

Kansas City Senior Advisory Council Minutes, February 2, 2026
Gregg/Klice Community Center

Members in attendance: Berry, Bradshaw, Forrest, Gomez, Wilson, Howard Rice, City Clerk's Office
Guests: Vicki Glenn, Margaret Juhnke, Leigh Adams, Kansas City Equity Coordinator, Darryl Forte, Jackson County Sheriff

Chair Forrest opened the meeting with a moment of silence.

Chair Forrest presented the guest speaker, Sheriff Darryl Forte. Sheriff Forte was invited to address the issue of masked militia coming to Jackson County, and the efforts of the Jackson County Legislature to pass an ordinance which would prevent authorities from making to conceal identity. The sheriff explained that such a policy would be unenforceable; that county policy cannot overrule federal regulation. He stated that if citizens see illegal federal overreach that they should complain to federal authorities or video the infraction. Local authorities can be arrested if they violate federal policy.

Sheriff Forte stated that his commitment stands with truth and loyalty to the Constitution, and that he feels the public is done a disservice if ordinances are passed that are unenforceable. County authorities have no involvement with ICE, nor do they have jurisdiction in the city or other areas with local law enforcement agencies. County officials will work in incorporated areas only when called in for assistance by local agencies.

Sheriff Forte stated that the hiring process in the County Sheriff Office is one of culture and fairness, and that since his term began, the department has added 14+ black males. He said the current ICE actions offer a view of conditions that minorities in the United States have suffered for years. "Profiling is real."

Sheriff Forte encouraged members to call his personal cell number (816-492-1076), if we have problems or questions for him.

Discussion followed of a possible ICE detention center in Kansas City at the old Richards-Gebaur Airport site, which has been sold to the federal government. Kansas City Council recently passed an ordinance which rejects the building of a detention center in the city for a five-year period. The vote was 11-1 with Councilmember Willett, First District, being the only opposing vote.

Member Wilson expressed her concern about Missouri State Senate bill #821 which temporarily extends the hours during which liquor can be sold by the drink in Kansas City during FIFA. Member Kabiser stated that international attendees to the World Cup event will likely be vetted and their credentials should not be threatened by federal authorities.

Member Bradshaw discussed the Five Calls app (downloadable on cell phones) which provides updated information on issues for constituents who may wish to register a stance with their representatives and senators.

Bradshaw also informed the group that Mayor Lucas shared her question on his live social media chat "Facebook Live" in which she had requested that Advisory Council vacancies be filled. In answering, the mayor stated that there were many commissions and boards needing positions filled, and that therefore, the process took time.

Member Wilson discussed the Freedom Wall (31st and Benton), a Jackson County project recognizing outstanding community service. Member Wilson has been recognized on the wall. She asked that members who might know a worthy candidate submit names to the Jackson County Freedom Wall Commission. New honorees will be recognized at the Juneteenth Celebration.

Chair Forrest reminded members to encourage attendance at our meetings through Zoom.

Leigh Adams, Equity Coordinator from the Kansas City Equity Office, passed out flyers announcing dates and venues for upcoming listening sessions designed to elicit information about how the city can improve conditions for seniors. The sessions are being sponsored by the city of Kansas City in cooperation with Black Excellence, Inc. She encouraged members to help disseminate the flyers.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Bradshaw