



Missouri Ethics Commission

Elizabeth L. Ziegler
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Final Action: MEC No. 20-0040-I, Michael Haynes

Date: 10/21/2020

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against Michael Haynes at its October 20, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Haynes serves on the Board of Alderman for the City of Verona. The complaint that was filed with the Commission alleged that he improperly participated in a matter involving questions about retention of the City's attorney. Specifically, the complaint alleged that Haynes should have recused himself from voting and avoided partaking in discussions of the matter because he is a party to a pending legal case with the City.

Section 105.452.1(4), RSMo, prohibits elected and appointed officials from favorably acting "on any matter that is so specifically designed so as to provide a special monetary benefit to such official or his spouse or dependent children[.]"

The investigation by the MEC determined that the matter before the Board of Alderman was not specifically designed so as to provide a benefit to Mr. Haynes. The question of which attorney or attorneys are hired by or under contract with the City of Verona has no direct bearing on any pending litigation involving the City. Accordingly, he was not prohibited from participating in that matter.

From the facts presented, the Commission found no reasonable grounds exist to support a violation of Chapter 105, RSMo, and dismissed the complaint.

Elizabeth L. Ziegler
Executive Director