



MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

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Elizabeth L. Ziegler
Executive Director

Final Action: MEC No. 20-0002-I, Ward Franz

Date: 3/13/2020

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against Ward Franz at its March 13, 2020 meeting.

The complaint that was filed with the Commission alleged that Mr. Franz violated the employee code of conduct established by Governor's Executive Order 18-10. Mr. Franz is the former director of the Missouri Division of Tourism. The complaint alleged that Mr. Franz accepted two major league baseball tickets from a vendor that was under contract with the Division and at a time when that contract was up for renewal.

The MEC has jurisdiction to accept complaints alleging such violations of executive orders under section 105.957.1(6), RSMo. The investigation confirmed that Mr. Franz accepted the tickets and then, after the situation came to light, resigned his position on November 1, 2019.

Executive Order 18-10 states that "No state employee of the executive branch shall enter into or derive any benefit, directly or indirectly, from any contractual arrangement with the State of Missouri or any state agency if such arrangement is inconsistent with the conscientious performance of the employee's official duties. The remedy for violations of Executive Order 18-10 is "disciplinary action including, but not limited to, termination of employment."

The complaint seeks to apply the Executive Order to these facts despite the fact that Mr. Franz has resigned.

From the facts presented, the Commission dismissed the complaint because the matter is moot.

Elizabeth L. Ziegler
Executive Director