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March 23, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to tell you a little about the Election Assistant. The City of St. Louis was under a consent decree (court order) by the Department of Justice. This came about because of the 2000 General Election. The Justice Department determined that we needed a more efficient way of processing the voter at the polls.

In the August primary of 2004 we turned to the Election Assistant to help us process questionable voters. During the August primary 40 palms (EA's) were used. Because of the success we experienced in the August primary with the Election Assistant, we decided to have the Election Assistant in every polling place for the November Election.

In November of 2004 we experience the most successful election the city has ever had. There are several reasons why we were so successful. Most of the credit goes to our staff and election judges. Another reason was the use of the palm (Election Assistant) that day. It helped to reduce the call volume at the main office because the voter were being processed at the polls, it helped to speed up the lines at the polling place and reduced the number of provisional ballots.

In November of 2000 the City of St. Louis was viewed as an embarrassment in the way it conducted elections but in 2004 St. Louis was recognized by the EAC in how it conducted the November 2004 election. Because of the success we had in November the Department of Justice lifted the consent decree (court order) we had hanging over our heads.

I would highly recommend the use of the Election Assistant to any looking to improve the way it processes the voter at the polls.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (314) 622-4399.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James P. O'Toole".

James P. O'Toole
Democratic Director of Elections

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