# STATE OF MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

At a session of the Public Service Commission held at its office in Jefferson City on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

| The Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, | )                          |
|--|----------------------------|
| Complainant,   | )<br>File No. WC-2022-0295 |
| V.   | )                          |
| I-70 Mobile City, Inc. d/b/a I-70 Mobile City Park.  | )                          |
| Respondent.  | )                          |

#### ORDER APPROVING STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT

Issue Date: March 27, 2024 Effective Date: April 6, 2024

On April 22, 2022, the Staff of the Commission (Staff) filed a complaint with the Commission against I-70 Mobile City, Inc. d/b/a I-70 Mobile City Park (Respondent or I-70 Mobile City Park). Staff's complaint alleges the unauthorized provision of water and sewer service by Respondent to the public, namely to residents of the I-70 Mobile City Park, for gain, without certification or other authority from the Commission.

The Commission set a procedural schedule including a two-day evidentiary hearing. That hearing was rescheduled multiple times. The evidentiary hearing was most recently set to start March 13, 2024.

On March 7, 2024, Staff and I-70 Mobile City Park filed a *Stipulation and Agreement* (Agreement). The Agreement resolves Staff's complaint against I-70 Mobile City Park. Under the terms of the Agreement I-70 Mobile City Park will stop charging tenants separately for sewer service. I-70 will also charge tenants for water service by

taking the total amount due on Bates City Water Company bills and dividing it by usage. I-70 Mobile City Park will not charge tenants any other fee or charge for water or service except as required by state or federal regulatory agencies. I-70 Mobile City Park agrees that it will not evict any tenant for nonpayment of water service. The Agreement also provides that I-70 Mobile City Park will file in this docket specific information so that Staff may ascertain that I-70 Mobile City Park is complying with the Agreement. As part of the Agreement, Staff will dismiss its complaint against I-70 Mobile City Park.

The Agreement contains general provisions standard to most stipulations and agreements before the Commission.

The Office of the Public Counsel is not a signatory to the Agreement. Commission Rule 20 CSR 4240-2.115 allows parties seven days to object to a non-unanimous stipulation and also allows the Commission to treat a non-unanimous stipulation as unanimous if no party timely objects. Seven days have elapsed since the signatories filed the Agreement, and no party has objected. Thus, the Commission will treat the Stipulation as unanimous.

After reviewing the Stipulation, the Commission finds that it is a reasonable resolution of the issues contained therein and should be approved. So that the Agreement may take effect as contemplated by the parties in April 2024, the Commission will make this order effective in less than 30 days.

#### THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. The Agreement filed by the signatories on March 7, 2024, is approved. The signatories are ordered to comply with its terms. A copy of the Agreement is attached to this order, and incorporated by reference.

2. This order shall be effective on April 6, 2023.



BY THE COMMISSION

Nancy Dippell

Nancy Dippell Secretary

Hahn, Ch., Rupp, Coleman, Holsman and Kolkmeyer CC., concur.

Clark, Senior Regulatory Law Judge

### BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

| The Staff of the Missouri Public | ) |          | V-2          |
|----------------------------------|---|----------|--------------|
| Service Commission,              | ) |          | (9)          |
| Complainant,                     | ) |          |              |
|                                  | ) | Case No. | WC-2022-0295 |
| ν.                               | ) |          | SC-2022-0296 |
| I-70 Mobile City, Inc.,          | ) |          |              |
| Respondent.                      | ) |          |              |

#### STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT

COME NOW, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission ("Staff") and I-70 Mobile City, Inc. ("I-70 Mobile City"), (collectively, the "Signatories"), by and through counsel, and state they have reached a settlement in this matter and have consented to this Stipulation and Agreement in this matter as fully set forth as follows:

#### RECITALS

- 1. I-70 Mobile City, Inc. (hereafter "I-70 Mobile City") owns the real property located at 1449 Outer Rd. in Bates, Missouri, which operates as a mobile home community (hereafter "I-70 Community").
- 2. Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, filed a Complaint in the above-captioned case numbers against I-70 Mobile City on April 22, 2022, alleging, *inter alia*, that I-70 Mobile City is operating as a water and

sewer corporation and a public utility and engaging in the unlawful provision of water and sewer services to the public, for gain, without certification or other authority from the Missouri Public Service Commission, under § 386.020(43), (49), and (50), and in violation of § 393.170.2, RSMo, and is therefore subject to the jurisdiction, regulation, and control of the Commission<sup>1</sup>.

- I-70 Mobile City filed its Answer to Staff's Complaint on May 31,
   2022, denying the allegations in the Complaint.
- 4. Thereafter, I-70 Mobile City, by its attorney, and Staff, by its attorney, had discussions regarding the matters and a possible settlement of the issues and dismissal of the Complaint. This Stipulation and Agreement is the result of those negotiations. This settlement shall not be deemed an admission by Respondent of any allegations in the complaint, nor by Complainant of any defenses in the Answer.

#### SETTLEMENT TERMS

- 5. The Signatories agree to the following terms:
- a. I-70 Mobile City will cease charging tenants of the I-70 Community separately for their individual sewer usage/service;
- b. For all tenants eligible for water services, I-70 Mobile City shall charge such tenants the same rate for water services;

<sup>1</sup> See Staff's Complaint.

- c. The amount charged each tenant for water service shall only be for the tenant's water usage multiplied by the Bates City Water Company Rate (calculated by taking the "Total Amount Due" on Bates City Water Company bills divided by the "Usage");
- d. Other than the amounts in paragraph 5(c), I-70 Mobile City shall not charge tenants any other fee or charge for water or sewer service, except as required by a state or federal regulatory agency (e.g., Missouri Department of Natural Resources Primacy Fees). Examples of water or sewer service related fees or charges include, but are not limited to, to following: meter fees, reconnection fees, shut off or utility late fees);
- e. I-70 Mobile City shall not evict any tenant solely for nonpayment of water service;
- f. I-70 Mobile City will promptly notify the tenants of the I-70 Community that, as of April 12024, it will no longer bill each tenant account separately for sewer usage apart from lot rent. Documentation of such notification shall filed in the docket for this case (and designated Confidential) within 10 days after the Commission enters an order approving this Stipulation and Agreement;
- g. I-70 Mobile City agrees to file, in the docket for this case, documentation of tenants' monthly statements with tenant personal

information redacted for five (5) randomly-selected tenants for three (3) months, beginning with the April 2024 monthly rent statements, within 15 days after the monthly statements are issued to its tenants. The statements shall include tenants' account numbers so Staff can verify that the bills were randomly selected. The statements shall be designated and filed as Confidential documents;

h. Upon receipt of the documentation referenced in subparagraph 5.g., above, the Staff will dismiss its Complaint in this case and close its file.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 6. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between Staff and I-70 Mobile City, and there are no other oral, written, express or implied promises, agreements, representations, or inducements not specified in this Agreement. The Recitals are incorporated into this Agreement.
- 7. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Missouri.
- 8. Binding Effect. This Agreement is binding upon Staff, I-70 Mobile City, and inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective heirs, personal representatives, administrators, successors, and assigns. Each

signatory to this Agreement represents and warrants that he or she is fully authorized to enter into this Agreement on behalf of his or her client(s).

- 9. Modification and Waiver. No modification or waiver of any provision in this Agreement, nor consent to any departure therefrom, shall in any event be effective unless the same shall be in writing and signed by the party to be charged therewith and then such modification, waiver, or consent shall be effective only in the specific instance and for the specific purpose for which given.
- 10. Default. In the event that either party violates any term of this Agreement, or fails to perform any term of this Agreement, the other party shall have the right to pursue all available remedies at law to enforce the Agreement.
- 11. If I-70 Mobile City fails to perform the actions as agreed upon by this Agreement and Stipulation, the Staff maintains its authority to take any actions against I-70 Mobile City and pursue any and all remedies available under the law.
- 12. The parties agree that this Stipulation and Agreement will not be used as evidence or otherwise in any pending or future civil or administrative action against the Commission or I-70 Mobile City, except an action to enforce the terms of this Stipulation and Agreement. Assuming I-70 Mobile City

complies with the terms of this stipulation, the Staff agrees not to pursue any other or greater remedies or fines in connection with the conduct referenced above unless this Stipulation and Agreement is rescinded.

- 13. Agreement. This Stipulation and Agreement is a negotiated settlement and is being entered into solely for the purpose of settling all contested issues in the two cases captioned above and any matters of the same type that occurred or which are alleged to have occurred prior to the date of this Agreement, contains the entire understanding between the Signatories hereto, and contains all terms and conditions pertaining to the compromise and settlement of the disputes referenced herein.
- 14. Except as otherwise expressly specified herein, none of the Signatories to this Stipulation and Agreement shall be deemed to have approved or acquiesced in any ratemaking or procedural principle, including, without limitation, any method of cost determination or cost allocation, depreciation or revenue-related method, or any service or payment standard; and none of the Signatories shall be prejudiced or bound in any manner by the terms of this Stipulation and Agreement in this or any other Commission or judicial review or other proceeding, except as otherwise expressly specified herein. Nothing in this Stipulation and Agreement shall preclude Staff in future proceedings from providing recommendations as requested by the

Commission nor limit Staffs access to information in any other proceedings.

Nothing in this Stipulation and Agreement shall be deemed a waiver of any statute or Commission regulation.

- 15. This Agreement has resulted from extensive negotiations among the Signatories, and the terms hereof are interdependent. If the Commission does not approve this Agreement unconditionally and without modification, then this Agreement shall be void and no Signatory shall be bound by any of the agreements or provisions hereof.
- 16. This Agreement embodies the entirety of the agreements between the Signatories in this case on the issues addressed herein and may be modified by the Signatories only by a written amendment executed by all of the Signatories.
- 17. If approved and adopted by the Commission, this Agreement shall constitute a binding agreement among the Signatories. The Signatories shall cooperate in defending the validity and enforceability of this Agreement and the operation of this Agreement according to its terms.
- 18. In the event the Commission accepts the specific terms of this Stipulation and Agreement without condition or modification, the Signatories waive, with respect to the issues resolved herein: their respective rights pursuant to § 536.080,1, RSMo, to present testimony, to cross-examine

witnesses, and to present oral argument and written briefs; their respective rights to seek rehearing pursuant to § 386.500, RSMo, and their respective rights to judicial review pursuant to § 386.510, RSMo. These waivers apply only to a Commission order approving this Stipulation and Agreement without condition or modification issued in this proceeding and only to the issues that are resolved hereby. These waivers do not apply to any issues explicitly not addressed by this Stipulation.

- 19. The Signatories agree that any and all discussions, suggestions, or memoranda reviewed or discussed, related to this Stipulation shall be privileged and shall not be subject to discovery, admissible in evidence, or in any way used, described or discussed.
- 20. This Stipulation does not constitute a contract with the Commission. Acceptance of this Stipulation by the Commission shall not be deemed as constituting an agreement on the part of the Commission to forego the use of any discovery, investigatory, or other statutory powers which the Commission presently has. Thus, nothing in this Stipulation is intended to impinge or restrict in any manner the exercise by the Commission of any statutory right, including the right to access information.
- 21. The terms set forth herein are an appropriate disposition of this matter and entry of this Stipulation and Agreement is in the public interest.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, the undersigned Signatories respectfully request that the Commission issue an Order approving the terms and conditions of this Stipulation and Agreement.

## Respectfully Submitted,

STAFF OF THE MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Carolyn H. Kerr

Missouri Bar Number 45718

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Missouri Public Service Commission

Authorized member

I-70 MOBILE CITY, INC.

#### STATE OF MISSOURI

#### OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

I have compared the preceding copy with the original on file in this office and I do hereby certify the same to be a true copy therefrom and the whole thereof.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Public Service Commission, at Jefferson City, Missouri, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

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Nancy Dippell Secretary

# MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION March 27, 2024

File/Case No. WC-2022-0295

**MO PSC Staff** 

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Enclosed find a certified copy of an Order or Notice issued in the above-referenced matter(s).

Sincerely,

Nancy Dipper Secretary

Recipients listed above with a valid e-mail address will receive electronic service. Recipients without a valid e-mail address will receive paper service.