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SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF MISSOURI

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GENERAL COUNSEL
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July 12, 2023

Mr. Joe Brazil
#20 Walnut Springs Road
Defiance, Missouri 63341

Re: Elections Complaint

Dear Mr. Brazil:

Our office has received your complaint alleging that St. Charles County election officials violated the elections laws by tampering with machines. More specifically, you allege that Kurt Bahr admitted to breaking the "certified seal" and cutting wires on voting equipment.

After looking into this matter, we have determined that there was no violation of Missouri's election laws.¹ First, the wires were never cut. According to the vender of the equipment, the vendor disabled the Cat 5 connection from the motherboard after routine maintenance because it was no longer needed to update the equipment (See Attached Letter). Furthermore, while St. Charles election officials placed a bracket over the RJ45 access port and applied a numerical security seal, the bracket was designed to rotate over the access port to block objects from being inserted into the port. A vendor rendering a connection that is no longer needed inoperable does not violate the election laws. Likewise, the placement of a bracket and seal over an access port also cannot rise to the level of an election offense.

Therefore, our office is closing out this matter and will take no further action regarding this complaint. If you have any question feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Jung
General Counsel

¹ Your complaint also alleges that the cutting of the wires "terminates the contract with the vendor." Since warranty issues are not an election issue, we take no position on this matter.



HENRY M ADKINS & SON, INC

Unisyn Voting Solutions equipment / Tenex Poll Books / Election Services
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July 11, 2023

Ms. Chrissy Peters
Director of Elections
Office of Missouri Secretary of State, Jay Ashcroft
600 W. Main St.
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Ms. Peters:

The Unisyn Voting Solutions (Unisyn) OpenElect Voting Optical (OVO) is equipped with an RJ45 (ethernet) port on the back of the OVO case. This RJ45 port is connected to the RJ45 port located on the motherboard of the OVO via Category 5 (Cat 5) ethernet cable. This system was put in place to connect to a closed network to perform software and firmware upgrades to the unit. All communication via this Cat 5 ethernet cable requires communication through a trusted source computer with Unisyn's Software Server application installed which uses the Advanced Encryption Standards (AES) 256-bit key algorithm. Connection to any component of the OVO via this RJ45 port through an untrusted source is unattainable.

Henry M. Adkins & Son, Inc. (Adkins) technicians have been trained to install software and firmware upgrades, perform preventative maintenance, conduct technical diagnostics, and repairs to all equipment manufactured by Unisyn Voting Solutions. This training was conducted by qualified Unisyn technicians in both Unisyn and Adkins home offices located in Vista (San Diego) California and Clinton Missouri respectively.

On January 26 and 27, 2021, Adkins' technicians conducted routine preventative maintenance (PM) on St. Charles County Missouri's Unisyn Voting Solutions (Unisyn) OpenElect Voting Optical (OVO) precinct scanners. During this PM, Adkins' technicians upgraded St. Charles County's OVOs to Unisyn OpenElect Version 2.1 certified by the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) on October 18, 2019 (EAC Certification Number UNS10121966-2.1) and by the Missouri Office of the Secretary of State on February 27, 2020. The Cat 5 connection in question was used at this time to install the OpenElect Version 2.1 Validator. The Validator uses AES 256-bit encryption to reliably determine that the source is from a trusted computer. After validation, OpenElect Version 2.1 software is thereby installed.

OpenElect Software Version 2.1 was the last software upgrade requiring the use of the external RJ45 port via Cat 5 to the motherboard. For this reason, fully trained and qualified Adkins' technicians unplugged the Cat 5 connection from the motherboard of the OVO rendering the RJ45 port on the rear of the OVO useless. Attached to this letter is a picture of the inside of the OVO showing the disconnected Cat 5 cable.

The OVO also has a built-in bracket which can be rotated to cover the RJ45 port on the rear of the OVO. St. Charles County has closed this bracket which physically blocks inserting any object into the RJ45 port. They have installed a numerical security seal and applied clear packing tape which will prevent the accidental breaking of the seal. Attached to this letter is a picture of the rear of the OVO showing the RJ45 jack concealed.

In conclusion, the RJ45 port was rendered useless following the installation of Unisyn OpenElect Software Version 2.1. Trained Adkins' technicians disconnected the Category 5 ethernet cable connecting the external RJ45 port on the rear of the OVO case to the RJ45 port on the OVO motherboard during routine preventative maintenance and after the successful installation of the software upgrade. In addition, St. Charles County staff have covered the RJ45 port using the Unisyn installed bracket with adding a security seal and packing tape to keep it in place. Both the physical disconnection of the Cat 5 cable and sealing the RJ45 jack closed provide St. Charles County with additional security measures. Should none of these measures be in place, the AES 256-bit encryption used by the Unisyn system would render any unwarranted attempt to gain access futile. The OpenElect Voting Optical (OVO) precinct scanners used by St. Charles County Missouri are in working order and none of the security measures taken have any unintended or adverse consequences.

Please let me know should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dustin Vanderburg', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dustin Vanderburg
Vice President
Henry M. Adkins & Son, Inc.