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MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022

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COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
LISA DEELEY, CHAIRWOMAN
SETH BLUESTEIN, COMMISSIONER
OMAR SABIR, COMMISSIONER

HELD AT:
Francis Myers Rec Center
5801 Kingsessing Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

REPORTED BY: Samantha Clearfield

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

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CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Good morning. I call the February 23, 2022, meeting of the Philadelphia City Commissioners to order.

First I will preserve the order and decorum of these meetings. Everyone in attendance should be on notice that shouting out or interrupting the proceedings will not be tolerated. Those who violate this will be asked to leave.

The Sunshine Act permits anyone attending a public meeting to object to a perceived violation at any time during the meeting.

If you chose to do so please succinctly state your objection, objecting is not an opportunity for speechmaking.

We will now be moving to public comment. Commenters shall state where they live or if they are not a resident of Philadelphia, that they are a Philadelphia

1 taxpayer. Public comment it is not an
2 opportunity for dialogue or Q&A, it is public
3 comment a chance for you to tell us what you
4 think.

5 Each speaker shall have two minutes.
6 However I may extend this time at my
7 discretion. All public comments must be
8 relevant or germane to board business.

9 Finally it is my responsibility to
10 preserve the order and decorum of the meetings
11 as such profane, slanderous, discriminatory or
12 personal attacks will not be tolerated. Is
13 there anyone here wishing to provide public
14 comment.

15 MR. GARELLA: Good morning
16 Commisssioners. My name is Rich Garella. I'm
17 with Protect Our Vote Philly. POVPhilly.org.
18 First I just want to thank whoever it is that
19 decided to jump these meetings around to
20 different communities.

21 I think that's a terrific idea to get
22 out in the communities so that more people
23 have the opportunity to come to these
24 meetings. I don't know who's idea it is I'm

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1 going to assume it's Commissioner Bluestein
2 who maybe if not please correct me. I guess
3 it is. So thanks for that.

4 I mean you know that you can go ahead
5 and answer if you want. Anyway it's a great
6 idea I think it is good for the Sunshine Act.
7 We do appreciate it.

8 One thing you probably have noticed
9 that aside from me nobody from the community
10 has actually showed up here and I think part
11 of that is contributable to the fact that
12 these meetings have been really just
13 unrewarded and discouraging for the public as
14 possible.

15 I think you hopefully agree that the
16 public is important. That you agree with the
17 Legislature who had passed the Sunshine Act
18 wanting to make the functioning of the
19 governmental bodies such as this one
20 transparent to the public and let the public
21 participate when deliberations are being made.

22 But when you hold meetings where there
23 is no real deliberation, where everything is
24 predecided, when there's no sign to you

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1 listening or paying attention to people who
2 make public comment. You won't answer the
3 simplest and most basic --

4 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: -- thank you --

5 MR. GARELLA: -- questions that the
6 public asks. It is very discouraging and I
7 think that explains why there is no one here.

8 If you corrected those things it would
9 be terrific. Thank you.

10 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: We will now move to
11 Commissioner Bluestein for emailed public
12 comment.

13 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: There were no
14 emailed public comments by 9:45 a.m.

15 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank you. We will
16 now proceed to old business. I call on
17 Garrett Dietz to read the report from the
18 Executive Director.

19 MR. DIETZ: Good morning, Commissioners.

20 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Good morning
21 Garrett.

22 MR. DIETZ: The Sunshine report today.
23 First from the County Board of Elections Unit:
24 We're still waiting a court order from the PA

1 Supreme Court regarding the petition signing
2 calender.

3 We are currently accepting absentee and
4 mail-in ballot applications online at
5 vote.pa.gov or by paper application.

6 As of yesterday, we have processed all
7 paper ballot applications received through
8 Wednesday and all online ballot applications
9 received through Saturday.

10 We have approved 22,397 vote-by-mail
11 applications for the Primary, which is 16,394
12 added from last week's total. Of those
13 applications processed so far, 7,936 are paper
14 applications and 14,461 are electronic
15 applications.

16 From the Voters Registration Unit: For
17 the election cycle to date, we have processed
18 60,384 applications of which 3,250 were paper.
19 We are sending out 3,533 ID cards this week
20 for a total of 42,389.

21 Correspondence, Imaging and Data units
22 are processing applications, return ID cards,
23 mail-in ballot applications and return
24 letters.

1 The report from the Election Board
2 unit: 8,058 letters were sent out to
3 perspective board workers. So far 389 poll
4 workers confirmed they are working this
5 upcoming Primary. E-mails will be sent out
6 this upcoming Friday online training. The
7 unit will start making calls next Monday to
8 try to recruit more workers.

9 The first seminar class will be held at
10 United Lutheran Seminary starting February
11 28th, March 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th.

12 From the Voting Machine Warehouse Unit:
13 The technicians are currently finishing up the
14 fleet of machines and doing a postelection
15 functionality test.

16 And from the Vote By Mail Center Unit:
17 The unit has been assisting in the process of
18 online mail-in ballot applications.

19 And that's it for me today.

20 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank you, Garrett.
21 We will now move to new business. Any added
22 agenda items? Commissioner Bluestein do you
23 have any new items to be added to the agenda?

24 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I don't.

1 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Commisisoner Sabir
2 do you have any new items to be added to the
3 agenda?

4 COMMISSIONER SABIR: No, I don't have
5 any. I would like to thank the Chair for
6 getting us out in the open.

7 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank you everyone
8 for coming all the way out here today. So
9 thank you everyone and thanks for everyone
10 being here.

11 With no items on the agenda this
12 meeting is adjourned to the call of the chair.

13 * * * * *

14 (Whereupon the meeting concluded at 11:06 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence noted are contained fully and accurately in the stenographic notes taken by me upon the foregoing matter, and that this is a correct transcript of the same.

Court Reporter-Notary Public

(The foregoing certification of this transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the same by any means, unless under the direct control and/or supervision of the certifying reporter.)

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