

1 OFFICE OF THE PHILADELPHIA CITY COMMISSIONERS

2 ELECTION BOARD MEETING

3 - - -

4
5 Wednesday, October 13, 2021

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7 Election Board Meeting, taken
8 pursuant to notice, was held at 1515 Arch
9 Street, 18th Floor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
10 19102 commencing at 11:00 a.m., on the above
11 date, before Torre Lynn Adams, a Court Reporter
12 and Notary Public in the Commonwealth of
13 Pennsylvania.

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1 APPEARANCES :

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3 COMMISSIONER LISA DEELEY - CHAIRWOMAN

4 COMMISSIONER AL SCHMIDT - VICE CHAIR

5 COMMISSIONER OMAR SABIR

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NICK CUSTODIO

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SETH BLUESTEIN

8 DEPUTY DEVIN UQDAH

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1 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Good morning.
2 First I would make a call to order. This is the
3 County Board of Elections meeting. Today is
4 October the 13th. We will start off with public
5 comment.

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

12 The Sunshine Act permits anyone
13 attending a public meeting to object to a
14 perceived violation at any time during the
15 meeting. If you choose to do so, please
16 succinctly state your objection. Objecting is
17 not an opportunity for speechmaking.

18 We will now move to public
19 comment. Commenter shall state where they live
20 or if they're not a resident of Philadelphia,
21 that they're a Philadelphia taxpayer. Public
22 comment is not an opportunity for dialogue or
23 Q&A. It's a public comment, a chance for you to
24 tell us what you think. Each speaker shall have

1 two minutes; however, I may extend this time at
2 my discretion. All public comments must be
3 relevant or germane to order of business.

4 Finally it's my responsibility to
5 preserve the order and decorum of the meetings.
6 As such, profane, discriminatory or personal
7 attacks will not be tolerated.

8 Please note that we will be doing
9 polling place changes later in the meeting. So,
10 anyone wishing to be heard on polling place
11 change should wait until that time.

12 Anyone wishing to offer public
13 comments, please step forward.

14 MR. GARELLA: Good morning,
15 Commissioners. My name is Rich Garella from
16 South Philadelphia. I'm speaking on behalf of
17 Protect Our Vote Philly.

18 We noticed on the agenda today
19 that there's a couple of drop boxes being added,
20 which is great, and a motion to add a drop box
21 at the Warehouse which makes a lot of sense for
22 the reasons stated on Twitter.

23 What we're just a little puzzled
24 about is why if there's -- why there has to be a

1 motion on the drop box at the Warehouse when
2 there haven't been motions or votes on the other
3 locations. In other words, if there has to be a
4 vote on the drop box location, should there not
5 be votes on the other ones or maybe there
6 doesn't have to be any, in which case it's
7 unclear what the purpose of this is. There
8 might be a good reason. We're just wondering if
9 it would be possible for any of you to clarify
10 that.

11 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Anything else?

12 MR. GARELLA: Yes, just waiting to
13 see --

14 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Public comment
15 is not an opportunity for Q&A.

16 MR. GARELLA: As you probably
17 know, the Office of Open Records does recommend
18 that agencies answer questions when reasonable,
19 and I can't think of any other boards or
20 agencies that actually seem to have a rule
21 against answering questions that even seems to
22 muzzle the other two Commissioners who are
23 independently elected. We've brought this up
24 before, and we would hope that Commissioners

1 would want to communicate with the public --

2 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Two minutes.

3 MR. GARELLA: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Thank you.

5 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: We will now

6 proceed to E-mail public comment.

7 Secretary Commissioner Omar Sabir.

8 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Good morning.

9 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Good morning.

10 COMMISSIONER SABIR: All comments
11 that were E-mailed by 9:45 a.m. were shared with
12 Commissioners and the Deputies at 10 o'clock
13 a.m., and have been provided to each
14 Commissioner at the beginning of the meeting and
15 are available at the public comment table.

16 We received two comments from
17 Cecilia Bullard and Michelle Blair.

18 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: I reviewed
19 the public commented by E-mail and move that
20 they be included in the record, or ask that they
21 be included in the record.

22 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: I have also
23 reviewed it. Please move the comments into the
24 record. Thank you.

1 We will proceed to old business
2 with s report from Joe Lynch, the executive
3 director.

4 MR. LYNCH: Good morning,
5 Commissioners.

6 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Good morning,
7 Joe.

8 MR. LYNCH: Today's Sunshine
9 Report for October 13, 2021. The County Board
10 of Elections report, as of yesterday they have
11 approved 94,766 vote-by-mail applications. Of
12 those 62,412 are paper applications and 32,354
13 are electronic applications. This is including
14 the permanent ballot voters who applied in the
15 primary. Ballot application processing is
16 up-to-date through Monday.

17 Second Friday preelection or cycle
18 five campaign finance reports should be complete
19 through October 18th, and must be filed by
20 October 22nd. 24 hour daily reporting begins
21 October 19th. 24 hour reporting is required for
22 any candidates or political committee authorized
23 by a candidate and created solely for the
24 purpose of influencing the November election on

1 behalf of that candidate which receives any
2 contribution or pledge of \$500 or more, or any
3 persons making an independent expenditure of
4 \$500 or more.

5 The deadline to petition the Court
6 of Common Pleas regarding appointments to vacant
7 Election Board workers positions is Wednesday,
8 October 13th. Petitions can be submitted in
9 City Hall Room 295 or on the Court of Common
10 Pleas website. Court will be held the following
11 Wednesday on October 20th.

12 The voter registration unit for
13 the election cycle to date, they have processed
14 89,354 applications, of which 6,650 were paper.
15 All applications are up-to-date. The data unit
16 is working on paper applications, return letters
17 and are proofing the paper apps. The imaging
18 unit is processing electronic apps, pulling
19 deceased from the DUPE room and doing
20 corrections. Correspondence is working on
21 returned letters and pulling deceased.
22 Documents units is working on street list,
23 mailing appeals and ID cards. This week they
24 mailed out 4,309 ID cards. With the close of

1 polling place changes they will begin printing
2 ID cards for the changes and folding and
3 labeling them.

4 To date the vote-by-mail unit has
5 printed and sent out 93,939 mail-in ballots and
6 they have received 11,666 ballots back. The
7 unit has no backlog and are processing the
8 requests as soon as they come in.

9 The Election Board Unit last week
10 the United Lutheran Seminary there was 389 pole
11 workers that came out for training. Overall
12 1,241 pole workers attended in-person training.

13 Online training as of today is 651
14 in total, confirmed working is 5,265. Total
15 messages left for Board workers is 775. Total
16 not working is 1,775. Those who have not been
17 contacted is 1,253, they are the wards that are
18 excluded. So that's how many people haven't
19 been contacted in those wards.

20 This week they are at West
21 Philadelphia High School and Marianna Brasetti
22 Academy. So there's two seminars going on this
23 week.

24 That's it. That's all I have.

1 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Thank you, Joe.

2 We will now move to a report from
3 the Deputies. Deputy Commissioner Nick
4 Custodio.

5 COMMISSIONER CUSTODIO: Good
6 morning, Commissioners.

7 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Good morning.

8 COMMISSIONER CUSTODIO: Today City
9 workers are installing a drop box at 5700
10 Haverford Avenue and 5800 Ridge Avenue. These
11 boxes were picked up this morning and will be
12 opened and publicized on PhiladelphiaVoters.com
13 today.

14 With these installations in the
15 West and the Northwest, we now have one more to
16 go to complete the placements previously
17 authorized by the Board, and that is in the
18 southwest. And we are working to find a
19 location for that box. Thank you.

20 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Thank you,
21 Nick.

22 We will now move on to new
23 business. Charlie Stroehman will now deal with
24 polling place relocations. Is there anyone here

1 who would like to speak on the moving of a
2 polling place?

3 Seeing none, Charlie.

4 MR. STROEHMAN: Good morning,
5 Commissioners.

6 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Good morning,
7 Charlie.

8 MR. STROEHMAN: A little update on
9 the polling places. Everything is secured but
10 one polling place, and that's going to be heard
11 at a hearing after today. It's a simple move,
12 so don't see any problems with it.

13 Moving onto the hearings today.
14 First one is the 5th Ward, 35th Division, moving
15 from the Convention Center to the old First
16 Reformed Church, and that is due to voter
17 convenience.

18 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: I motion that
19 we approve the proposed move, Fifth Ward, 35th
20 Division.

21 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

22 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: I vote Aye.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Aye.

24 (All in favor).

1 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Motion carried.

2 MR. STROEHMAN: The next will be
3 the 8th Ward, the 23th Division, moving out of
4 Riverside Presbyterian to Franklin Institute,
5 and that is due to the flooding several months
6 ago.

7 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: I motion that
8 we approve the proposed move, 8th Ward, 23rd
9 Division.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

11 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: All in favor?

12 (All in favor).

13 MR. STROEHMAN: The third one will
14 be 11th ward, 1st Division moving out of Lehigh
15 Avenue Holdings to the Woodstock Homes Community
16 Center, and that is due to a refusal.

17 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: I motion that
18 we approve the proposed move, 11th Ward, 1st
19 Division.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

21 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Aye.

22 (All in favor).

23 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Motion carried.

24 MR. STROEHMAN: The next one will

1 be in the 19th Ward, the 10th Division moving
2 out of Norris Square United Presbyterian Church
3 to a garage at 2354 North Mascher Street, and
4 moving back into the Division.

5 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: I motion that
6 we approve the proposed move 19th Ward, 10th
7 Division.

8 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

9 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Aye.

10 (All in favor).

11 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Motion carried.

12 MR. STROEHMAN: The next 29th Ward
13 in the Fourth Division moving out of Sharswood
14 Senior Towers at 1515 North 24th Street to the
15 Sharswood Townhouses at 1450 North 24th Street.
16 That is due to a refusal from up above.

17 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Thank you,
18 Charlie.

19 We received two public comments
20 concerning this move. Can you please let us
21 know what our options are here?

22 MR. STROEHMAN: So, 2094, which I
23 just announced, and 2097 which will be my next
24 announcement, they are both due to a refusal

1 from up above. So what we're doing is putting
2 one of the divisions in Townhouses Two and one
3 of the divisions in Townhouses One, which is
4 only a couple doors away from each other and
5 it's in good proximity to the voters.

6 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: By up
7 above --

8 MR. STROEHMAN: Vice President of
9 PHA.

10 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Thank you,
11 Charlie.

12 While we're on the topic, I just
13 want to ask, I see that there's a large amount
14 of work here that your unit has been doing with
15 regard to these changes. What is the status of
16 the signage, signage been out at all these
17 places?

18 MR. STROEHMAN: Yes.

19 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Thank you.

20 MR. STROEHMAN: You're welcome.

21 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: I motion that
22 we approve the proposed move, 2094.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

24 (All in favor).

1 MR. STROEHMAN: Next one would be
2 29th Ward, 7th Division which I spoke about a
3 little bit, Sharswood Towers, 1515 North 24th
4 Street, refusal up above, to the Sharswood
5 Townhouse One, 1425 North 23rd Street.

6 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: I motion that
7 we approve the proposed move, Ward 29, Division
8 7.

9 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

10 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Aye.

11 (All in favor)

12 MR. STROEHMAN: The next one will
13 be 30th Ward, the 12th Division moving from the
14 YMCA Christian Street Branch to the Birchwood
15 Grays Ferry Senior Apartments, and moving back
16 into the Division.

17 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: I motion that
18 we approve the proposed move, 30th Ward, 12th
19 Division.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

21 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Ayes?

22 (All in favor).

23 MR. STROEHMAN: The next two are
24 together 373 and 5 moving out of Fairway

1 Apartments Community Center, 2411 North 11th
2 Street to the Hope Partnership For Education,
3 that is due to the Fairway Apartments being
4 closed.

5 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: I motion that
6 we approve proposed moves 37th Ward, 3rd
7 Division, 5th Division.

8 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

9 Madam chairman: Ayes?

10 (All in favor).

11 MR. STROEHMAN: The next hearing
12 that I'm going to pull today to be the 38th
13 Ward, 11th Division. We were going to move it
14 out of the Squash Courts, but the Squash Courts
15 reconsidered this morning and they're going to
16 allow us to use the Squash Courts for the
17 November 2nd election.

18 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: Thank you
19 for your work on that, Charlie. In that case
20 where there's signage up, we'll take the signage
21 down?

22 MR. STROEHMAN: Yes, that's
23 correct.

24 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Thank you.

1 MR. STROEHMAN: The next two are
2 all together, 39, 15 and 39, 20, moving out of
3 IBEW local union hall to the Snyder Venue
4 Congregation Church at 300 Snyder Avenue. That
5 is due to refusal, the building is going to be
6 knocked down.

7 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: I motion that
8 we approve the proposed move, 39th Ward, 15th
9 Division; 39th Ward, 20th Division.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

11 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Ayes?

12 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

13 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Aye.

14 (All in favor).

15 MR. STROEHMAN: The next one again
16 will be in the 39th again, in the 45th Division.
17 South Philadelphia Biking Clubhouse to East
18 Passyunk Community Center, that is due to a
19 refusal.

20 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: I make a motion
21 that we approve the proposed move, 39th Ward,
22 45th Division.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

24 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Aye?

1 (All in favor).

2 MR. STROEHMAN: The next one will
3 be 40th Ward, 49th Division from residence at
4 3021 South 74th Street to the garage at 3025
5 South 74th Street. The person at the residence
6 3021 had moved, so we just moved it up the
7 street.

8 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: I motion that
9 we approve the proposed move, 40th Ward, 49th
10 Division.

11 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

12 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: All in favor,
13 Aye.

14 (All in favor).

15 MR. STROEHMAN: The next three is
16 in the 44th Ward, 1st Division, Bibleway Baptist
17 Church to Conestoga Rec Center. The next three
18 are all the same, the elevator is broken again.
19 So, we're just moving back to the location where
20 we were the last election, but I will announce
21 the next two separately. So that would be 4401
22 right now. That would be from Bibleway to
23 Conestoga Rec Center.

24 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Okay. And the

1 elevator is broken?

2 MR. STROEHMAN: Yes.

3 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: I motion that
4 we approve the proposed move 44th Ward, 1st
5 Division; 44th Ward, 5th Division; and 44th
6 Ward, 19th Division -- oh, I'm sorry, my
7 mistake. I read the paperwork, I apologize.

8 I motion that we approve 44th
9 Ward, 1st Division.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

11 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: All in favor?

12 (All in favor).

13 MR. STROEHMAN: The next one would
14 be 44th Ward, 5th Division from Bibleway Baptist
15 to Heston School, again elevator is broken.

16 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: I motion that
17 we approve the proposed move 44th Ward, 5th
18 Division.

19 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

20 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Aye?

21 (All in favor).

22 MR. STROEHMAN: The next will be
23 proposed move 44th Ward, 19th Division, again
24 Bibleway to Simpson Fletcher Senior Apartments,

1 again, the elevator is broken.

2 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: I motion that
3 we approve the proposed move 44th Ward, 19th
4 Division.

5 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

6 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Aye?

7 (All in favor).

8 COMMISSIONER SAMIR: If I may. I
9 have a question about 5211 before we go. Is
10 that inside the same division, the Settlement
11 Music School 5211?

12 MR. STROEHMAN: It's adjacent to
13 it.

14 COMMISSIONER SAMIR: So it's not?

15 MR. STROEHMAN: No.

16 COMMISSIONER SAMIR: Okay.

17 MR. STROEHMAN: Next 52nd Ward,
18 11th Division from Sharon Baptist Church to
19 Settlement Music School, and that is due to
20 voter convenience.

21 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: I motion that
22 we approve the proposed move 52nd Ward, 11th
23 Division.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

1 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: All in favor?

2 (All in favor).

3 MR. STROEHMAN: The next two are
4 57th Ward, 4th and 6th Division, Old Northeast
5 Municipal Building to the Welsh Road library,
6 which is actually right next door, and that is
7 both for voter convenience.

8 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: I motion that
9 we approve the proposed move, 57th Ward, 4th
10 Division and 6th Division.

11 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

12 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Aye?

13 (All in favor).

14 MR. STROEHMAN: And that's all I
15 have, Commissioner.

16 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Thank you.
17 What a tremendous undertaking you had on polling
18 places this season. Thank you and your staff.

19 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Moving on, I
20 just want to say I am very pleased to see that
21 we were able to add a box to the West
22 Philadelphia area and the southern part of
23 Northwest Philadelphia.

24 I know personally that our staff

1 is working hard to get one in the Southwest as
2 well. And we will continue to work to that end.

3 An additional need has arisen from
4 the change of mail ballots being sent directly
5 to the processing center facility at our
6 Warehouse as opposed to the previous address of
7 City Hall.

8 Voters have attempted to drive
9 their ballots directly there and give them to
10 the staff. And as you can imagine, this has
11 been taxing on the staff up there, and it
12 happens frequently enough that a staffer has had
13 to sit and wait by the door to service these
14 voters. This takes them away from other work
15 that they need to be performing.

16 A drop box is needed there to
17 provide the voters a means to return their
18 ballot that best works with the operational
19 needs of the facility. The location has a
20 security camera that we need to meet the DOS
21 requirements. Therefore, I motion that the
22 County Board of Elections shall place a drop box
23 outside our office at 11311 Roosevelt Boulevard.
24 The Deputies shall arrange for the installation

1 of the drop box and publicize the drop box
2 location when it is installed and opened for use
3 to the general public on Philadelphiavotes.com.

4 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

5 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: All in favor.

6 Aye.

7 (All in favor)

8 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Thank you.

9 That motion carries.

10 Commissioner Schmidt, do you have
11 any items to be added to today's agenda?

12 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: I do not.

13 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Commissioner

14 Sabir, do you have any items to add to the
15 agenda?

16 COMMISSIONER SABIR: I would like
17 to thank the Deputies for getting the box in
18 West Philadelphia. You know I'm a resident of
19 West Philadelphia. I've been getting a lot of
20 complaints about it, but I'm glad that the
21 Deputies were able to deliver.

22 So thank you, I appreciate that.

23 MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: Thank you,

24 Commissioner.

1 With no items remaining on the
2 agenda, this meeting is adjourned to the call of
3 the Chair.

4 (Whereupon, the meeting was
5 concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the witness
was duly sworn by me and that the deposition is
a true record of the testimony given by the
witness.

Torre Lynn Adams,
Court Reporter and Notary Public
Dated: November 4, 2021

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