



**BEFORE THE  
MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION**

**Filed**  
**MAY 01 2015**  
Missouri Ethics  
Commission

|                               |   |                    |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION,   | ) |                    |
|                               | ) |                    |
| Petitioner,                   | ) |                    |
|                               | ) |                    |
| v.                            | ) |                    |
|                               | ) |                    |
| COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC        | ) | Case No. 15-0002-I |
| LIBERTY, Continuing Committee | ) |                    |
|                               | ) |                    |
| and                           | ) |                    |
|                               | ) |                    |
| CARL BEARDEN, Treasurer,      | ) |                    |
|                               | ) |                    |
|                               | ) |                    |
| Respondents.                  | ) |                    |

**JOINT STIPULATION OF FACTS, WAIVER OF HEARING  
BEFORE THE MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION, AND  
CONSENT ORDER WITH JOINT PROPOSED  
FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The undersigned parties jointly stipulate to the facts and consent to the action set forth below.

The undersigned Respondents, Committee for Economic Liberty and Carl Bearden, acknowledge that they have received and reviewed a copy of the Complaint filed by the Petitioner in this case, and the parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Missouri Ethics Commission.

The undersigned Respondents further acknowledge that they are aware of the various rights and privileges afforded by law, including but not limited to: the right to appear and be represented by counsel; the right to have all charges against Respondents be proven upon the record by competent and substantial evidence; the right to cross-examine any witnesses appearing at the hearing against Respondents; the right to present evidence on Respondents'

behalf at the hearing; and the right to a decision upon the record of the hearing. Being aware of these rights provided to Respondents by operation of law, the undersigned Respondents knowingly and voluntarily waive each and every one of these rights and freely enter into this Joint Stipulation of Facts, Waiver of Hearing before the Missouri Ethics Commission, and Consent Order with Joint Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and agree to abide by the terms of this document.

### I.

Based upon the foregoing, the Petitioner and the undersigned Respondents jointly stipulate to the following and request that the Missouri Ethics Commission adopt as its own the Joint Proposed Findings of Fact and the Joint Proposed Conclusions of Law, as follows:

#### **JOINT PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The Missouri Ethics Commission is an agency of the State of Missouri established pursuant to Section 105.955, RSMo, in part for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of Chapter 130, RSMo.
2. Respondent Committee for Economic Liberty is a continuing committee registered with the Ethics Commission since June, 2012.
3. Respondent Bearden is the Treasurer of the committee.
4. Pursuant to Section 105.961, RSMo, the Commission's staff investigated a complaint filed with the Commission and reported the investigation findings to the Commission.
5. Based on the report of the Commission's staff, the Commission determined that there were reasonable grounds to believe that violations of law occurred, and it therefore authorized a hearing in this matter pursuant to Section 105.961.3, RSMo.

6. Respondent Committee for Economic Liberty published, circulated, and/or distributed the postcard, a true and accurate copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, by mailing it to voters in the area.

7. Respondent Committee for Economic Liberty paid for the printed matter referred to in Exhibit A.

8. The printed matter referred to in Exhibit A relates to a candidate in the August 2014 primary election.

9. The postcard referred to in Exhibit A should have contained a clear and conspicuous statement: "Paid for by Committee for Economic Liberty, Carl Bearden, Treasurer", but lacked the words "Paid for by."

#### **JOINT PROPOSED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

10. "Any person publishing, circulating, or distributing any printed matter relative to any candidate for public office or any ballot measure shall on the face of the printed matter identify in a clear and conspicuous manner the person who paid for the printed matter with the words "Paid for by" followed by the proper identification of the sponsor pursuant to this section." § 130.031.8, RSMo.

11. "'[P]rinted matter' shall be defined to include any pamphlet, circular, handbill, sample ballot, advertisement, including advertisements in any newspaper or other periodical, sign, including signs for display on motor vehicles, or other imprinted or lettered material . . . ." § 130.031.8, RSMo.

12. In regard to any printed matter paid for by a committee, it shall be sufficient identification to print the name of the committee as required to be registered by subsection 5 of

section 130.021 and the name and title of the committee treasurer who was serving when the printed matter was paid for. § 130.031.8(2), RSMo.

13. There is probable cause to believe that Respondents violated Section 130.031.8, RSMo, by publishing, circulating and distributing a postcard relating to a candidate in the August 2014 election without including a proper “paid for by” disclosure.

## II.

Based on the foregoing, the parties hereto mutually agree and stipulate that the following shall constitute the order entered by the Missouri Ethics Commission in this matter. This order will be effective immediately upon the issuance of the Consent Order of the Missouri Ethics Commission without further action by any party:

1. The parties understand that the Petitioner will maintain this Joint Stipulation as an open and public record of the Missouri Ethics Commission.
2. The Commission shall issue its Consent Order in the form attached hereto as Exhibit B.
  - a. Respondents shall comply with all relevant sections of Chapter 130, RSMo.
  - b. It is the Order of the Missouri Ethics Commission that a fee is imposed against Respondents in the amount of \$100, pursuant to Section 105.961.4(6), RSMo. The fee will be paid by check or money order made payable to the Missouri Ethics Commission.
3. The parties consent to the entry of record and approval of this Joint Stipulation and to the termination of any further proceedings before the Commission based upon the Complaint filed by the Petitioner in the above action.
4. Respondents, together with their heirs, successors, and assigns, do hereby waive, release, acquit and forever discharge the Missouri Ethics Commission and its attorneys of or from any liability, claim, actions, causes of action, fees, costs and expenses, and compensation, including but not limited to, a claim for attorney's fees whatsoever which Respondents or

Respondents' attorney may now have or which they may hereafter have, which are based upon or arise out of the above cases.

SO AGREED:

RESPONDENT COMMITTEE FOR  
ECONOMIC LIBERTY

PETITIONER MISSOURI ETHICS  
COMMISSION

By: Carl Bearden 4/27/15  
Carl Bearden Date  
Treasurer

By: James Klahr 5/11/15  
James Klahr Date  
Executive Director

RESPONDENT CARL BEARDEN

By: Carl Bearden 4/27/15  
Carl Bearden Date

By: Curtis R. Stokes 5/11/15  
Curtis R. Stokes Date  
Attorney for Petitioner





# DOES ANYONE KNOW WHAT JOE CRONIN IS UP TO?

It's Time To Tune In!

COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC LIBERTY, CARL BEARDEN, TREASURER  
PO Box 1661  
St Charles, MO 63302

Post Std  
US Postage  
PAID  
St. Louis MO  
Permit #2710



Joseph M Cronin  
800 Hackmann Rd  
O Fallon MO 63366-4715



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**REFUSED TO SUPPORT LETTING ST. CHARLES VOTERS DECIDE ON ALLOWING RED-LIGHT CAMERAS IN THE COUNTY**

(source: newsmagazinenetwork.com, 20 May 2014)



**VOTED TO REQUIRE PRESCRIPTIONS FOR COLD MEDICINES HURTING FAMILIES AND DRIVING SALES TO ST. LOUIS COUNTY PHARMACIES**

(source: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 28 July 2011)



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