

City of Taylor
Board of Ethics

A Resolution by the City of Taylor Board of Ethics

Resolution Admonishing

Judge Joseph Slaven

23rd District Court Judge

Whereas on November 4, 2024, the Board of Ethics was informed, by the City Attorney, Mr. Edward Plato, concerning a complaint filed by Mr. Doug Geiss regarding a possible violation of the City of Taylor Ethics Ordinance by Judge Joseph Slaven;

Sec. Statement of purpose which incorporates the Michigan Campaign Finance Act and the Standards of Conduct for Public Em.Q!Qvees.

Whereas after an investigation that compiled facts sufficient to constitute a possible violation of City of Taylor Ethics Ordinance Statement of Purpose, and MCL 169.257, Sec. 57 (1). Thereafter a Hearing, with proper notice, was held before the Board of Ethics on December 16, 2024, during which Mr. Geiss and Judge Slaven both presented testimony and evidence. At the request of Judge Slaven, the hearing was in a closed meeting.

Whereas during said Hearing, the Board of Ethics found that, Judge Joseph Slaven had utilized the 23rd District Court property to film a campaign video for a judicial candidate.

Whereas during a subsequent meeting the Board of Ethics voted to adopt a resolution of public admonition against Judge Joseph Slaven, after finding violations of the *City of Taylor Ethics Ordinance Statement of Purpose, The Standards of Conduct for Public Officers and Employees, MCL 15.342 (2), (3), and (6), and the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, MCL 169.257, Sec. 57. (1)*

Resolved that the Board of Ethics, based upon the evidence as provided:

1. Publicly admonishes Judge Joseph Slaven and finds he violated MCL 169.257, Sec. 57. (1), A public body or a person acting for a public body shall not use or authorize the use of funds, personnel, office space, computer hardware or software, property, stationery, postage, vehicles, equipment, supplies, or other public resources to make a contribution or expenditure or provide volunteer personal services that are excluded from the definition of contribution under section 4(3)(a).

2. Publicly admonishes Judge Joseph Slaven and finds he violated *The Standards of Conduct for Public Officers and Employees, MCL 15.342 (2), (3), and (6)*.
3. Publicly admonishes Judge Joseph Slaven and finds he violated the City of Taylor Ethics Ordinance Statement of Purpose.
4. To send this resolution to the Mayor, City Council, the City Clerk and to local media entities and post a copy on the City of Taylor Board of Ethics page for public view. Additionally, based on the fact that the State of Michigan Attorney General, State of Michigan Board of Ethics, Judicial Tenure Commission have already received and investigated these violations we are forwarding our findings and resolution to them to receive and file.


Michael Hargraves, Chairman

Dated: MARCH 5, 2026