MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION
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James Klahr
Executive Director

January 30, 2015

Jim Hibbs
Vernon County Ambulance District
818 W Austin
Nevada MO 64772

MEC No. 14-0008-I

Dear Mr. Hibbs:

The Missouri Ethics Commission considered the complaint filed against the Vernon County Ambulance District and its board members at its January 28, 2015 meeting. The complaint alleged the district is in violation of Section 115.646, RSMo, by contributing money to the Committee to Elect Joe Hardin campaign.

Staff review of the complaint determined that the Vernon County Ambulance District Employee Fund made a $100 contribution to the Committee to Elect Joe Hardin on October 3, 2014. While Section 115.646, RSMo, prohibits any officer, employee or agent of any political subdivision from contributing or expending public funds to "...advocate, support or oppose any ballot measure or candidate for public office," that statute does not prohibit the expenditure at issue in this complaint. The employee fund does not consist of public funds and it is maintained in a separate bank account. [1]

From the facts presented, the Commission finds no reasonable grounds exist to support a violation of Chapter 115, RSMo, and is dismissing the complaint.

Sincerely,

James Klahr
Executive Director

[1] While not directly raised in the complaint, Section 130.028.2, RSMo, prohibits an employer, corporation, political action committee, or labor organization from receiving or making contributions from its members or employees except on the advance voluntary permission of the members or employees. Staff determined that the employees agreed to use employee funds to support the Committee to Elect Joe Hardin.