BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA ETHICS COMMISSION
PROBABLE CAUSE REVIEW BOARD

In Re:
J. MICHAEL IHLE, COMPLAINT NO. VCRB 2014-126
Former Mayor of the City of Ravenswood

PROBABLE CAUSE ORDER

On this date, the Probable Cause Review Board, having investigated and considered
the allegations set forth in VCRB 2014-126, unanimously finds that there is probable
cause to believe that Respondent, J. Michael Ihle, violated the provisions of the Ethics
Act as follows:

Count One: Respondent, J. Michael Ihle, while he was the Mayor of the City of
Ravenswood, used a cellular phone owned by the City of Ravenswood and the City's
cellular phone service plan for his 2014 West Virginia House of Delegates election
campaign. The Respondent used the City-owned phone for this purpose from
approximately January 2014 until his election in November 2014. The use of the City-
owned cellular phone and service plan for a political campaign constitutes the knowing
and intentional use of office for private gain to Respondent Ihle or to his campaign or
both.

In accordance with W.Va. Code § 6B-2-4(f), the Commission staff is hereby
ORDERED to prepare a Statement of Charges and to schedule this matter for a public
hearing to determine the truth or falsity of the charges.
Entered: January 25, 2017

James E. Shepherd, II, Chairperson
Probable Cause Review Board

Michael A. Kawash, Member
Probable Cause Review Board

Daniel J. Guida, Member
Probable Cause Review Board
BEFORE THE WEST VIRGINIA ETHICS COMMISSION

In Re:

J. MICHAEL IHLE, Complaint No. VCRB 2014-126

Former Mayor of the City of Ravenswood, Respondent.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Rebecca L. Stepto, Executive Director for the West Virginia Ethics Commission, do certify that I have, this 26th day of January, 2017, served a true and complete copy of the foregoing PROBABLE CAUSE ORDER via certified U.S. mail to the following:

Michael Ihle
507 Sand Street, Apartment A
Ravenswood, WV 26164
Respondent

Rebecca L. Stepto
Executive Director
West Virginia Ethics Commission
210 Brooks St., Suite 300
Charleston, WV 25301
(304) 558-0664
(304) 558-2169 (fax)