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## Michael L. Parson

GOVERNOR STATE OF MISSOURI June 13, 2019

RECEIVED & FILED

JUN 1 4 2019

The Honorable Mike Kehoe Lieutenant Governor of Missouri State Capitol Building Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 SECRETARY OF STATE COMMISSIONS DIVISION

Dear Mike:

This is to advise you that I will be outside the State of Missouri beginning on June 14, 2019, and returning on July 3, 2019.

Under Article IV, Section 11(a) of the Missouri Constitution, "[o]n the failure to qualify, absence from the state or other disability of the governor, the powers, duties and emoluments of the governor shall devolve upon the lieutenant governor for the remainder of the term or until the disability is removed."

Under the Missouri Supreme Court decision of *State ex rel. Ashcroft v. Blunt*, 813 S.W.2d 849 (Mo. banc 1991), my physical presence outside the state does not, in and of itself, make me "effectively absent" from the state. However, as I am traveling outside of the country, I believe it is in the best interest of the State of Missouri that the powers of the Governor devolve upon you during a certain portion of that time.

I believe it is appropriate that guidelines be established relative to when and under what circumstances I should be considered "effectively absent" from the state so that the powers of the Governor devolve upon you. Those guidelines are as follows:

- 1. I will only be considered "effectively absent" from the state so that the gubernatorial powers devolve upon you as Acting Governor when either:
  - a. I notify you in writing that I will be "effectively absent" from the state; or
  - b. I am physically outside the state without having given such written notification of "effective absence," an actual emergency requiring immediate gubernatorial action occurs, and attempts to communicate with me relative to the emergency have been unsuccessful.
- 2. During such time as I am "effectively absent" from the state, your exercise of gubernatorial powers will be subject to the following limitations:
  - a. The power to make appointments will not be exercised without my express prior written consent.
  - b. The power to issue executive orders will not be exercised without my express prior written consent.
  - c. The power to grant reprieves, commutations, and pardons will not be exercised without my express prior written consent.

- d. The power to approve or veto legislation will not be exercised without my express prior written consent.
- e. The power to call the Missouri National Guard into active duty will not be exercised without my express written consent unless you are unable to communicate with me and an actual emergency situation occurs.
- 3. While I am "effectively absent" from the state, I will either advise you where I may be reached or my staff will know where I may be reached. Please feel free to contact me while I am "effectively absent" from the state if you believe such consultation is necessary. In order to effectuate any executive powers while I am "effectively absent" from the state, it is understood that you will consult and work with members of my senior staff.
- 4. It is further understood that while I am "effectively absent" from the state, exigencies may occur prior to my physical return to the state to cause me to determine that I should no longer be considered "effectively absent" from the state. In such event, I will assume gubernatorial powers and I will communicate with you to advise of such determination.
- 5. It is understood that during the time that I am "effectively absent" from the state you will not act in a similar manner to be "effectively absent" from the state so that gubernatorial powers will further devolve without first consulting me. However, should an emergency arise causing your absence, the powers of the Governor shall devolve according to the order of succession in Article IV, Section 11(a) of the Missouri Constitution.
- 6. While I am "effectively absent" from the state and you serve as Acting Governor, your salary will be paid at the salary level of the Governor from the appropriations to the Governor's office.

Any other executive powers not specifically identified herein shall not be exercised without my express prior written consent. In accordance with the foregoing guidelines, this is to advise that I will be "effectively absent" from the state during the period of June 23, 2019, through July 2, 2019, so that the powers of Governor will devolve to you as Acting Governor.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter and your agreement with the policies and procedures set forth herein. I believe it appropriate that a copy of this letter, signed by each of us, should be filed with the Secretary of State.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Parson

Governor

This acknowledges receipt of the foregoing letter and agreement with the policies and procedures set forth herein.

Mike Kehoe

Lieutenant Governor

6-14-19

Date