MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION
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James Klahr
Executive Director

July 16, 2014

Wieland Now
Representative Paul Wieland
1015 Castleman Drive
Imperial MO 63052

MEC No. 14C188

Dear Representative Wieland:

The Missouri Ethics Commission considered the complaint filed against you and Wieland Now at its July 15, 2014 meeting. Pursuant to Chapters 130, RSMo, the Commission reviewed the allegation of use of campaign funds for unauthorized purposes concerning the lease by the campaign of a truck and a vehicle.

From the facts presented, the Commission voted to dismiss the case. Section 130.034, RSMo provides that campaign funds can be used by an existing officeholder, both for ordinary expenses incurred relating to a campaign, and for any ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the duties of office.

The investigation showed that you purchased a 1992 Chevy Truck with personal funds for $1,500.00. You then leased the truck to the campaign from October 10, 2012 through December 1, 2012, for $1,500, and used campaign funds to pay for the repairs to the truck. You titled the truck in your own name and paid for insurance with personal funds. During this period, the truck was used exclusively by the campaign to move campaign signs throughout Jefferson County. The cost to lease the truck was substantially less than leasing another vehicle from a private company for that period of time. Given the cost comparison which occurred, the Commission did not find reasonable grounds to refer for hearing that the use of campaign funds to lease the truck as compared to another vehicle was in violation of Chapter 130.

In addition, you leased your personal vehicle, a 2001 Buick Century to the campaign for no charge from December 1, 2012 through December 1, 2013. According to the lease agreement, the campaign was responsible for all repairs needed for the vehicle. The campaign paid for a new transmission and thermostat for $1,457.61 in January 2013 when the vehicle required repairs while you were in Jefferson City for the legislative session. The vehicle was no longer operational in April 2013. While the investigation found that there was intermittent use of the vehicle for purposes other than campaign or legislative duties during the period of the lease, the investigation determined that the vehicle's primary use was for campaign and legislative purposes.

Sincerely,

James Klahr

James Klahr
Executive Director

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7/17/2014