Citizens Planning Committee
Citizen's Survey of Life in Wyandotte County - Summary

September 15, 2000

Prepared by the
Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas
Budget and Research Department
October 23, 2000

The Citizens Planning Committee (CPC) is a group of volunteers interested in the well-being of Wyandotte County. The CPC, which is part of the Wyandotte County Economic Development Council, has undertaken a survey with the objective of identifying priorities for the County to focus on over the next five years.

A total of 2,273 surveys were sent to randomly selected Wyandotte County households on September 5, 2000. A total of 447 surveys were undeliverable do either to unknown or vacant addresses. The total number of surveys returned was 506. Adjusting the total number sent by the undeliverables, the response rate for the survey was 27.7%. With this response rate, and the fact this was a random survey, we can be confident that the results of the survey reflect the thoughts of County residents overall.

The survey asked questions regarding life in general in Wyandotte County[1]. This summary will provide some general survey observations below. Also accompanying the statements are several tables which show the results of the survey questions. Finally, a copy of the survey is attached as a reference in Appendix A.

- Education received the highest overall score[2] of 3.00. The lowest scores were identified by residents to be Shopping (1.80), Arts & Culture (2.12), and Personal Safety (2.33). (Table 1)

- Shopping received an index score[3] of 43.9 indicating respondents felt, more than other categories, that shopping is "getting worse" in the County. Likewise, education was deemed as "getting better" more that other categories with an index score of 105.4. (Table 2)

- "Public safety, security, and crime" was chosen most frequently by respondents as the top priority for the County over the next five years. This category was followed by "shopping & retail business" and "youth & schools" as priorities to be focused on. (Table 3)

- Ten percent of respondents are aware of the County's strategic plan. (Table 4)

If you have any questions regarding this material, please contact the Unified Government Budget and Research Office at 913-573-5150 or 701 N. 7th St., Kansas City, KS 66101.

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[1] After staff review, it was decided to exclude responses from the third survey question in this summary. The staff concluded that the responses to this question were somewhat ambiguous, and therefore the responses could not be clearly interpreted. This particular question asked respondents to "agree or disagree" with a series of statements pertaining to the improvement of various conditions in Wyandotte County. A "disagree" response could reflect either a "no change in the condition" or a decline in the condition. If this question is posed in a future survey, a more detailed scaling of responses is needed.

[2] The score is the mean of responses with 1 = "poor" or "lowest" and 5 = "excellent" or "highest".

[3] The index is computed be taking 100, plus the percent expecting conditions to improve, minus the percent expecting things to get worse. An index of 100 means that most respondents feel the category is staying the same. Less than 100, overall, the category is worsening or over 100 getting better.

Table 1
Rating the Condition of Various Aspects of Living in Wyandotte County (Ques. 1)

CATEGORY	RATING										OVERALL SCORE*
	LOWEST 1		2		3		4		HIGHEST 5		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Housing Conditions	59	12.6	92	19.7	230	49.3	65	13.9	21	4.5	2.78
Employment Opportunities	100	22.6	118	26.6	139	31.4	60	13.5	26	5.9	2.53
Parks & Recreation	91	19.2	104	22.0	152	32.1	90	19.0	36	7.6	2.74
Education	60	13.5	73	16.5	148	33.4	129	29.1	33	7.4	3.00
Local Government	101	22.3	90	19.9	143	31.6	96	21.2	22	4.9	2.66
Shopping	272	55.5	103	21.0	72	14.7	26	5.3	17	3.5	1.80
Social Services	63	17.6	69	19.3	135	37.7	68	19.0	23	6.4	2.77
Childcare Services	56	19.0	50	17.0	121	41.2	55	18.7	12	4.1	2.72
Race Relations	81	18.4	69	15.7	201	45.7	71	16.1	18	4.1	2.72
Civic Pride	115	26.3	97	22.1	145	33.1	61	13.9	20	4.6	2.48
Neighborhood Quality	88	18.4	102	21.3	170	35.6	94	19.7	24	5.0	2.72
Arts & Culture	156	37.9	112	27.2	93	22.6	41	10.0	10	2.4	2.12
Personal Safety	146	30.1	122	25.2	144	29.7	55	11.3	18	3.7	2.33
Overall Summary of Responses	**1,388**	**24.5**	**1,201**	**21.2**	**1,893**	**33.4**	**911**	**16.1**	**280**	**4.9**	**2.56**

* The overall score is based on the average of the valid responses for each category. This score gives an indication of the responses. However, the actual distribution of the scores provides a more accurate summary of how persons responded to each category.

** Responses of "Don't Know" or with no response, were not included in the above results.

Table 2
Rating the Change of Various Aspects of Living in Wyandotte County (Ques. 2)

Category	Getting Worse?		Staying the Same?		Getting Better?		Index*
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Housing Conditions	141	30.1	203	43.4	124	26.5	96.4
Employment Opportunities	90	21.2	253	59.5	82	19.3	98.1
Parks & Recreation	87	19.1	298	65.5	70	15.4	96.3
Education	84	19.8	233	55.0	107	25.2	105.4
Local Government	119	26.7	219	49.2	107	24.0	97.3
Shopping	295	61.7	156	32.6	27	5.6	43.9
Social Services	64	19.1	224	66.9	47	14.0	94.9
Childcare Services	46	16.7	189	68.5	41	14.9	98.2
Race Relations	90	21.3	272	64.5	60	14.2	92.9
Civic Pride	110	26.1	235	55.7	77	18.2	92.1
Neighborhood Quality	140	29.4	239	50.1	98	20.5	91.1
Arts & Culture	115	29.3	240	61.2	37	9.4	80.1
Personal Safety	194	40.9	232	48.9	48	10.1	69.2
Overall Summary of Responses	**1,575**	**28.7**	**2,993**	**54.5**	**925**	**16.8**	**88.1**

* Responses of "Don't Know" or with no response, were not included in the above results. This index is computed by taking 100, plus the percent expecting conditions to improve, minus the percent expecting things to get worse.

Table 3
What Should Wyandotte County's Highest Priority Be Over the Next 5 Years?* (Ques. 4)
(Respondents could choose up to 5 choices)

Statement	#	%
Community image, including the image we have of ourselves and the image others have of us	153	30.4
Youth and Schools	266	52.9
Neighborhoods and housing	185	36.8
Public safety, security and crime	358	71.2
Skilled training for jobs as well as on-going learning	70	13.9
Shopping and retail business	274	54.5
New business formation/entrepreneurship	79	15.7
Our aging population	92	18.3
Population growth and immigration	43	8.5
Employment/unemployment and poverty	142	28.2
Mental and physical health, including access to health care	85	16.9
Race relations	76	15.1
Letting citizens know of services available in the community	127	25.2
Appearance and environmental health of the community	111	22.1
Local taxes	191	38.0
Recreation facilities and programs	87	17.3
Other	50	9.9
Total	**2,401**	**477.3**

*Responses are greater then the number of surveys returned and percentages total over 100% due to respondents being able to choose up to five choices. A total of 503 individuals responded to this question

Table 4
Are you Aware of the Wyandotte County Strategic Plan? (Ques. 5)

Response	2000 Survey	
	#	%
Yes	44	10.1
No	393	89.9
Total	437	100.0

Table 5*
Demographic Profile of Respondents and 1990 Census

Characteristic	Survey Results		1990 Census	
	#	%	#	%
SEX				
Female	324	64.0	84,742	52.3
Male	166	33.5	77,251	47.7
Total	***437***	***100.0***	***161,993***	***100.0***
RACE				
White	327	66.3	108,728	67.1
Black, African American, Negro	120	24.3	44,469	27.5
American Indian or Alaska Native	7	1.4	1,110	.7
Asian or Pacific Islander	5	1.0	1,876	1.2
Spanish/Hispanic/Latino	22	4.5	10,997	100.0
Multi-Racial	12	2.4	5,810	3.6
Total	***493***	***100.00***	***161,993***	***100.0***
AGE GROUP**				
18-24 yrs old	23	4.6	14,534	13.2
25-34 yrs old	57	11.4	22,792	20.6
35-44 yrs old	105	20.9	23,598	21.4
45-54 yrs old	115	22.9	17,263	15.6
55-64 yrs old	63	12.5	12,482	11.3
65 yrs old or older	139	27.7	19,796	17.9
Total	***502***	***100.0***	***110,465***	***100.0***
HOUSEHOLDS WITH PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS OF				
Yes	168	33.5	23,316	37.9
No	334	66.5	38,798	62.1
Total	***502***	***100.0***	***62,114***	***100.0***

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Characteristic	Survey Results		1990 Census	
	#	%	#	%
NUMBER OF PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD				
One	137	27.5	16,889	27.5
Two	178	35.7	18,440	30.0
Three	64	12.8	10,357	16.8
Four	64	12.8	8,675	14.1
Five or More	56	11.2	7,153	11.6
Total	***499***	***100.0***	***61,514***	***100.0***
OWNER STATUS OF DWELLING				
Own	391	78.4	38,714	62.9
Rent	108	21.6	22,800	37.1
Total	***499***	***100.0***	***61,514***	***100.0***
HOUSEHOLD INCOME**				
Under $15,000	92	19.5	15,051	25.9
$15,000-29,999	138	29 3	14,687	25.2
$30 000-44,999	112	23.8	12 530	21.5
$45,000-59,999	65	13.8	7,880	13.5
$60,000 or more	64	13.6	8,064	13.9
Total	***471***	***100.0***	***58,212***	***100.0***
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT LEVEL				
Less than high school	49	9.8	30,288	30.1
High school	133	26.6	36,022	35.8
Some college or vocational school	214	42.8	23,821	23.7
College bachelors degree or higher	104	20.8	10,402	10.4
Total	***500***	***100.0***	***100,533***	***100.0***
SCHOOL DISTRICT				
Kansas City, Kansas, USD 500	404	80.5	--	--
Turner, USD 202	44	8.8	--	--
Piper, USD 203	10	2.0	--	--
Bonner Springs/Edwardsville, USD 204	28	5.6	--	--
Don't Know	16	3.2	--	--
Total	***502***	***100.0***	--	--

* Totals for each category below may not total the total number of surveys returned (506) due to respondents not answering questions

**Statistics for this group are from a 1996 estimate, not the 1990 U S Census

Table 6
Neighborhood Mailing Statistics & Response Rates

Neighborhood	Sample Size	Number Undeliverable	Number Returned	Adjusted Response Rate*
Northeast	375	133	53	21.9
Northwest	166	33	32	24.1
Kensington	92	14	25	32.1
Riverview	328	75	67	26.5
Armourdale	69	17	15	28.8
Shawnee Heights	80	17	12	19.0
Rosedale	200	46	45	29.2
Argentine	118	14	27	26.0
Turner	114	11	28	27.2
Morris	21	4	0	0.0
Coronado	105	23	21	25.6
Muncie	101	12	30	33.7
Victory Hills	186	9	62	35.0
Bethel-Welborn	102	6	26	27.1
Quindaro Bluffs	46	7	10	25.6
Nearman Hills	23	3	4	20.0
I-435	29	2	8	29.6
Piper	11	0	5	45.5
Edwarsdville	40	13	7	25.9
Bonner Springs	68	8	21	35.0
TOTAL	**2,274**	**447**	**498**	**20.0**

*Adjusted response rate is determined by subtracting the number of undeliverable surveys from the total number sent. This number is then divided by the total number of surveys returned

Appendix A

Citizen's Survey of Life in Wyandotte County

Citizen's Survey of Life in Wyandotte County

September 5, 2000

Dear Wyandotte County Citizen,

This survey is being undertaken by the Citizens Planning Committee (CPC) of the Wyandotte County Economic Development Council. The CPC is comprised of twenty citizen volunteers representing all segments of Wyandotte County community life. Every five years the CPC updates the Wyandotte County strategic plan with citizen input. The results of this survey will be shared at a **Community Forum on October 23, 2000** at the Jack Reardon Civic Center. We hope you will take 5 minutes to complete the survey and that you will join us at the October 23rd Community Forum. Please see the box below on how to receive information about the Forum.

Your household is one of a random sample of households in Wyandotte County. For the survey results to truly represent the opinions of all County residents, it is important that an adult member of the household complete and return the questionnaire.

Your response is completely confidential. There is no way to connect your address or name with the returned survey. You will find a label on the return envelope which specifies one of 25 areas in the County and ensures that we have received the appropriate number of responses from each area of the County.

To be sure that your response is included in the summary, we ask that you **return your survey in the envelope provided by September 18, 2000.** Thank you very much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Jackie Hampton
Chair, Citizens Planning Committee

*If you would like to request information on the **Community Forum** mentioned above or if you would like to receive a **summary of results** for this survey, write "FORUM INFORMATION", "COPY OF RESULTS", or "BOTH" (if you want both Forum information and survey results) on back of the return envelope. Be sure to print your name and address below the type of information you are requesting. (Please do not write your name and address on the survey itself). You may also call the Budget and Research Department at 573-5150 to request any information mentioned above or if you*

Si le gustaría recibir una copia de esta encuesta en Español, favor de llamar a El Centro al 677-0100.

Turn Page to Start Survey ☞

1. Below are several categories which reflect various aspects of living in Wyandotte County. On a scale of 1 to 5, the number "5" represents "Excellent" and "1" represents "poor". Let us know how you feel about the condition of the categories below by circling the number that bests describes your opinion.

		Poor				Excellent	Don't Know
1)	Housing Conditions	1	2	3	4	5	9
2)	Employment Opportunities	1	2	3	4	5	9
3)	Parks & Recreation	1	2	3	4	5	9
4)	Education	1	2	3	4	5	9
5)	Local Government	1	2	3	4	5	9
6)	Shopping	1	2	3	4	5	9
7)	Social Services	1	2	3	4	5	9
8)	Childcare Services	1	2	3	4	5	9
9)	Race Relations	1	2	3	4	5	9
10)	Civic Pride	1	2	3	4	5	9
11)	Neighborhood Quality	1	2	3	4	5	9
12)	Arts and Culture	1	2	3	4	5	9
13)	Personal Safety	1	2	3	4	5	9

2. Listed below are the same categories that were seen in Question 1. Again, the categories reflect various aspects of living in Wyandotte County. Please check one box, for each category, to let us know if you feel the category is "getting worse", "staying the same", "getting better", or "Don't Know".

		Getting Worse?	Staying the Same?	Getting Better?	Don't Know
1)	Housing Conditions	☐	☐	☐	☐
2)	Employment Opportunities	☐	☐	☐	☐
3)	Parks & Recreation	☐	☐	☐	☐
4)	Education	☐	☐	☐	☐
5)	Local Government	☐	☐	☐	☐
6)	Shopping	☐	☐	☐	☐
7)	Social Services	☐	☐	☐	☐
8)	Childcare Services	☐	☐	☐	☐
9)	Race Relations	☐	☐	☐	☐
10)	Civic Pride	☐	☐	☐	☐
11)	Neighborhood Quality	☐	☐	☐	☐
12)	Arts and Culture	☐	☐	☐	☐
13)	Personal Safety	☐	☐	☐	☐

3. Indicate if you "agree" or "disagree" with the statements below which describe how you feel about progress in Wyandotte County over the past 5 years? Please check one box for each category.

	Agree	Disagree	
1)	☐	☐	My family has more community spirit
2)	☐	☐	Government is working better to meet my needs
3)	☐	☐	My kids have better educational opportunities
4)	☐	☐	I feel safer
5)	☐	☐	I feel better about living in Wyandotte County because we have a better image
6)	☐	☐	I have more shopping opportunities than I did a year ago
7)	☐	☐	People I know are more involved in the community
8)	☐	☐	There are more job opportunities for myself and those in my family
9)	☐	☐	There are more housing opportunities in my price range
10)	☐	☐	I have seen much progress over the past 5 years
11)	☐	☐	Other _____

4. What should be our community's highest priorities over the next five years? Please select five vision themes you would like the community and the Citizens Planning Committee to focus on for 2000-2005. Please read the entire list first and then pick the ones you believe to be most important and need improving. **(Check up to 5 choices)**

1) ☐ Community image, including the image we have of ourselves and the image others have of us
2) ☐ Youth and schools
3) ☐ Neighborhoods and housing
4) ☐ Public safety, security and crime
5) ☐ Skilled training for jobs as well as on-going learning
6) ☐ Shopping and retail business
7) ☐ New business formation/entrepreneurship
8) ☐ Our aging population
9) ☐ Population growth and immigration
10) ☐ Employment/unemployment and poverty
11) ☐ Mental and physical health, including access to health care
12) ☐ Race relations
13) ☐ Letting citizens know of services available in the community
14) ☐ Appearance and environmental health of the community
15) ☐ Local taxes _____
16) ☐ Recreation facilities and programs
17) ☐ Other

5. Are you aware of the Wyandotte County Strategic Plan? **(Circle one)** YES NO

Continue on Next Page ☞

The following questions are for analysis purposes only and <u>responses will be kept confidential</u>. Please circle the number next to the appropriate answer for each question below.

6. Are you....?

1 Female 2 Male

7. Please indicate your racial or ethnic origin:

1 White
2 Black, African American, Negro
3 American Indian or Alaska Native
4 Asian or Pacific Islander
5 Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
6 Multi-Racial

8. Which age group are you in?

1	18-24 yrs old	3	35-44 yrs old	5	55-64 yrs old
2	25-34 yrs old	4	45-54 yrs old	6	65 yrs old or older

9. Does your household have one or more persons under 18 years of age? **(Circle one)**

Yes No

10. Please circle the number of persons in your household:

1 2 3 4 5+

11. Do you own or rent your place of residence?

1 Own 2 Rent

12. What was your approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, in 1999?

1 Under $15,000
2 $15,000-29,999
3 $30,000-44,999
4 $45,000-59,999
5 $60,000 or more

13. What level of education have you completed?

1 Less than high school
2 High school
3 Some college or vocational school
4 College bachelors degree or higher

14. In which school district do you live?

1 Kansas City, Kansas, USD 500
2 Turner, USD 202
3 Piper, USD 203
4 Bonner Springs/Edwardsville, USD 204
5 Don't Know

Thank you** for your response to this survey. To be sure that your response is included in the summary, we ask that you **return your survey in the envelope provided by September 18, 2000.