E	BEFORE	THE
MISSOURI	<b>ETHICS</b>	COMMISSION

Filed

DEC 1 7 2024

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION,	)		Missouri Ethics Commission
·	)		
	)		
Petitioner,	)	Case No. 23-0038-I	
v.	)		
	)		
JERRY MILNESS,	)		
	)		
Respondent.	)		

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

The Missouri Ethics Commission ("MEC"), together with Jerry Milness ("Respondent"), collectively the "parties" jointly stipulate and consent to action as set forth here (the "agreement").

Respondent acknowledges his right to have this agreement reviewed by counsel. Respondent further acknowledges he has 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.

Respondent further acknowledge he is 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 Respondent proven upon the record by competent and substantial evidence; the right to cross-examine any witnesses appearing at the hearing against Respondent; the right to present evidence on Respondent's behalf at the hearing; and the right to a decision upon the record of the hearing. Being aware of these rights,

Respondent knowingly and voluntarily waives 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. Respondent Jerry Milness was hired by the Marion County Ambulance District June 27, 2022 as an emergency medical technician (EMT) and remained employed full-time until August 5, 2023 at which time he transitioned to a "PRN" or "as needed" employee where he receives pay for any hours worked.
- 2. Respondent Jerry Milness was elected as a board member for the Randolph County Ambulance District in the April 4, 2023, election.
- 3. Pursuant to § 105.961, the Commission's staff received a complaint against Respondent. Upon investigation of the allegations, a report was presented to the Commission.
- 4. The Commission determined there were reasonable grounds to believe a violation of Missouri statute had occurred and authorized a hearing pursuant to § 105.961.3.
- 5. Voluntary ambulance district board refers to a voluntary ambulance district, not voluntary ambulance board. The word voluntary modifies ambulance district.

6. While Randolph County Ambulance District Board members volunteer, district employees are compensated.

# CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 7. "[N]o employee of any fire protection district or ambulance district shall serve as a member of any fire district or ambulance district board while such person is employed by any fire district or ambulance district, except that an employee of a fire protection district or an ambulance district may serve as a member of a voluntary fire protection district board or a voluntary ambulance district board." § 321.017.1, RSMo.
- 8. Where Respondent was a paid employee of Marion County Ambulance District Board while serving as a board member of the Randolph County Ambulance District; there is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated § 321.017.1, giving this commission power to act, as permitted under § 105.961.

### 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 § 321.017.1, and pursuant to § 105.961.4, hereby **ORDERS**:

1. Respondents shall comply with all relevant sections of Chapter 321.

2. It is the order of the Missouri Ethics Commission that a letter of reprimand be issued to Respondent pursuant to § 105.961.4(4), RSMo.

## 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. Respondent, together with his 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 JERRY MILNESS

Jerry Milness

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

Interim Executive Director

ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT

Van Matre Law Firm, P.C.

Attorney for Petitioner

Filed

# BEFORE THE MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

DEC 2 3 2024

				Missouri Ethles
MISSOURI ETHICS	S	)		Commission
COMMISSION,		)		
		)		
		)		
I	Petitioner,	)	Case No. 23-0038-I	
v.		)		
		)		
JERRY MILNESS,		)		
•		)		
Re	espondent.	)		

# CONSENT ORDER

The Missouri Ethics Commission finds probable cause to believe Respondents violated § 321.017.1, and pursuant to § 105.961.4, hereby **ORDERS**:

- 1. Respondents shall comply with all relevant sections of Chapter 321.
- 2. It is the order of the Missouri Ethics Commission that a letter of reprimand be issued to Respondent pursuant to § 105.961.4(4), RSMo.

SO ORDERED this 23rd day of December, 2024

Robin Wheeler Sanders, Chair

Robin Whuler Sanders

Missouri Ethics Commission



December 23, 2024

Mr. Jerry Milness 1366 E Highway 24 Moberly, MO 65270

RE: MEC Case No. 23-0038-I: Jerry Milness

Dear Mr. Milness:

This Letter of Reprimand is issued to you pursuant to the authority granted to the Missouri Ethics Commission in Section 105.961.4(4), RSMo.

The Commission has accepted the submission of the Joint Stipulation of Facts, Waiver of Hearing Before the Missouri Ethics Commission, and Consent Order with Joint Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter, a copy of which is marked as Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

The Commission has found probable cause to believe that you violated § 321.017.1, RSMo, as you were a paid employee of Marion County Ambulance District Board while serving as a board member of the Randolph County Ambulance District. The Commission hereby issues this Letter of Reprimand to you for violation of § 321.017.1, RSMo.

Sincerely,

Robin Wheeler Sanders, Chair

Missouri Ethics Commission

Robin Wheeler Sanders