

**BEFORE THE  
MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION**

**Filed**

OCT 3 2023

Missouri Ethics  
Commission

MISSOURI ETHICS	)	
COMMISSION,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	Case No. 23-0019-I
v.	)	
	)	
ADRIAN SHROPSHIRE,	)	
	)	
and	)	
	)	
LAVERNE MITCHOM,	)	
	)	
Respondents.	)	

**JOINT FINDINGS OF FACT,  
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER**

The Missouri Ethics Commission (“MEC”), together with Adrian Shropshire and Laverne Mitchom (“Respondents”), collectively the “parties” jointly stipulate and consent to action as set forth here (the “agreement”).

Respondents acknowledge their right to have this agreement reviewed by counsel. Respondents further acknowledge they have received actual notice of the legal complaint filed by the MEC in this case, have reviewed the contents of the Complaint, and submit to the jurisdiction of the Missouri Ethics Commission.

Respondents further acknowledge 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 at a hearing before the MEC; the right to have all allegations against Respondents 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, Respondents knowingly and voluntarily waive each one of these rights and freely enters into this agreement and agrees to abide by its terms.

## I.

The parties mutually agree and stipulate, subject to adoption by the Missouri Ethics Commission, the following shall constitute the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter:

### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Pursuant to § 105.961, RSMo, the MEC's staff investigated a complaint filed with the Commission and reported the investigation findings to the Commission.
2. Based upon the investigation report, the Commission determined there were reasonable grounds to believe violations of the law occurred and authorized a hearing pursuant to § 105.961.3, RSMo.
3. Respondents created and distributed flyers in support of Ella M. Jones for mayor of Ferguson, MO in the April 4, 2023 election.

4. The flyers should have contained the clear and conspicuous statement: "Paid for by Adrien Shropshire and Laverne Mitchom" along with their respective mailing addresses but did not.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

5. "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.

6. "[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.

7. Section 130.031.8, RSMo, further states the following:

(4) In regard to any printed matter paid for by an individual or individuals, it shall be sufficient identification to print the name of the individual or individuals and the respective mailing address or addresses[.] ... No person shall accept for publication or printing nor shall such work be completed until the printed matter is properly identified as required by this subsection.

8. There is probable cause to believe that Respondents violated § 130.031.8, RSMo, by creating and distributing flyers which failed to include an accurate "Paid for by" disclosure.

## II.

Based on the foregoing, the parties mutually agree and stipulate, subject to adoption by the Missouri Ethics Commission, the following shall constitute the Order issued by the Missouri Ethics Commission in this matter:

### CONSENT ORDER

The Missouri Ethics Commission finds probable cause to believe Respondents violated § 130.031.8, and pursuant to § 105.961.4, hereby

#### ORDERS:

1. Respondents shall comply with all relevant sections of Chapter 130;
2. Respondents are assessed a fee in the amount of \$100, pursuant to Section 105.961.4(6), due by check or money order and payable to the Missouri Ethics Commission within sixty (60) days of the issuance of this Consent Order.
3. Respondents shall be jointly and severally liable for all fees imposed under this order.

## III.

1. The parties understand the Missouri Ethics Commission will maintain this agreement as an open record of the Commission.

2. This agreement does not bind the Missouri Ethics Commission or restrict the remedies available concerning any violations not expressly detailed here, including any future violations.

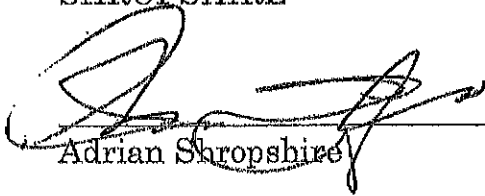
3. Each party agrees to pay all of their own fees and expenses incurred as a result of this case, its litigation, and/or its disposition.

4. Respondents, together with their heirs, assigns, agents, representatives and attorneys, do hereby waive, release, acquit and forever discharge the Missouri Ethics Commission, the Commission's respective members, employees, agents and attorneys including former members, employees, agents and attorneys, of, or from any liability, claim, actions, causes of action, fees, costs, expenses and compensation, including, but not limited to, any claim for attorney's fees and expenses, whether or not now known or contemplated, including, but not limited to, any claims pursuant to Section 536.087, RSMo, as amended, or any claim arising under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, which now or in the future may be based upon, arise out of, or relate to any of the matters raised in this case or its litigation or from the negotiation or execution of this Joint Stipulation. The parties acknowledge that this paragraph is severable from the remaining portions of this agreement in that it survives in perpetuity even in the event that any court or administrative tribunal deems this agreement or any portion thereof void or unenforceable.

5. This agreement shall become effective immediately upon (1) the signature of all parties; (2) adoption of the Joint Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law by the Missouri Ethics Commission; and (3) issuance of a Final Order by the Commission, without any further action of the parties.

SO AGREED:

RESPONDENT ADRIAN  
SHROPSHIRE



RESPONDENT LAVERNE  
MITCHOM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laverne Mitchom Date

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

*Elizabeth L. Ziegler*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth L. Ziegler Date  
Executive Director 10/3/23

*Brian Hamilton*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Hamilton Date  
Attorney for Petitioner 10/3/23

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SO AGREED:

RESPONDENT ADRIAN  
SHROPSHIRE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Adrian Shropshire

Date

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

*Elizabeth L. Ziegler*

*10/3/23*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth L. Ziegler  
Executive Director

Date

RESPONDENT LAVERNE  
MITCHOM

*Laverne Mitchom*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laverne Mitchom

Date

*B' /*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Hamilton  
Attorney for Petitioner

*10/3/23*

Date

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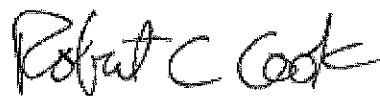
**CONSENT ORDER**

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**ORDERS:**

1. Respondents shall comply with all relevant sections of Chapter 130;
2. Respondents are assessed a fee in the amount of \$100, pursuant to Section 105.961.4(6), due by check or money order and payable to the Missouri Ethics Commission within sixty (60) days of the issuance of this Consent Order.
3. Respondents shall be jointly and severally liable for all fees imposed under this order.

SO ORDERED this 4th day of October, 2023



\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Cook, Chair  
Missouri Ethics Commission