MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION
P.O. Box 1254
Jefferson City, MO 65102
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(573) 751-2020 / (800) 392-8660

James Klahr
Executive Director

October 6, 2014

Mark Schmidt, Councilman Ward 8
City Hall
955 Rue St Francois
Florissant MO 63031

MEC No. 14E213

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

The Missouri Ethics Commission considered the complaint filed against the City of Florissant at its October 2, 2014 meeting. The complaint alleges that the City of Florissant: 1) expended public funds when the mayor issued a news release supporting a local ballot measure to increase the operating tax levy of the Ferguson-Florissant school district; and 2) that the news release failed to include a paid for by disclosure.

From the facts presented, the Commission finds no reasonable grounds exist to support a violation of Chapter 115 or 130, RSMo, and is dismissing the complaint. While the mayor did issue a "Newsletter/News Release" in support of the ballot measure, section 115.646, RSMo, allows a public official to issue a news release regarding a ballot measure.

The news release was disseminated via email and not as a printed document. Therefore, the release did not trigger Section 130.031.8, RSMo requiring a paid for by disclosure.

Sincerely,

James Klahr
Executive Director

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