

Timothy R. Noonan
Chairman
Missouri Veterans Commission

December 30, 2020

Eric Schmitt
Attorney General of Missouri
Supreme Court Building
207 W. High Street
P.O. Box 899
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear General Schmitt –

Thank-you for your letter of December 30, 2020 regarding the closed record of the independent, external review of the Missouri Veterans Commission ordered by Governor Parson.

I disagree with your assessment, but as I am ordered to release information that is an attorney-client privileged communication and a legal work product of the commission of the Missouri Veterans Commission, you will find that it has been released via the MVC website.

It is interesting that you did not request any information from me prior to making your determination. If you would have, perhaps you would have learned that I did ask your office for an opinion, which you can see from the attached. It is unfortunate that only spectacle gets due attention.

In addition, in your well understood list of root causes into the breakdown of what happened at the MVC relative to COVID, I recommend that you focus on one of the corrective actions:

The MVC should work with other external stakeholders like the COO of Missouri, the Fusion Cell, DPS, and other agencies to **examine the structure of the “independent” MVC and its administrative position in the State of Missouri.** Accountability measures and a clear structure involving direct oversight may be necessary to ensure better communication exists between MVC, DPS, and other stakeholders.

These structure issues matter. As a volunteer, it is hard to fathom the lack of support and accountability from those in the chain of command above the MVC.

The suggestion that I am not protecting the interests of veterans is contrary to the facts. In seeking to understand and to communicate my personal support for the front-line caregivers, I

visited every home in the state, traveling over 1,000 miles over three days to say: Thank-you and we have your back.

It would be encouraging to say the same for the other stakeholders. In fact, one need look no further than the current approach to allocating funds from the Missouri Veterans Health and Care Fund to realize that more than change is needed.

Please answer the questions that I asked on November 27, 2020:

- Who pays legal fees;
- Who pays for civil judgement;
- How is criminal accountability addressed;
- How should privilege be handled;
- Is the Missouri Legal Defense Fund substitute for Directors & Officers insurance; and
- Should privilege be waived?

Thank-you and Happy New Year.

Best

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy R. Noonan".

Timothy R. Noonan
Chairman
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Attachment as referenced above