



NEWSLETTER / NEWS RELEASE
From the Office of Mayor Thomas P. Schneider

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 16, 2015

**LEGISLATORS, NORTH COUNTY LEADERS SUPPORT THE ROTARY CLUB
OF FLORISSANT'S APPEAL TO STATE FOR LICENSE OFFICE CONTRACT**

Mayor Thomas P. Schneider, Hazelwood Mayor Matt Robinson, St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger, MO State Senator Gina Walsh, Florissant City Council, and other area legislators and leaders throughout North County and St. Louis County have thrown their support behind the not-for-profit Rotary Club of Florissant and its appeal of a state license office contract awarded recently by the Missouri Department of Revenue to a for-profit business.

The Rotary Club of Florissant held the contract for the license office in Florissant since March 1994, donating more than \$2.3 million to charities in North County and throughout Missouri in the last 20 years from its profits in running the license office, which has been among the top five of the best-run of the 172 license offices in Missouri.

Mayor Schneider has put his full support behind the appeal, as have numerous other legislators and leaders. They include St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger, St. Louis County Councilman Mike O'Mara, State Senator Gina Walsh, State Representative Sharon Pace (District 74), State Representative Margo McNeil (District 69), Hazelwood Mayor Matt Robinson, North County Inc. Executive Director Rebecca Zoll, Hazelwood School District Superintendent Dr. Grayling Tobias, Marygrove CEO Sister Helen Negri, LCCW, BCCSW and Valley Industries Executive Director Jim Guyre.

"Recent news stories on KTRS- AM the Big 550 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxwsgmZrNWo>, KTVI (Channel 2) <http://fox2now.com/2015/01/13/florissant-rotary-club-battling-nixon-to-save-charity-profits-from-license-office/>, KSDK (Channel 5) <http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2015/01/14/florissant-rotary-club-files-appeal-to-state-after-losing-licensing-office-contract/21782391/> and in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* www.stltoday.com, "have brought home the reality that North County charities will be adversely affected if the Rotary Club of Florissant is forced to curtail its donations to those in our community who most need assistance, particularly given the circumstances of the past several months," said Mayor Schneider.

As part of the appeal process, the Rotary Club of Florissant authorized the filing of a formal appeal to the Missouri Office of Administration, which handles disputes regarding the awarding of state government contracts. The appeal was filed by the deadline of January 13 and included letters of support from many area leaders as well as beneficiaries of the Rotary Club of Florissant.

The Florissant Rotary Club is asking supporters to contact Missouri Governor Jay Nixon with phone calls, letters or e-mails to protest the Department of Revenue's decision to award the contract to a for-profit business. The governor can be reached at PO Box 720, Jefferson City, MO 65102 by mail, 573-751-3222 by phone or online at www.governor.mo.gov.

In recent years, the Florissant license office has provided the Rotary Club of Florissant with approximately \$40,000 in annual profits, according to immediate past Rotary Club president Howard Nimmons owner of Nimmons Wealth Management. All profits have been used to help those in need not only in Florissant but the entire St. Louis region and beyond.

Past contributions by the Florissant Rotary to various charities have included:

- \$312,000 to the Florissant Valley Workshop at Valley Industries, which provides fulfilling employment to mentally challenged adults;
- \$282,450 to Marygrove Home for abused and neglected children;
- \$205,235 to The Emergency Assistance Ministry (TEAM) food pantry;
- \$216,000 in scholarships to students attending local high schools to assist with their college education;
- \$10,000 to Joplin to assist in tornado recovery efforts;
- \$10,000 to Ferguson to assist in tornado recovery efforts.

When he became governor in January 2009, Gov. Nixon required the Missouri Department of Revenue to put contracts to run the 172 state license offices out for bid every four years, most recently in November 2013. After months of no decision on a new contract for the Florissant office, the Department of Revenue re-opened the contract for bids in October 2014. The new contract, now for five years, is effective January 1, 2015 and was awarded to ACM, a for-profit business located in St. Charles County.

Since 1994, the Rotary Club of Florissant has operated the state license office in Florissant with less than 0.01 percent rejections for transactions processed through the office, compared to the State of Missouri's "acceptable" amount of 2 percent. The Florissant license office has had one of the lowest, if not the lowest, rejection rate for any office, and often has been used as a training model for other offices throughout Missouri.

The motto of the Rotary Club of Florissant is "service above self." For 55 years, the Rotary Club of Florissant has helped causes great and small, around the world and in the North County community.

###

Phone (314) 921-5700
7111

Emergency 9-1-1

Fax (314) 921-