



MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

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Jefferson City, MO 65102
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(573) 751-2020 / (800) 392-8660

James Klahr
Executive Director

February 16, 2018

Thomas Schneider
Friends for Mayor Schneider
265 Gerald
Florissant MO 63031

Re: File No. 17-0073-I

Dear Mr. Schneider:

The Missouri Ethics Commission considered the complaint filed against you and Friends for Mayor Schneider at its February 15, 2018 meeting. The complaint alleged you improperly used campaign funds to print and distribute a mailer to the residents of Ward 1 relative to seeking potential candidates to run for Ward 1 alderperson.

Staff review of this complaint determined Friends for Mayor Schneider is a candidate committee established with the Commission. In November 2017, you ordered 698 mailers to distribute to residents in Ward 1. The mailers explained the relevant time periods for interested individuals to collect signatures to run for council and also provided your contact information. At the bottom of the mailer was a paid for by disclosure which read "Paid for by FRIENDS FOR MAYOR SCHNEIDER, Treasurers: Bob Freesmeier & Howard Nimmons, CPA."

Section 130.034.2, RSMo, sets out a list of eight examples of how contributions may be used:

Contributions may be used for any purpose allowed by law including, but not limited to:

- (1) ...
- (2) Any ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the duties of a holder of elective office;

You indicated that you believe educating citizens regarding running for city office is important to promote accountability in city government. As such, the expenditure of campaign funds for this purpose falls within Section 130.034.2(2), RSMo.

From the facts presented, the Commission finds no reasonable grounds exist to support a violation of Chapter 130, RSMo, and is dismissing the complaint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Klahr".

James Klahr
Executive Director