

**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 26<sup>th</sup> 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**



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