



Clay County, Missouri

County Commission

*Administration Building
1 Courthouse Square ~ Liberty, MO 64068*

OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM THE COUNTY OF CLAY

Clay County is proud of the work its employees, partners and officeholders have accomplished. The County Commission recently made it possible for staff to continue this work by addressing decades of deferred maintenance and construction around the county. Moody's Investors Service recently upgraded Clay County's credit rating to Aa1, an elite status shared with only one other first class county in the state of Missouri. Years of strong financial management is a key factor resulting in this rare achievement. Clay County attributes this progress to the leadership and partnership of the County Commission and staff. We look forward to the future we can build for Clay County by working together.

The employment agreements approved by the Clay County Commission fairly compensate Assistant County Administrators for significant additional job duties. Earlier this year, the Commission delegated the duties of the former Administrator to three qualified and professional Assistant County Administrators.

Recent events have highlighted the extreme hostility and personal attacks on unelected employees of the County. These vicious attacks have followed employees to other potential places of employment in other states, in an apparent attempt to make them unemployable. This environment makes it impossible for the County to retain professional staff unless the County outlines terms of employment that include a reasonable cooling off period after termination. Terms named in the agreement are Clay County's best opportunity to retain talented employees in a difficult and high profile position, such as an Assistant County Administrator.

It would be irresponsible and even potentially defamatory for any news organization to attack the reputation of a Clay County employee who was not found guilty of the accusations mentioned by Lisa McCormick in repeated news broadcasts. A presumption of innocence applies to all citizens, including public employees in high profile positions. The charges are dismissed. Any check of public court documents will confirm that no charges and no finding of guilt exist. Neither has there been any admission of guilt. Sadly, when the story clears the reputation of an individual wrongly accused, Fox4 has not covered it. We look forward to full reporting of our statement in your broadcast.