegally when they can't even get a job?' However depending on your definition of undocumented, the truth of the matter is that several of those undocumented students work two or three jobs just to make ends meet and pay for their college tuition in full."

"In fact, one out of every three farm workers in America is an undocumented immigrant. These hard working individuals pay a higher tax rate than the richest 1.6 percent of the country. Nevertheless, forcing these undocumented students to pay in-state tuition specifically for Wichita State University, would increase their tuition by \$6,600. Ultimately, we are not increasing the quality of their education, but we are increasing their financial burden. According to a 2011 study out of Harvard University, nearly half of America's college students drop out before receiving a degree. The number one reason being the cost of college and lack of avenues to receiving funding for a college education."

"A college education should not result in a debt sentence but rather we should do

everything in our control to equip them with the skills necessary to be successful even here in Sedgwick County. The resolution submitted by the County Commissioner focusing on removing in-state tuition from undocumented students, and I quote, 'In our efforts to stop diverting valuable resources away from the sources of those funds, namely the citizens and legal immigrants who call Sedgwick County home.

"However, I stand before you today to let you know that is not the role, nor the place of the County Commissioner to decide. Immigration is regulated at the federal level, chiefly under the rules established in 1952 with the passage of the Immigration Nationality Act, better known as the INA, the U.S. Congress has control over all immigration regulations and we should not interfere with them doing their job. Commissioner Howell, when we met, we talked about families, and you shared with me the importance of family and teaching them responsibilities. These undocumented students were brought here to America to our city, to our county, to our state, because their parents had a responsibility, and that responsibility was to sometimes choose between life and death. And they brought them here to America because they wanted a better life for their children, and they should not have to pay the costs because of their parents sacrifices made to ultimately have a better life for them.

"I realize what I say today will go in one ear and out the other for some of you all, and at the end of the day this resolution may pass three to two. But I want you to know it won't be because of taxpayers, the rule of law, the concern of safety or security but because of the lack of compassion that some of us in this room have for the individuals who have made responsibilities and were forced to take responsibilities to make the choice, the same choice that we would have made if we were put in that same situation. Thank you for your time."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you. Next up is Claudia Yaujar."

Ms. Claudia Yaujar, 6602 East Harry Street, #1010, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I'm here because I'm undocumented, as I mentioned last time and although my U.S. Citizenship does not require work anymore, this resolution concerns me a lot. As I can see it's presented in bad faith. After last time was said you recognize immigration as a federal issue, but you have requested to dig in deeper to see how actually you can make our lives more miserable. As Mr. Ranzau said, no one is going to die of hunger, and I would like to add no county is going to go poor because of U.S. Citizen kids of undocumented people receive WIC.

"This program is not incentivizing no one to come to Kansas. We come here for very different reasons. We all have a story, as I know you do. Last time you said we do not know about your life, about your language of knowledge, and you do not know about our struggles as immigrants, of course. Your concerns about the money invested in an education of non-U.S. Citizen children and makes it harder for them to get a higher education can be very well addressed if you inquire more about the actual situation and specifically in Kansas. And Mr. Howell, you make me feel more comfortable today by saying you will inquire. So that makes me have some faith that you're going to actually do the right thing.

"So you can read different statistics and different sources. Like, I was checking a website called Map the Impact of Immigration Across the Nation, and I will read about Kansas, just a little part of it. Between 2008, 2018, the Science and Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) fields are projected to play a key role in the U.S. economic growth. Adding jobs 73 percent faster than the rest of the economy. By 2020, Kansas will need to fill 66,850 new STEM jobs. But the states have been unable to produce a skilled work force has lagged behind this growing demand.

Immigrants have been helping to close the shortfall in these area. The Partnership for New American Economy and American Enterprise Institute a new American economy and American enterprise institute found that for every 100 foreign born graduates with a masters or PhD program who stays in the United States working in a STEM field, 262 jobs are created for Americans.

"This translates into a huge employment boost for Kansas, a state where in 2010, 15.4 percent of STEM workers with an advanced degree was a foreigner. Additionally, more than 43 percent of the STEM graduates at the most research-intensive universities are foreign-born, nearly four out of every five engineering PhDs are temporary or permanent residents..

"From 2006 to 2012, immigrant founders of engineering and technology companies employed roughly 560,000 workers and generated an estimated \$63 billion in sales. The federal government limits new H-1B temporary work visas for private sector workers at 65,000 per year and there are only an additional 20,000 new H-1B visas available to individuals with U.S. advanced degrees. This means far more skilled workers are waiting for U.S. visas than can be admitted under current law, and many students who graduate here have no clear path to stay in America. Fixing this broken system will be critical to ensuring Kansas, continued growth and competitiveness. The situation here is that fixing this problem is not in the County Commissioner's hands. Because like you, I support legal immigration, the reality is that we are already here with no path to citizenship. We have been here for many years. We have learned the language. We attended U.S. schools, and we want to reach the American dream as we were taught and motivated by our teachers. In short the truth is that's decepting, the ones using in-state tuition have a work permit already and will not need a new visa to fulfill these jobs. Did you know that most immigrant arrived to Kansas in the '90s? . Do you know why specifically Mexicans had to leave Mexico?

"Are you familiar with the NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) agreement signed by President Clinton in 1992? It took effect in 1994. Before then, Mexico was self-sufficient dealing with its agriculture and feeding all families. After NAFTA, USA destroyed Mexico's economy making it a country of poor people and increasing violence. President Clinton knew this was going to happen, and they closed the borders, except for the desert of Arizona, because like a document signed by the President said, they will die anyways. So both governments, Mexico and the U.S., are responsible for the chaos our families are in today, and no one wants to do anything about it to fix it, and here you are trying to make it more difficult for us.

"The immigration system is more complex than what anybody can think of. Most immigrant families in Kansas have mixed status, which means one of the parents is documented and one is not, or both are and the children are not or some of their kids have status but others do not or most commonly, the kids are U.S. citizens and parents are undocumented. I can assure you all of them support legal immigration if only this government would give us a chance.

"In my family, for example, my dad is a U.S. Citizen. My mother is a U.S. resident, which mean she holds a green card. Two of my sisters are U.S. citizens. One has a work permit, just like me and the other is waiting for reform. All of us are trying to be on the path towards U.S. citizenship. But for a Mexican who is over 21 years old has to wait until 18 and 20 years to start a path to citizenship, although our petitions from U.S. family members are already filed.

"This is a reality. This is our home. This is all we have, and we want to keep our families together. We don't want to leave. We undocumented people contribute to this

country, to the city in many ways. We buy houses at very expensive rates. We file taxes. If we have businesses, as many of us do., we pay taxes to the IRS (Internal Revenue Service) and the state, which is the case of my husband who owns a painting company. For those of us who work, some with work permits and some without, we get taxes deducted from our paychecks. They deduct FICA (Federal Insurance Contributions Act) tax, medical, state tax and unemployment compensation, which we do not qualify for any government programs, nor the Affordable Care Act, neither for unemployment, food stamps, welfare or anything you can think of.

"Myself, as a Family Engagement Educator, only this year from January to May, more than \$1,000 was deducted from my paycheck, which means more than 10 percent. Mr. Ranzau said it's not okay to use other people's money, but it's okay to use your own money, which is very confusing to me, because I work very hard to make my money and this government is using my money, which I do not have a problem with, but I do expect at least if I do not qualify my children, and when I say my children, I mean kids of undocumented people, to get the services when they need it. Or otherwise, if it's not okay to use other people's money, why are you using my money then, the money, who an undocumented person has earned?"

"Perhaps you will pass this resolution today and immediately work on other resolutions that will prohibit this government from taking taxes out of undocumented people's checks or exempt them to pay property taxes or vehicle registration and sales taxes. Does that sound fair to you?"

Chairman Howell said, "How much more do you have?"

Ms. Yaujar said, "Just a couple more lines, a couple more paragraphs. Last time you were concerned on how many state have in-state tuition, and you also have to be concerned how Kansas is one of the 14 states charging sales tax on food. If you drive in Wichita, you will see some of the areas considered low income and you will find out that immigrants buying houses in those areas work hard and take pride to fix and beautify where they live, and that's a huge contribution, as well since it increases property taxes in the neighborhood.

"As you can see, the complexity of the immigration system, the wrong image you have in your mind about immigrants who really want a path to citizenship to continue their contributions to this amazing country, I believe is not something that should be changed from this county desk. I want to humbly ask dismiss this resolution that does not bring a positive outcome to anybody in this county. We are all part of this and we all contribute. And I would like to finish my participation quoting from people I admire.

"The first one is Nelson Mandela, 'To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity.' And last but not least I really want you to think on this one and reflect on this one. 'The time is always right to do what is right,' from my dear Martin Luther King Junior, please follow that."

Chairman Howell said, "And again, I know, understand everybody wants to show support. I understand that. I think there's diversity in the audience today. If you don't mind, let's not have applause, because it's disrespectful to others with different opinions. I want to respect everyone and we're trying to do the best we can to hear from everyone, I think it's important that we hear everyone and want to give them some time to talk to us too, and I want to hear from both sides, and again both sides are in the audience today. So let's do that. Up next is Cristal Magdaleno, and again, if we can, let's try to stay within the time limits if possible. So rather than reading, you might need to summarize or hit some highlights, if you can. Thank you so much."

Adopted

Ms. Cristal Magdaleno, 814 N. Chautauqua Avenue, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said "I am here this morning because I am pro-life and pro-education. I am a college student at Newman University. In-state tuition is very important to me, because it gives intelligent young people the opportunity to go to college. Taking in-state tuition away is not just making a select few students pay more but it blocks them from college. Without in-state tuition laws, these students that have graduated high school here in the state of Kansas will not be able to attend because of the requirements for each student. If in-state tuition is taken away, these students would have to apply as international students, and that requires them to have graduated from a high school outside of the United States. And since they did not, they are barred completely from going and furthering their education.

"In-state tuition is not a subsidy that these students get, but is one less obstacle so that they can further their education. They pay everything out of pocket. They don't get any federal grants, anything from FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). They work hard for their education. I ask the County Commissioners to vote against this resolution that will harm the economics of the community rather than help the community. I especially ask Commissioner Ranzau as his constituent, to vote against this resolution. Thank you."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you. Thank you Cristal Magdaleno. Next up is Lupe Magdaleno."

Ms. Guadalupe Magdeleno, 814 North Chautauqua Avenue, Wichita greeted the Commissioners and said, "First I want to thank the members of the Commission Board for taking the time to meet with us. We were able to meet with Commissioner Howell and Ranzau, also with Unruh and Norton so thank you very much for taking the time to meet with us. And hopefully in some of these meetings you were able to hear us, not just meet with us. I shared my story a little with you guys so I'm going to try to keep it really short. I think after Claudia and the other young man there is not much I can say different or contribute that you have not already heard.

"I shared with you before, two weeks ago, that the reason that I came to this country was to fulfill my job as a mother, to preserve my family, well-being in life, and in our meetings you guys were asking if other immigrants will be encouraged to come to this county or country, because the freebies or the benefits. And I will assure you, as I assured my Commissioner Ranzau as I was leaving the meeting that there is absolutely no encouragement, \$80 a month for a short period of time for a pregnant woman, and in-state tuition is not an encouragement for other immigrants, as it wasn't for me. I can speak for me, and I can speak for me.

"But this is encouragement, all the violence that is costing people's lives, watching little kids talking like adults, carrying weapons to defend their lives. In my country, in Mexico, in these present current times, it is encouragement to flee and to seek the justice of the United States. The country that we believe that is just, and will protect the human being, regardless of legal status. And as for me, I shared with you that the legal immigration system is very complex, and it takes years to be on what we call a limbo, that it is not white and black, that is these 20 years-plus, of a period where we are not legal, we are acknowledged presence, but we don't have a legal status. But that doesn't mean that we will not have a legal status, we are in the process, we are on the line. Many of those lines are 99 years on the wait. I was blessed to be on the

waiting line for about 20 years, after I initiated the paperwork. I had a daughter that arrived as a two-year-old that is currently a teacher, teaching our kids in the community.

"Now I adopted a son, so he was able to fix his status in seven years. So there is very many differences on the system. But I want to share with you guys a picture, a picture that I want you to remember, because the reason why I am standing here today is I don't want any other human being to go through the pain of leaving families and not being able to see their dying parents, or having a parent that had died, and you have to make the choice to let them be buried, where you don't know, will never know where they are. Or bringing a mother trying with the system, to bring her here legally for many years, and bring her legally just to die and return her ashes to Mexico.

"So if you allow me, I would like to share a picture of my mother in the hospital when she arrived here legally. Thank you very much. As your constituent again, Commissioner Ranzau, I am asking you to please consider your vote today, and vote no to this resolution. Mr. Howell, I do appreciate the time that you took to listen to me, to make me feel like I actually matter. Whether that is true, I will know, but at least I make feel that I matter, that I am a human being. Mr. Unruh, Mr. Norton, thank you very much for fighting for what is right."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you Lupe Magdaleno. Thank you so much for your comments. We will receive that picture. Next I have Gail Kinzer."

Ms. Gail Kinzer, 3202 North Lakecrest Street, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I didn't realize I was one of the names on your agenda. Not sure how that happened, but thank you. I am a social worker, master's level social worker. I am in your district, Commissioner Ranzau. I want to speak primarily to the WIC program, and its viability. In the early to mid-70s, I benefited from the WIC program. I was a pregnant, unmarried teenager, living in Los Angeles. Some of the kindest people around me were the people who also benefited from WIC. They were all, I don't know if they were legal or not because it didn't matter.

"My understanding about the WIC program is that it is totally funded by federal money, Wichita citizens, we pay nothing for the WIC program. We pay taxes that go, federal taxes that go to many different things at the federal level. I wish I could go through the list of issues that are supported by my tax dollars and pick one or two and say I will support that. I wish I had that option. Because there are a lot of things I wouldn't support, but WIC is one of the things that I do support, and would support. It is, has a non-discriminatory statement at the federal level that includes national origin.

"I'm not sure why we would pick out this one life-sustaining program. And I mean life-sustaining before birth, and after birth. I have no clue, I am very confused about that. About why we would do that, and then take money away from it and say we don't want to spend our tax dollars for that. I'm spending tax dollars for lots of things I don't support already. I don't get that choice. I'm very confused about why we would choose not to support a life-sustaining system that includes anybody, but also citizens that are born from zero to five years old, when they are born in the United States they are citizens, whether their parents are or not, they are, and that is the age range that is included in the WIC program.

"I would not have made it without the WIC program when I was a 16-year-old single pregnant mother in Los Angeles. My daughter benefited from it. I benefited from it. She grew up, she is successful. I am successful. It didn't hurt me. I never became a

burden to any tax system, to our system. I am a graduate of Wichita State University, and the University of Kansas. Thank you for your time. I hope you make the right decision."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Ms. Kinzer. Next up is someone named Sherman, I can't see the last name. I can't read it. Not legible."

Mr. Sherman Padgett, 9575 West Brookridge Circle, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I am a registered Republican voter in district three with Mr. Peterjohn. I love summer vacation because it gives me an opportunity to come out and do things I don't typically do. I recognize some of you, because in my vocation I am the principal at North High School here in Wichita. I have the exciting job of getting kids college and career ready, and one of the things that Mr. Hughey had mentioned earlier, I think he is one of the first speakers, was just the idea of a resolution coming from our County Commission that would, could be construed, or interpreted as being mean-spirited.

"I would more want to go along the lines of what my job instills in kids, and that is hope. We have a number of kids that, in the course of public schools, K-12, we don't require them to show documentation of legal status. We do teach them, and we do teach all-comers. One of the things we do as we teach them, we try to get students to look forward to their futures and what they can actually achieve with their abilities and their efforts. I think that I the Commission, my request, of course, is that the Commission vote down the resolution.

"I believe the resolution would be misinterpreted, and it could hurt the ability for us to really motivate kids. Some of our kids, I don't know that they are undocumented until typically when they are seniors. What happens is you have a student that scores a 30, 31 on the A.C.T. (American College Test), they have 3.8 GPA (Grade Point Average), you ask them, what college are you going to? They kind of look down and say, well, I don't think I am going to go to college. You are thinking, oh, there's tons of scholarships you are eligible for, why wouldn't you go to college? They never, as a principle, they never tell me that their reason would be their undocumented status. They say, oh, I just think I am going to start earning money for the family, or help the family in different ways. It's really a challenge to try to get kids to recognize that college is their future, and I believe that if we were to take away in-state tuition as an opportunity for kids who don't have the ability to prove documentation, they could lack hope, it could be another barrier. I think other speakers today have expanded upon a number of issues that they had facts to support. I don't have any facts. All I have is my experience. And my experience is that our kids at North [High School] that are college and career ready deserve the opportunity to try to get an affordable, good education from the state of Kansas. Thank you."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Padgett. Next up is Kelly Parks."

Mr. Kelly Parks, 8005 North Hoover Road, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you for allowing this forum today. WIC, a good program. When I was on the County Commission, you can see my voting record, supported WIC. But I think, I'm here to ask you to support and pass this resolution because you have a right and an obligation to have checks and balances, to question taxpayers' expenses on any, WIC, or any other program that's out there. If there's any child in Sedgwick County that is hungry, we need only to look at those from two weeks ago that spoke from the Catholic Church or United Methodist Church, go knock on their door. You know, if there's somebody out there that is hungry, the churches will step up and do this. So use those as failsafes on this program.

"Don't require, I ask you not to require your employees in WIC or any other programs to speak Spanish. Kathleen Sibelius, who many of these people revere, that have spoken today, signed a document when she was governor that said English is the official language. She did that for many reasons. One of them is to save a lot of money. I just heard a principal speak from a high school. I know that the Valley Center School District, which I live in, spends \$200,000 a year on four ESL [ESOL] (English for Speakers of Other Languages) people. That's their wages and benefits. All together.

"Now, why are we doing this, if English is the official language? Let me talk a little bit about sanctuary cities. There are several organizations out there that say that Sedgwick County, Kansas and Wichita are sanctuary cities. I don't have cable T.V. I don't have Dish or anything that will get that, but I have an antenna, and on 26.7, there's good national news. If you want good, unfiltered national news, get on 26.7, between 7:00 p.m. in the evening and 11:00 or midnight at night, and you will see the Newsmax national news, Dennis Michael Lynch.

"Okay. I heard somebody out here say 105 counties and the leaders and change. Let's step up and be leaders let's do something to lead this state as County Commissioners. We've a lot of times sat back and let somebody else be a leader in the state up in Kansas City or somewhere else. You be the leader, and you start this process, and let's get it to discussion. I have a story about payroll, about a 31-year-old that claimed he had 13 kids, illegal. Anyway, I will stop, I had a couple more things to say, however, I'm going to obey the law like apparently some of the people that have spoken here today don't."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Parks. Next up is Steve Cisneros. Is Steve here? I will ask if anybody else wants to speak. So if Steve is not here, we will go on. Steve is not here. That's the end of the actual list of people who signed up. I am going to ask now, is there anybody in the audience who did not sign up that would like to speak? We can't hear you on the microphone. We need to wait just a moment. Please, I am going to let Janice speak next. Janice Bradley please come to the microphone and state your name and address for the record."

Ms. Janice Bradley, 214 West Buckridge, Wichita, thanked the Commissioners and said, "So I wanted to go off of what Mr. Hughey started out with about this mean-spiritedness. Especially from my County Commissioner Representative, Mr. Ranzau. Two weeks ago when you spoke, you said no one is going to starve in reference to the WIC program, if you remove these benefits. And, yeah, that may be true, but there's a long line between starving and dying, and the kind of problems that not getting the proper nutrition can lead to, especially with an infant. Babies, you know, if we intervene and, you know, make sure that nutrition is there in the very early stages of life, we set these kids up for future success, brain development. I can't believe that somebody who has medical credentials like you do would even think something like this. It's just beyond me, and you talked about going into this analogy or metaphor of going into people's houses and stealing from them to give to the people who don't have papers.

"Now, what I want to talk about is this divide that you seem to have in your minds between your taxpayers and undocumented people. Haven't we established now that undocumented people are taxpayers? When you talk about the County Commission, the county budget, what is the biggest source of that? We know it's got to be property taxes. And we've talked about how everyone who lives here pays them. Everybody. Even if you rent, the landlord is charging you money to pay his property taxes. So you are paying property taxes to Sedgwick County, whether you have papers or not. Do we have this established now? Can we stop saying our taxpayers versus the

undocumented? Because the undocumented people pay taxes, too. Do we understand that now? Okay.

"Also on the in-state tuition issue. Mr. Howell, last two weeks ago, you made a point about, how we found out only 18 states are doing this. How we are in the minority? Maybe we are some kind of outlier or something like this. So that about the issue of the food tax, tax on food? We are only one of 14 states that has a tax on food. That means there's 36 states that don't tax food. Why don't we pass a resolution to encourage the state legislature to end the food tax? There has been some discussion about this. You know, there has been a bill that's tried to advance, I don't know where it's gone. But can't you put your force behind something like that instead of this divisive policy to separate people from being the taxpayers that they are? Thank you."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you so much. Is there anybody else in the audience that has not spoken that would like to speak to the Commission? All right. I see a hand in the back row. Sir, we want you to go ahead and come up to the podium and state your name and address for the record."

Reverend Michael Poage, 1536 North Park Place, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Thank you for the opportunity to speak and I also want to thank you all for meeting with, over the last two weeks the members of the community who are effected by various decisions that you make. So thank you.

"One thing I would like to address as a retired pastor is that the churches in this city do not have the resources to be a safety net. We can do a little bit, and I worked for 18 years in a church in the northeast here in Wichita, and every day there was somebody at the office, somebody at the church needing food. We could do a little bit, but we can't be the safety net for the whole county. The second thing is I would really like to ask, and this goes beyond the County Commission to everybody in the county and beyond, to refrain from using the word alien. We haven't heard it much today, but it is around, and we are talking about human beings. Not aliens, whatever that might mean.

"Yesterday I read an article from the newsletter of the Southern Poverty Law Center, an organization based in Montgomery, Alabama, and focuses on national issues, and local issues of racial injustice, poverty, and hate speech and actions. One of the points of the article was to describe the hateful, racist rhetoric coming from all corners of the U.S. during this strange and crazy political season. Those statements have an impact. The article continues to speak to the negative impact on children. The article centers and focuses on children. Again, all around the country, the impact of the hateful and racist and loud and thoughtless actions against certain select groups in our country and community, the children especially. Children are especially sensitive to the racist and hateful words that we all constantly hear and see throughout our society, in the media, in our politicians, in our homes and schools. Kids are bullied by these, by those talking the rhetoric of hate. My time is up. I speak to you and ask you to not adopt the resolution. Thank you."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you for your comments. Anybody else in the audience that would like to speak? Sir, you have already spoken. I would like to go to other speakers, please. I see a hand there. Okay."

Mr. Willard Ebersole, 3012 East Orme Street, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I didn't come with prepared speech, but I listened to a lot of people speak today, and I encourage you to vote according to what you heard. Have us be a community of welcoming people, not a community of hatred and not seeing people as

God's people. Thank you."

Chairman Howell said, "All right, thank you, Mr. Ebersole. Anybody else who has not spoken, who would like to speak to the Commission. I see a hand in the back."

Mr. Walt Chappell, 3165 North Porter, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "Chairman Howell. I want to start by just point being out what all of us know. There is no free lunch. We have in our country now a major debate going on about how to make the immigration system work. It's broken. My wife is from another country. I know people on the bench up there have children from other countries. I know that the immigration system is broken in this country. It does not work. Takes forever to try to get any response to any application, any papers that you've sent, to get a yes or no, is not something that is easily done, and it is very expensive. You have to go through a lot of hoops. I have no objection to feeding people. I have a farm background. I love kids. I love folks in this country to be able to have good nutrition. But at what expense?

"You have a resolution which I've read. It's not hateful. It's asking questions. Those questions need to have answers. You need to be able to get the bureaucrats in Washington and Topeka to start responding. We have a program that USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) has had in force for many years. It is primarily a subsidy for farmers. If you feed kids in school and you have a WIC program, it provides a way for the milk and the cheese and the grains that the farmers grow to be able to have a market, and the U.S. Government doesn't have to pay for storage. That's been in place for a long time. That doesn't mean that we are against kids. It doesn't mean that those nutrition programs aren't good for children, of course they are. But the fact is, we are becoming a nation that is broke.

"You have hospitals all across the county, and this state that are having to close their doors because people go in to those hospitals, use the emergency services, don't have any intention of paying, don't have any way to pay, and walk out and leave the bill for somebody else to pick up. We have in our schools now tremendous amount of cost to try to educate kids, and no other country do we allow kids to come from another nation, sit in our classrooms, there in France, Russia, China, where ever else they go to, they would not be in those classrooms. They don't speak the language, they don't understand what's being said, but in this country, not only do we say you first have to know the language, we feed the kids breakfast, we feed them lunch, we send them home on the weekend with a packed bag of food. That all costs money. Who is paying for all of that? There is no free lunch.

"And so I encourage you to go ahead and pass this resolution, start asking the questions, get the dialogue going, let's have some honest dialogue. We've heard very passionate comments today. I respect every person that spoke today. They are friends of mine, many of them. But we have, as a nation, to start speaking up and asking important questions or we are going to be the ones on the food lines in other countries asking them to feed us. We're not going to be able to continue this as a nation, or as a county. So I encourage you, please, do the right thing make this go ahead and start this conversation and pass this resolution today. Thank you very much."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Mr. Chapel. Is there anybody else in the audience that has not spoken that would like to speak this morning? All right. I see one more hand over there. Come to the podium and state your name and address for the record."

Mr. Gerald Domitrovic, 1219 South George Washington Drive, Wichita, greeted the

Commissioners and said, "I just got out of the law business early and came in on this matter. This country is supposedly a nation of laws, and yet we've seen over and over where laws, certain laws are ignored, it is politically correct to ignore them. We don't enforce immigration laws. If you try to enforce the immigration laws, the federal government sues you, like in Arizona. Matter of entitlement, do it for the children, don't use this name or that name, because that's offensive that divides people. We want to be helpful. We want to be nice. There's a racial component to this. About, oh, well, don't you like to be inundated by Mexicans and South American people? Are you racist? Are you hateful?

"What we're doing in this country, we are subsidizing our own colonialization, we are subsidizing our own suicide, we are subsidizing our own death in this matter, people who disagree, oh, they are the ones who get attacked. It is not the blacks or homosexuals who are being attacked in the street, it is white activists being attacked by the, despite what the Southern Poverty Law Center might say in this matter. So this is not a matter showing that you care about non-white, showing you care about children. This is a matter of the law, and we are dying.

"I watched all this stuff in the 60s, let's have this program, that program. And things get worse and people get more unhappy. So stand up for the law, even though that offends people. Stand up for the fact that people are not entitled, even their children are not entitled, if a burglar comes to my house and brings his child with him, I am not obligated to feed that child because the child is hungry, or the child needs an education. That is the silliness that is killing, literally killing this country right now. We have heard the standard stuff from all the people here, about being nice and being kind, and don't divide people. No, unless we are having affirmative action or diversity, then dividing people is no problem. So I would ask you to support this resolution, none of us can give our true feelings in a minute or two, but don't be intimidated by the Thomas Wolf called the of the people who are intimidated by this stuff, or wanted to show how sympathetic or how compassionate they are with other people's money.

"This is taxpayer's money. This is the money of the people who, for the benefit of the people who are entitled to be here, and the idea that I come to this country, or any country, and I go there illegally and then I demand that you give me benefits, and if you don't, you are the bad person. And that's all I have to say in my time. Thank you."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you very much for your comments. Anybody else in the audience that has not spoken so far that would like to speak? All right. Let's go to the lady in the front row. Yes, ma'am."

Ms. Lakshmi Kambampati, 4022 Rushwood Circle, Wichita, greeted the Commissioners and said, "I am a retired teacher, and I have a couple of issues. These children, some of them, my older students, I have seen them, they grew up here, they didn't know they were illegal or what. Once they come to this state of going to the college here, you're trying to discriminate them, and the discrimination, and not giving them the opportunity may turn them into anger, and then you ask questions, why are these violences happening in our society? Maybe one of the reasons is all the discrimination, and not treating them fairly. So think about that. It is not the religion, it is not the ethnicity, it is not from where they have come, it's what we are trying to turn them into. So that's what I wanted to say. Thank you."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you very much. For those of you who have not signed up to speak, I would like it if you would sign the sheet of paper so we can get your name spelling correct and your address correct for the record, because it's hard to understand some of the things people are saying. I see one more hand in the back row, please come up to the podium, and state your name and address for the

record.”

Ms. Sandrine Lisk, 700 North Market, Wichita greeted the Commissioners and said “First of all I would like to thank you all for giving us the opportunity to address you this morning on this resolution. And I would like to thank you all who made the time to listen to members of this community about our objections to this resolution. Again, you represent all the constituents in your district, not the few who may support this resolution. I will keep this short, because I have already presented to at least two members of this Commission my objections to this resolution, which goes to whether it is lawful, and whether it is constitutional. And as of yet, I have not heard from the County's attorney's office whether in fact that analysis was done before this resolution was written up. I will not go into federal law.

“I am actually asking this Commission and each Commissioner who took an oath of office to support the Constitution of the state of Kansas whether in fact this resolution complies with your constitutional duty to the inhabitants in this county. And I am very, very certain that there is no objection here that inhabitants means everyone, irrespective of the immigration status of the person, an inhabitant is an inhabitant in Sedgwick County. I direct your attention to Article VII, Section 4 of the Kansas Constitution, which you swore to uphold. ‘Aged, and infirmed persons. The respective counties of the state shall provide as may be prescribed by law for those inhabitants who by reason of age, infirmity, or other misfortune may have claims upon the aid of society. The state may participate financially in such aid and supervise and control the administration thereof.’

“Now, no one has obligated the state of Kansas to participate in WIC. No one has obligated the state of Kansas to provide in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants. The state chose to do so. Now that the state has chosen to do so, our constitution requires you provide that aid to all inhabitants, so there is no place, no room for discussion whereby this Commission proposes to discriminate against certain inhabitants. Thank you.”

Chairman Howell said, “All right. Thank you, Ms. Lisk. Is there anybody from the audience who has not spoken who would like to address the board this morning? All right. Seeing none, I am going to close the public comment. Lupe, you had something you wanted to say?”

Ms. Magdaleno said, “It is on behalf of Sister Maryellen and Sister Dorothy.”

Chairman Howell said, “You want to present something from them?”

Ms. Magdaleno said, “Yes. They sent me statements.”

Chairman Howell said, “I don't think we can accept that, ma'am. They need to be here to speak on their own accord.”

Ms. Magdaleno said, “I will let them know.”

Chairman Howell said, “I understand. Appreciate the effort. Anyway, I am going to go ahead and close public comment on this agenda item and bring it back to the Board. So Commissioners, any comments or questions? Commissioner Ranzau.”

Commissioner Ranzau thanked the Chairman and said, “First, I want to make a quick comment on what somebody said about the use of the term alien. There's been something said about use of language last time. Alien simply means foreigner. It is a legal term that's used in the law, and regulation. The term alien actually exists in the

Kansas Constitution to refer to foreigners. So it is a proper use of the English language.

"That being said, I want to thank everybody for coming here and speaking, and sharing their views. I appreciate the time that I had with a variety of people from the community over the last week to speak about this issue as well. I would also like to say that I feel like with the exception of perhaps a couple speakers towards the end, well, not exactly to the end, but a couple speakers, I think the tone was much better than last week or two weeks ago. Much more respectful of different views of opinion. I think that's why we are here today is to discuss different views of opinion.

"I do want to say this, in my estimation, this has absolutely nothing to do with race, has nothing to do with being unkind or uncompassionate. It is about the rule of law, and the sovereignty of our nation. Those are important. Now in speaking with members from the community that oppose this resolution, it was interesting to see the variety of perspectives people come from, and there's different views on immigration. Mr. Shepherd from WSU supports open borders. I don't. So we're going to have to agree to disagree on that. Most of the people who came and spoke to me said they do believe in legal immigration. So if you have a system of legal immigration, you want to do things to incentivize people to use that method, so that there is a rule of law you can follow. As a sovereign nation, we want to let immigrants in who will help our society and keep the bad people out. That's why we have legal immigration, and I think we all support that.

"But if you allow illegal immigration, to have the same benefits of legal immigrants, then there is no incentive to do it the legal way. You are incentivizing illegal immigration. And so that's the problem that a lot of taxpayers have and why, I have asked the question of people, if you believe in legal immigration, how should illegal immigrants be treated different than legal immigrants. The vast majority of Americans believe they shouldn't receive taxpayer subsidies in any form.

"Now, I want to kind of talk about the specifics of what we are doing here today and clarify why we're here today, and what has and has not happened, and correct some misstatements that some people have made. First of all, this started in October. We asked KDHE to limit participation in WIC. Federal law and regulation authorizes the state to limit participation in WIC. The state has not chosen to do so, we asked them to make the decision and do that. They have not responded to that specific request. They have not said yes or no. We believe the citizens of this county deserve an answer.

"Now along with that, we also discussed the possibility of having a questionnaire for anyone who came to the health department to see if they are here legally or illegally, to kind of gather some data, and they addressed that issue, they said that if we did that unilaterally, you know, there would be consequences. But let's not confuse that with the original question of limiting participation in WIC. They have refused to respond. They did indicate to our attorneys if we did a formal resolution like this, maybe they would do something. For me today, it is about getting a response from the bureaucrats in Topeka. Either say yes, or say no. Don't put it on the feds. Just give the taxpayers an answer, and I think that's reasonable to expect that from them.

"Now, our resolution asks that WIC participation be limited to legal immigrants and citizens. That's exactly what you have with a variety of other welfare programs, to include things like food stamps. We are asking the same criteria, as what we use for food stamps to be used for WIC. Children who are born here in America and are citizens and are eligible for food stamps, and would continue to be eligible under WIC, so there's some misperceptions about what would actually happen if they

proceeded.

"Somebody said why are we treating WIC differently than any other, or in-state tuition? Well that's a good point, because for most other welfare programs and government aid, you can't get it as an illegal immigrant. So why should you be able to get these things? We're asking for consistency. The constitutionality of this resolution has been challenged, but if it's constitutional and lawful to limit participation in food stamps, why can't you have the exact same criteria for WIC?"

"Now, with reference to illegal immigrants paying taxes, many illegal immigrants do pay taxes, but many do not. There is a large cash economy out there, which we are all aware of and it has been well documented, that the cost to the taxpayer far exceeds the taxes paid in by illegal immigrants throughout the country."

"And law abiding citizens and taxpayers, to include legal immigrants that I hear from; they've come here legally, and they resent the fact that they did it the right way, yet they have to pay taxes, that in the end is subsidizing unlawful behavior. Now, as I said, as far as I am concerned this has nothing to do with race, this is not about being unkind, or compassion. It is about being fair and consistent with respect to requirements for welfare benefits. It is about getting a response from KDHE bureaucrats shall and it's about the rule of law, and the sovereignty of our nation."

"Personally, as I stated last year, many of you may or may not know, I actually have a degree in Spanish. I have studied in Mexico. I have worked with a doctor from Puerto Rico my first year as a P.A. (Physician Assistant), and we flew out to Liberal and Dodge City once or twice a week and took care of immigrants, many of whom were here illegally in the meatpacking plants. I did so willingly, in my own personal life. I have been a translator for Via Christi and helped people who spoke Spanish and needed help. And I did that willfully, my own time, money and resources. But I'm here as a County Commissioner, I have to decide as a matter of public policy, should we force the taxpayers to subsidize an unlawful behavior, and to me that answer is no."

"And I understand that you may disagree. But that doesn't mean I am racist or I hate Hispanics, I don't like people who speak Spanish or whatever. That I am not a good Christian. People can agree to disagree and not have to go down that road. At least I would hope. I would hope there would be some tolerance of different views."

"For those who don't qualify for food stamps or WIC, there are other options out there, private sector options where people can get help. It's disappointing that someone said here today, and others may say it later that they don't have faith in God and the ability of the church to provide for the poor and needy. As a Christian, I put my faith in God, not the government."

"That being said, once again, I listened to everyone who spoke here today. Many of whom were from my district. I also listened to the emails that I get, over the last five years of people, the thousands of people I talk to when I go campaigning, and I'm going to hear their voices as well. We're not here trying to control the federal government and tell them what to do with illegal immigration, but we are advocating on behalf of taxpayers who say, listen, we need to have some consistency, and let's apply the same requirements to WIC as what we have for food stamps. I mean, I don't see people coming here complaining about the eligibility for food stamps. Shouldn't be any difference."

"Once again, thank you for the time, and all the words that everyone, and the thoughts that people shared. Like I said, I met with many people, and I have extended to them the offer to also meet with them privately in the future at any time to

discuss this more, because there are many people that are coming at this at a variety of different angles. I thought it was helpful and beneficial, even though we continue to disagree, to share our opinions back and forth and have that dialogue, and I am more than willing to do that as we move forward. Thank you. Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn thanked the Chairman and said, "I want to thank everyone who came out and testified, and who communicated with me on this issue, but before this issue came up a couple weeks ago and right now to the present. There are a number of thoughts that I came across in terms of where we stand at this point in time, with the resolution, which I think is very narrowly focused on just two aspects of the much bigger and broader problem, on WIC eligibility for folks."

"I agree with the comment about that Commissioner Ranzau made on aliens, but I would use the term illegal immigrants most of the time. I know a lot of folks don't like that either., but I'm not politically correct; I'm sorry. Those of you who may want a politically correct County Commissioner, well, there is an election coming up and we can get it sorted out. I resent deeply when someone quotes from, like, the Southern Poverty Law Center, which called Ben Carson a racist. I mean, Dr. Ben Carson who saved lives, one of the leading pediatric neurosurgeons, and they called him, and he was a brilliant candidate for President."

"To quote from an organization what I consider hateful, and to bring in extraneous issues in terms of the language, in terms of discrimination. If anyone is being discriminated against when it comes to student tuition, our fellow American citizens from other states, why would we treat people who are here illegally? I understand having a pathway, but there's penalties, there's consequences for action, and I struggle with the fact that as alluded to, I have two children who were born overseas. They weren't born as American citizens, but they are American citizens now, and they will be for the rest of their lives, and it is something that I'm very proud of, and they are legal immigrants."

"It's expensive to be a legal immigrant in this country. It is not inexpensive. Now the argument has been made, and I think it's a big lie that, well, the folks come in here, they are paying. Oh well, yeah, they are paying, but they are also consuming. I am going to quote from a 2013 study that's been brought up a couple times, Heritage Foundation, Robert Rector, concerning the cost of illegal immigration [The Fiscal Cost of Unlawful Immigrant and Amnest to the U.S. Taxpayer], and I am going to try and provide just a little bit of context here. Quote, 'Poorly educated households, whether immigrant or U.S.-born, receive far more in government benefits than they pay in taxes. In contrast to legal immigrants, unlawful immigrants at present do not have access to means-tested welfare, Social Security or Medicare. This does not mean, however, that they do not receive government benefits and services. Children in unlawful immigrant households receive heavily subsidized public education. Many unlawful illegal immigrants have U.S.-born children; these children are currently eligible for the full range of government welfare and medical benefits. And of course, unlawful immigrants live in a community, they use roads, parks, sewers, police, and fire protection. These services must expand to cover the added population, or there will be "congestion" effects that lead to a decline in service quality.'

"Now, this study, and there's been updates to it and there's other studies out there, basically indicate that the cost, in terms of government benefits and services, exceed

what is paid in taxes. And I bring this up, because we can't continue to be able to, the welfare state, is not viable in the long run, and especially if you get in a situation where you have more and more people who benefit than those who are working to pay in on net. The challenge we face today with this resolution, which is so small and so narrow in terms of talking about requesting the state to address WIC eligibility, and just asking them to come up with it is a very, very small detail of a program that's really, compared to a lot of other welfare benefit programs, WIC is a relatively small program compared to others that are out there.

"In terms of the tuition benefit, I struggle with the fact that we are going to be, we are providing folks with a tremendous benefit right now. I have seen varying numbers and Kansas policy institute I think has got numbers indicating that the average K-12 student is getting about \$13,500 per year cost for their education, and they've got to do open enrollment. The courts, our federal judiciary, has determined what is and is not appropriate, and just the K-12 cost is about \$175,000. Now, I'm not sure where we stand with immigration at this point in time in the broader picture. The U.S. Supreme Court recently issued a decision that was 4-4, where they affirmed an appellate court decision that basically said the amnesty that the President had gone forward with, should not proceed, but since it's a 4-4 decision, we have got a vacancy on the court, and the President has basically said, well, I declared amnesty and opened the doors, we are I think, on very soft legal ground. The rule of law is in trouble in this country in ways that I can't imagine just a few years ago we would be there. But for the folks here who have violated American law to be here, or family members brought them here as part of this, if they were young children, we're in a challenging environment that we cannot continue.

"I want to touch upon one thing. And the comment was made that I don't, the Commissioners up here, and I think they were talking of me, don't speak Spanish. Well, I studied German and French. I am a Commissioner with international business experience in the Far East. I do speak probably my second best language is Russian. I speak a little Japanese, too. I resent the implication that's been stated that if I'm not fluent in Spanish, even able to speak more than un poco, this is supposed to be a problem for me in terms of where we stand going forward. I have some other thoughts, but yes, I will throw out a couple others.

"It was mentioned, and I have seen additional reports, we have half a million people a year who come into this country absolutely legally and overstay their visas. What they are at that point, I am not sure. Politically correct word, undocumented individual, I guess, inhabitant. Undocumented inhabitant. Well, I have a simpler word for it. They are a law breaker. We have laws for a reason. If the laws need to be changed, appropriate level of government needs to act. And the resolution we have here today because we are involved in the WIC program is perfectly appropriate.

"The argument that we should not be involved, I think, is specious, and the challenge we have going forward is that this is not a situation that is financially viable in the long run, and whether implosion begins at the national level, or at the state level, and hopefully I will be working hard to make sure it doesn't occur at the local level, there's going to be consequences for this regardless of which way we vote going forward. But I do plan to support this resolution this morning."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Commissioner Peterjohn. Other comments from Commissioners? Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh thanked the Chairman and said, "I don't want to rehearse all the arguments that we have heard this morning, everyone has spoken quite eloquently from their perspective about this issue, and I think probably before we came in here

today, everyone had their minds made up on what they felt was the right thing to do. We have spent, as you all know, lots and lots of man hours on this, and I think that there are things that are more appropriate for County Commissioners, at least as a Commission, to spend our time on, than this particular issue. I think that individual Commissioners, if they feel strongly about it, and they want to lobby our state legislature and the

Governor about a particular issue, I am very supportive of their right to do that. And I wish they would have chosen that attitude, rather than make this an issue for the County Commission as a whole in our official capacity as Commissioners. I was asked today by one of my colleagues, do you really think that your constituents in your district support the WIC program and support youngsters, young people getting an education and in-state tuition? Not the exact words, I don't remember the exact words.

"And my response was, truly and sincerely, I believe the majority of my constituents want to have healthy babies in our community, they want to support pregnant mothers that need this very minute amount of support. I think the amount that was spoken of in the testimony today and last week was, it is an \$80 per month amount to try to help young babies and mothers who need that support who live in our community. I mean, they are here, and they are among us. They are our neighbors, and if we have the resources at our disposal and a program that's established, that's been established for I don't know how many years, we should, I think we should use that to help those babies and those mothers.

"You know, I know that there is what the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act [of 1996] (PRWORA) does restrict some food supplement and support based on citizenship and income and those sort of things. But the WIC program was specifically exempted from that. I think it was exempted from that for the reason that we want to be compassionate and reasonable if you have a child and a pregnant mother that needs certain assistance, and I am supportive of that. Now, I kind of started my talking about what the mind of my constituency was. I would say that I think my constituents clearly would support the federal government, who is the responsible authority for immigration policies, to tighten that up.

"I think my constituents would say let's have a policy that doesn't invite, or allow for or somehow entice illegal immigration into our country, they want to control that. But I think once the folks are here in our community, we need to do what we can, that builds our community, and that protects public health, and I think that the WIC program does that.

"As far as in-state tuition, I honestly just don't understand why we would want to tell a high-school graduate who has been here three years and graduated that he can't go to school at our local university and improve himself, especially the testimony we have here is that they don't get any special favors. They pay their own way. Anybody can get a state residency for college, I think if they just establish residency here for one year. I think these kids have been three years living here, gone through high school, get their degree, and the principal indicated a lot of them are pretty good scholars. I would think that this builds and helps and improves our community. I don't want to give them free tuition. I had to figure out a way for me to go to school and pay for my kids and my grandkids. I mean, I am not advocating that, but it is reasonable for us to allow these kids, if they want to pay their way to go to college. I just don't understand that.

"As I said, I think if Commissioners or individuals want to lobby state government to change some of these rules, I am in favor of them. I don't think it's directly in the

purview of our responsibility as a commission to do that, and I won't be supportive of this, and I realize there are differences of opinion, but I just think that we are trying to lobby for what I believe would be bad public policy. And so Mr. Chairman, those are my comments."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Commissioner Unruh for your comments. Commissioner Norton"

Commissioner Norton thanked the Chairman and said, "Well, I am going to agree with a lot of what Commissioner Unruh said. I think there's going to be a robust debate in our country and it's going to lead up to November 2nd when we elect a new President, November 8th? Okay. I guess I should know that. Maybe I'm not wired into that right now. But we are going to settle that nationally. I mean, there's two opposing viewpoints that are at the national level, and that will start that great national debate that we have. And this is a federal issue, it's been a federal issue for many, many generations. It flows down to the state. And the state elected to say we're going with the federal policies and rules and regs [regulations], and I think by not answering this, by not giving this clear, they have defaulted to we're following the federal rules. We're following what WIC was supposed to do, and how it was put together in the original legislation. I agree with Commissioner Unruh, if we have differing values and opinions about this, we should lobby individually."

"I happen to be in a parade standing right next to Mike Pompeo this last 4th of July. That gave me a moment to lobby one way or another for this federal issue. He is our federal representative, he should understand this and to run these kind of resolutions up, first of all, outside the debate we have about our legislative platform, doesn't make sense to me. I mean, just bringing up random resolutions, to try to find out information that, I believe, the state has already given us an answer, which is really kind of a non-answer. We are going to stay with the status quo."

"This is the law, if we keep talking about the rule of law, the law at the federal level is exactly this. I come from this at a totally different perspective, and that's to help the disenfranchised, the poor, the underserved, the faces in our community that live with us every day. And I don't know that I have ever looked anybody in the face and said, are you from here? If I have, I was wondering if they were from Cleveland, New York or L.A. (Los Angeles) or somewhere else. I don't know that I care much about that, they're human beings. My default has always been, as a County Commissioner, as a human being, to default to the human condition we all live under. I will do that again today."

"I am not going to vote for this resolution. I think it flies in the face of what I believe we should be working on. I mean, what I hear from community members is, when are you going to get that zoo agreement fixed? And what are you going to do about EMS (Emergency Medical Services)? And what are you going to do about things that affect my life every day that I care about in Sedgwick County, that are under your jurisdiction. That's what I hear about."

"Now, maybe my ears aren't big enough and I am not listening to all those people that are talking to me about immigration and the WIC program. But what I hear about are issues that are firmly grounded in the County Commissioner work that I have done for 15 and one half years. So I am not going to vote for this resolution today."

"I think we should continue as a nation to have a debate. You know, we have always been very open and caring to the disenfranchised. I mean, the Statue of Liberty certainly says it. Bring us your poor and your tired, and we will try our best to understand them take care of them, enculturate them, and be sure we are an

America where everybody gets a equal shot at the American dream, so I am not going to vote for this today. But I do believe that we need to continue as a nation to have a robust debate about where we're going with our immigration standards, and what it looks like, how does it affect our country, how does it affect the economics of our country, and how we make America really as good as it can be in the nation of nations. Thank you."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Commissioner Norton. I was going to say a few things. And we will see if there is a motion. But first of all, I want to say I am thankful to everyone for a respectful debate this morning. I always appreciate hearing other people's perspectives, and trying to understand what they believe and what they think is right, I think it is healthy for our community to have this debate. This is a debate that's been cast in the national attention, most recently, because I think, the presidential debate has actually brought this up. We haven't really talked about this so much as a nation that I can think of going back for a number of years, as a state we have brought up some issues repeatedly.

"I, as a legislator, the reason I brought the in-state tuition issue to this resolution is because of this debate that has gone on in the state of Kansas for a number of years. And I will get to some platform language in just a minute, But let me just say before we get to that, I appreciate those folks that handed in some documents to us. I did distribute those that I had copies of, but the petition itself, I had 33 people sign the petition that was read at the podium, so there's 33, that's the numbers I got. Okay? And I can't distribute those right now because I only have one copy of those. But we will receive and file that here shortly.

"I appreciate what Commissioner Norton said about the rule of law. But I guess I see it differently. Someone said the immigration in this country is broken and I think that's what is so frustrating, for those trying to immigrate legally and you want to do it legally, lawfully, and for those that are already here, and of course, Native Americans, I think are frustrated that the immigration program in this country is broken. I think we would all agree on that.

"As I talked to people who met with me over the eight hours, that was one of the comments that was made, and I think everybody agreed that our immigration system is not what it needs to be. It should not take 20 years for someone to immigrate to this country. I do have, not a close family member, but someone in my family, I consider my family, who was able to get legal citizenship just two weeks ago. And it took her seven years. Although that may seem like a long time, it is not 20 years. I am glad for her. We love her, and we are proud of her for finally getting that complete. We will obviously follow the rule of law as Commissioner Norton said, whatever the law is we are going to follow it.

"This is immigration, and the way that WIC is done in Sedgwick County, is not for us to decide, it is for KDHE and for the federal government to make those choices. And whatever the rule of law is, as defined by them, we will follow in Sedgwick County. And so we're not advocating for something that's not following the rule of law with respect to how Sedgwick County does its policies and procedures. I did talk with Wichita State University government affairs yesterday, and they made the very same point whatever the rule of law is for Kansas and how the in-state tuition is defined by state policy, they are going to follow the rule of law as well.

"Right now they have 55 students this year that are using the 2004 provisions, okay, so just to put that in perspective. I heard someone say 25 two weeks ago someone else said 200, the actual number is 55. I want to look at the actual resolution language, because I think it is important. I asked our Counselor to speak to an issue

and he did. Whether we should change this language, because I think there is a new situation since President Obama signed by executive order the authorization of the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and DAPA (Deferred Actions for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents) documents.

"But the resolution says, Sedgwick County requests that the Kansas Legislature pass legislation amending KSA76-731a, to remove any provisions allowing persons without lawful immigration status to receive the benefit of in-state tuition. My question was, one of the points I made a couple weeks is ago someone could, you know, before the executive order, before they actually had the employment card, that I have seen, the 2004 law was passed, it is conceivable somebody would have graduated from Wichita State University that would not have the ability to get a job at Spirit AeroSystems because they don't have a way, at that time, to pass an I9 form.

"Let me just point out something here. The I9 form, apologize for bringing this up now, but the I9 form, one of the documents acceptable is called the employment authorization document that contains a photograph, form I766. And one of the students that came and spoke to us said all the students that he is aware of, are using 2004 provisions actually have this card. And so with this card, you can also get a Kansas driver's license, if you want to.

"And when you graduate, you can apply to get a job at Spirit AeroSystems. This card is a federally issued document with a picture on it gives them, the word he used, lawful presence. I think Lupe made the point that this is limbo because you can't use the word lawful, you can't use the word legal, you can use the word lawful presence, I think, was the term that seems to be acceptable going to but the word legal resident is not. So it is strange to try to talk your way around the issue because the terms that you use are criticized by people on either side of the issue. But it is interesting to me that there are folks that get this document, its called employment authorization document, that contains the photograph by the Department of Homeland Security.

"And this is because the executive order that President Obama signed three years ago. So between the DACA and the DAPA cards issued, I am going to guesstimate roughly half of the 11 million illegal immigrants in the country potentially have that card. So they are able to, again, if they want to get a driver's license, and they can pass the test and stuff, they can drive, and not be in fear of being pulled over, whether they will be apprehended and sent out of the country. This card gives them a lawful presence according to what I have learned.

"Now again, thinking about that, going back to the resolution, Sedgwick County requests the Kansas Legislature pass legislation amending this statute to remove any provisions allowing persons without lawful immigration status to receive the benefit of in-state tuition, the question is now considering this card exists in our community and people have that card, they can get a job and can get a driver's license, perhaps the legal age in the statute should be amended. Do I need to change the resolution to make that point I don't think I do. I don't need to write the bill this morning. I don't need to provide the mature language that the legislature ultimately would debate and pass into law. The point of the matter is that illegal immigrants, if they don't have that card, can't get a driver's license, and they can't get a job at Spirit AeroSystems the card makes the difference.

"So perhaps the language is outdated and needs to be amended by the legislature. Nevertheless, the language in the resolution, I think, makes that clear. It does not need to be amended to make that clear. We can work with the legislators and let them know that three years ago the President did something that creates this other status. Two weeks ago I read this and I will read it again, in the republican platform. I

am republican. Not trying to be partisan but this is a document I think is a good document, and it makes some statements that I believe are well worded. I want to read them again this morning.

"It says this is about immigration, 'legal immigration is a blessing to this country.' And I think everybody I talked with and all the Commissioners I believe would agree with that. You can speak for yourselves if you disagree, but I believe that is a widely accepted comment, that 'legal immigration is a blessing to this country. And with the promise of America, a blessing to all. Preserving that promise for future generations requires that we protect the sovereignty of our country and secure our borders. Illegal immigration is not compatible with this goal. Immigration and citizenship with all its privileges, executed pursuant to the law are essential components of that promise. It is therefore the duty of all who seek the promise of America to respect the laws of our land.'

"Going on down, it says 'unchecked illegal immigration is unacceptable with the State of Kansas' and finally it says, 'Incentive programs to entice illegal immigrants to Kansas must be terminated. These programs include issuing driver's licenses to illegal immigrants [aliens] and [the] granting of in-state tuition to colleges and universities to illegal immigrants.' That's in the state's party and platform. Maybe that needs to be adjusted as well, but that's what it says. I guarantee there's a lot of debate, if you know anything about how this document comes to be, it's debated every year at the county level, and then at the congressional district level, and ultimately at the state level, and it's approved as a state party platform, and so there is a lot of people who weighed into this language. Again, this is simply what it says.

"Again, those are the comments that spurred the desire to put that clause into the resolution. I do want to talk about my personal story just a little bit. Because I think it's important to this debate. I guess I just want to share my personal story just a little bit. My parents had a difficult marriage. When I was 12 years old my parents divorced. I came from a home that had, what I would classify as neglect, and domestic abuse. There was some violence in the home. And it was necessary that my parents divorced. I understand that today, and I look back with sorrow as many children do these days of parents that split up.

"It's a sad story, but sometimes it's the best you can do. My situation after that was, again back then the laws weren't in place to handle child support the way they do today. My father made a single child support payment and after that, that was suspended. So I lived with my mom, my sister and brother, we were going to school and she was unemployed and could not get a job. We didn't have food stamps, we didn't have WIC, what we did have was community. What we did have was church.

"When I look back at that, it was a tough time. It wasn't easy, but we didn't starve to death. We were able to get through that time. I look back at that and say you know what I'm a better person today having gone through that experience. And I'm not suggesting that is an experience I want others to go through necessarily, but I am saying it didn't take the government to solve my problem. My mom eventually was able to get a job, and it was a night job. Also we grew up, after that, without a parent in the home. And I graduated from Southeast High School, thankfully and I had a great education by the way.

"But I just say all of this to say the government didn't solve my problems for us. We were able to get through that thanks to the community and to the church, and my neighbors who got involved in our lives personally.

"One thing about the biggest advocates for not dealing with immigration are people

who depend on cheap labor. I think it's very unfortunate that there are industries in the state of Kansas that will argue that if you don't have illegal immigration to fill these jobs that we won't be able to afford meat, we won't have any bread, because we can't grow crops, or raise cattle without illegal immigration and cheap labor. I think that's a mistake. It's not true, and I reject that idea completely. I don't think that's right. That's not a reason not to address the issues of illegal immigration.

"Now why are we doing this today? Commissioner Ranzau already said that the state of Kansas responded to us and said if we want the state to answer the question, we need to pass a resolution formally. That's all this is. It is not a binding resolution. It doesn't actually change any law, simply lets the state know we want them to get serious, and up to this point they have not done so. They can answer the question, whatever they choose is what we will do here in Sedgwick County. We are not going to do anything on our own.

"One of the folks I talked with in the last couple weeks said they don't believe that illegal immigration is the big topic in Sedgwick County, that we are not consuming huge amounts of resources on this population, but again, we don't know the answer to that question, because we can't ask the question. We don't know who our clients, who the folks are we are trying to help. We don't know who they are. We are not allowed to ask. That was the initial discussion that got this resolution moving forward. And the state has not done a good job responding to our requests. They have been disrespectful, I think that Sedgwick County, we actually asked a formal request of them to answer a question, and they have not responded to our request to simply answer the question.

"So that's all this is. It's non-binding, it simply asks the state to consider these positions. With respect to the idea that this is a small thing for Sedgwick County, that the majority of people believe that status quo is where we ought to be, again I will reflect on my 2010 race where I knocked on thousands and thousands and thousands of doors, because Senate Bill 1070 in Arizona was a hot topic in the day. And the number two topic that came up at the doors naturally. I didn't push this issue, but people just about always, I mean the topic came up naturally most of the doors was education funding. And second to that was the issue of illegal immigration. What are you going to do as my representative to deal with this issue?

"And we've been called a sanctuary county. One of the speakers made that point this morning. Reality is what are we going to do? Do we have any position? I think that this resolution makes that very clear, that this is not within our powers to fix this, but we are going to ask the state formally to take some positions. At least answer the questions. That's all this is. I will tell you that my district, has made an impact on me that they strongly believe this is an issue that needs to be fixed by our government. At whatever level.

"As a representative of my district, this is important to the people I represent. Not everyone agrees. There is always diversity of thought. I can't represent 100 percent of the people with the same opinion, because everybody disagrees with each other, but I can tell you the majority opinion in my district is very clear to me. Alright, that's enough. Commissioner Ranzau."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "I'll make a motion to receive and file all comments, as well as adopt the resolution. And I want to issue a challenge to the bureaucrats in Topeka, no more stonewalling, it's time to respond. The people in Sedgwick County deserve a response from the request issued by their representative. I share Chairman Howell's viewpoint that it's been very disrespectful for them to not respond to our request. No cop-outs, no passing the buck to the federal government. We're

asking you to do something that's allowable under the law. Yes or no. That's fine. But, I believe the public deserves a response, I believe the bureaucrats in Topeka have a duty to respond in a public and forthright manner, and that's why I will be supporting this resolution today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Howell said, "Commissioner Unruh."

Commissioner Unruh thanked the Chairman and said, "I just want to respond, that just asking for opinion from the state legislature, this resolution that's in front of us says that we are asking for legislation that would remove any provisions allowing persons without lawful immigration status to receive benefit of in-state tuition. We are asking for a law that, we are not just asking for an opinion, we are asking for a law."

"Secondly, we are asking the KDHE to change its operating procedures to exclude non-qualified aliens from the WIC program, and we are asking Governor to instruct his executive board, under his executive authority to KDHE submit a change in its operating procedures to exclude non-qualified aliens from the WIC program under the approval of the United States Department of Agriculture."

"So this is not just a request for an opinion. We're asking for change in the law and the procedure and the way we do things, and as I said before if the Commissioners want to do that on their own, I think its fine. I'm not going to support this as a BoCC action, because I think that it clearly illustrates our position on public policy and how we deal with citizens in our community. I think it illustrates, as a Commission, our personality and our character, and I disapprove of it, and I will vote no."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you, Commissioner. Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn thanked the Chairman and said, "I appreciated the comments of Commissioner Ranzau in terms of throwing the ball back into the court up in Topeka. I could go into more details how this impacts other areas of County Government, but on the benefit of time and other purposes I will not do so. I just wanted to get that on the record, thank you."

Chairman Howell said, "Commissioner Ranzau."

Commissioner Ranzau thanked the Chairman and said, "Yeah, I just want to finish telling you the rest of the story on the resolution. We do ask WIC to change the operating procedures, but it goes on to say: 'Or in the alternative, release a public statement as to why they refuse to submit the change.'"

"If they refuse to even do that, then we are asking the Governor to get involved to either do it or force them to provide a response. Regardless, either way which way they go we need a public response in a forthright manner. Thank you."

Chairman Howell said, "Any other commissioner comments? We have a motion. I will second the motion. Any further comments? Commissioner Unruh?"

Commissioner Unruh said, "Excuse me. I didn't hear the motion, I am sorry."

Commissioner Ranzau said, "I made a motion to receive and file all the comments, and adopt the resolution."

MOTION

Commissioner Ranzau moved to receive and file all comments and adopt the

resolution.

Chairman Howell seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion the vote was called.

VOTE

Commissioner Unruh	No
Commissioner Norton	No
Commissioner Peterjohn	Aye
Commissioner Ranzau	Aye
Chairman Howell	Aye

Chairman Howell said, "Motion passes 3-2. Commissioners, we have a little bit of work to do still on the agenda. I would like to go ahead and recess for 10 minutes. Coming back at 12:08, and we will finish the meeting at that time."

The Board of County Commission meeting was recessed from 11:56 a.m. and returned from recess at 12:08 p.m.

Chairman Howell said, "Madam Clerk, next item, please."

CONSENT

- J [16-429](#) One (1) Drainage Easement for Spring Acres Estates; 21st Street North and 327th Street West. District 3.
- K [16-407](#) Agreement with the City of Derby for Funding and Construction of the Aviation Pathway (CIP Number R-330). District 5.
- L [16-406](#) Agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation for Funding and Construction of a Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge on Meridian over the Wichita Valley Center Floodway with Federal Funds (CIP Project Number B-462A). District 2.
- M [16-403](#) Agreement with the Wichita Center for Graduate Medical Education (WCGME) and the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita.
- N [16-404](#) Agreement with Heartspring, Inc. for Psychiatric Consultation Services.
- O [16-437](#) A Resolution modifying Chapter 16 of the Sedgwick County Code pertaining to the Juvenile Corrections Advisory Board, by adding an appointed position.
- P [16-434](#) State Fiscal Year 2016 Kansas Department of Corrections Provider Contracts for the Juvenile Residential Facility and the Sedgwick County Youth Program.
- Q [16-408](#) Agreement with Higher Ground to enhance Behavioral Health Services for Community Corrections clients.

- R **16-412** Order dated 06/20/2016 to correct tax roll for change of assessment.
- S [16-426](#) General Bill Check Register for June 22, 2016 to June 28, 2016.
- T [16-427](#) General Bill Check Register for June 29, 2016 to July 5, 2016.
- U **16-428** Payroll Check Register for the June 25, 2016 payroll certification.

Mr. Michael Scholes, Manager greeted the Commission and said, "I recommend you approve Consent Agenda items Juliet through Uniform."

MOTION

*Commissioner Ranzau moved to approve the Consent Agenda.
Commissioner Peterjohn seconded the motion.*

There being no further discussion the vote was called.

VOTE

<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Norton</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Peterjohn</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Ranzau</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Chairman Howell</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Chairman Howell said, "Okay. I think at this time I am going to go ahead and recess the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners and call to order the Governing Body of Fire District Number 1."

The Board of County Commissioners recessed from 12:08 p.m. until 12:12 p.m.

Chairman Howell said, "Madam Clerk, next item, please."

Approved

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

OTHER

Chairman Howell said, "Commissioners any comments for other? Commissioner Peterjohn."

Commissioner Peterjohn said, "I would be remiss, unfortunately it is a little late, but starting tonight the Sedgwick County Fair kicks off in Cheney, Kansas. They will have a parade, and the next, through Saturday, they will have quite a community festival and I want to wish them all the best, and in terms of doing this. I think that that's a, Sedgwick County Fair has been moved up this year, normally it is a little later in the year, but this year it's now becoming, it's going to be coming up this weekend the second weekend in July. So I urge everyone who has an interest in having a good time, see you at the fair."

"I would also be remiss, haven't brought this up in a while. I want to bring it up, population, our jail population, a total of 1,417 folks in Sedgwick County jail in the Sheriff's custody this morning, with 93 in work release, 179 out of county, and 1,145 in the main facility count. And I mention this because we are continuing to have a challenge with the fact that, the latest figure I've seen, still have over 100 convicted felons serving sentences for I think primarily felony DUI's (Driving Under the Influence), and also for bad checks. But that's a number that I used to provide.

"Also I would be remiss if I didn't mention July 6 is an important day in American history. Before we had the Constitution and U.S. Congress, we had the Articles of Confederation, and on July 6, 1785, a very important event occurred, and some of us have other evidence of it in our pockets or purses. 1785 on July 6, the congress at that point created the U.S. dollar. I wanted to get that on the record, thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman Howell said, "Thank you Commissioner. Any comments for Other. Alright, seeing none, Madam Clerk, I think we have executive session next."

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION

Commissioner Ranzau moved that the Board of County Commissioners recess into executive session for 30 minutes to consider: consultation with an attorney for this Commission which would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship. Commissioner Peterjohn seconded the motion. There being no further discussion a vote was called.

VOTE

<i>Commissioner Unruh</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Norton</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Peterjohn</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Ranzau</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Chairman Howell</i>	<i>Aye</i>

Chairman Howell said, "We will recess until 12:47."

The Board of Sedgwick County Commission was recessed from 12:17 and returned at 12:48 p.m.

Chairman Howell said, "We are back from executive session. Call back to order the regular business meeting of the Board of County Commissioners. There was no binding action taken. With that we are at the end of the agenda. Mr. Manager? Anything else we need to do today before we adjourn?"

Mr. Scholes said, "Nothing else."

Chairman Howell said, "Alright. Mr. Counselor? Commissioners, anything else before we adjourn? All right. Seeing nothing else to talk about, we are adjourned. Thank you."

Approved

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

*BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS*

*JAMES M. HOWELL, Chairman
Fifth District*

*RICHARD RANZAU, Chair Pro Tem
Fourth District*

*DAVID M. UNRUH, Commissioner
First District*

*TIM R. NORTON, Commissioner
Second District*

*KARL PETERJOHN, Commissioner
Third District*

ATTEST:

Kelly B. Arnold, County Clerk

APPROVED:
