MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION
P.O. Box 1254
Jefferson City, MO 65102
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James Klahr
Executive Director

May 6, 2014

Mike Stearnes
City of Mountain Grove
PO Box 351
100 East State Street
Mountain Grove MO 65711

MEC No. 14E018

Dear Mr. Stearnes:

The Missouri Ethics Commission considered the complaint filed against you and the City of Mountain Grove at the May 2, 2014 meeting. The Commission reviewed the allegation that the chief of police is improperly holding office pursuant to Section 79.050 of the Missouri Revised Statutes and City Code 71.022 - Mountain Grove Ordinance Sec. 12-2.

From the facts presented, the Commission voted to dismiss this case. The investigation showed that the chief of police was appointed acting chief of police until the 2005 election when he was elected city marshal. City ordinance provided the elected city marshal shall also be the chief of police. He was therefore appointed as chief of police pursuant to city ordinance 12-2. His salary as chief of police is passed by ordinance each year through the annual budget.

Sincerely,

James Klahr
Executive Director

JK:sc