



Missouri Ethics Commission

Stacey Heislen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Final Action: MEC No. 25-0056-I City of Kinloch

Date: January 14, 2025

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against the City of Kinloch, at its January 12, 2026, meeting.

The Commission received a complaint alleging Kinloch officials misused public funds by living rent-free in city-owned apartments, possibly benefiting from housing stipends and renovations. The complaint also claimed nepotism involving City Manager Dr. Justine Wells-Blue and her spouse, Special Assistant to the Mayor John Blue.

Pursuant to Section 105.957.3, RSMo, the Commission lacks jurisdiction to investigate conduct that occurred more than two years prior to the date of the complaint. The resolution adopted by the City of Kinloch in 2012, which permitted city officials to reside in city-owned properties rent-free, falls outside this jurisdictional scope. Therefore, the Commission did not examine the circumstances surrounding the adoption of the resolution or its initial implementation.

However, the Commission did determine whether the resolution's current application violates any conflict-of-interest provisions within the past two years. Specifically, Section 105.452.1(4), RSMo, prohibits any public official or employee from using their decision-making authority or official position to secure special privileges, benefits, or exemptions that are not available to the general public or a special class of persons. The 2012 resolution applies exclusively to a specific class of individuals—City of Kinloch officials.

In 2024, the Board of Aldermen allowed City Manager Dr. Justin W. Blue to live rent-free in a city-owned property under the 2012 resolution. The investigation found the mayor and two aldermen also lived rent-free in city-owned properties. This benefit applied uniformly to all city officials under the resolution.

Dr. Blue's on-site residence supported her duties as city manager and did not exceed her role. No evidence showed extra compensation or special treatment. Regarding nepotism, Dr. Blue did not hire her spouse and recused herself from the process.

The investigation found no reasonable grounds exist to support a violation of Chapter 105, RSMo, and dismissed the complaint. In so doing, the MEC takes no position on whether the City of Kinloch has or has not complied with Missouri's statutes outside the jurisdiction of the MEC.

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