

Final Action: MEC No. 23-0053-I: Chandra Carey, City Council member; Mark O'Dell, City Administrator, Lexington, Missouri

Date: 02/26/2024

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against Chandra Carey and Mark O'Dell, a City Council member and City Administrator, respectively, in Lexington, Missouri, at its February 26, 2024, meeting.

The complaint filed with the Commission alleged a violation of conflict-of-interest statutes when Chandra Carey was compensated by the city for her help with gathering information for reports, without competitive bidding and for receiving compensation for performing work other than that which is the duty of her elected office.

The investigation showed that Carey was paid \$1,013.76 in November 2023 for preparing the city's Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) report required to be filed with the Department of Social Services. The GEMT report allows for the reimbursement of uncompensated costs to eligible GEMT providers who provide qualifying emergency ambulance services to MO HealthNet participants.

This work was done in compliance with Section 105.458.1(3), which allows members of a legislative or governing body of a political subdivision to be compensated for the preparing or filing public documents. There is no public bidding requirement under this section of the statute.

Ms. Carey performed the work due to her experience when an urgent need was identified for the filing of the report.

Therefore, based on the stated facts, the Commission found no reasonable grounds exist to support violations of Chapter 105, RSMo., and dismissed the complaint.

Elizabeth L. Ziegler Executive Director