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MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021

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COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- LISA DEELEY, CHAIRWOMAN
- AL SCHMIDT, COMMISSIONER
- OMAR SABIR, COMMISSIONER

HELD AT:  
11311 Roosevelt Boulevard  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

REPORTED BY: Samantha Clearfield

STREHLOW & ASSOCIATES  
COURT REPORTERS - VIDEOGRAPHERS  
54 FRIENDS LANE, SUITE 116  
NEWTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18940  
WWW.STREHLOWCOURTREPORTING.COM  
(215) 504-4622 FAX (215) 504-7155

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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 to order the December 15, 2021 meeting of the Philadelphia City Commissioners.

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 speech making.

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

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

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

8                   Finally it is my responsibility to  
9                   preserve the order and decorum of these  
10                  meetings. As such, profane, slanderous,  
11                  discriminatory or personal attacks will not be  
12                  tolerated.

13                  Is there anyone here for public  
14                  comment? Seeing none, we will now move to  
15                  Secretary Sabir for any emailed public  
16                  comment.

17                  COMMISSIONER SABIR: Good morning. All  
18                  comments that were emailed by 9:45 a.m. were  
19                  shared with the Commissioners and the Deputies  
20                  at 10:00 a.m. and have been provided to  
21                  Commissioner at the beginning of the meeting  
22                  and are available at the public comment table.  
23                  We received one comment from Rich Garella and  
24                  I have reviewed the comment and ask that it be

1 moved into the record.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Madam Chair,  
3 I've also reviewed the comment and ask that it  
4 be moved into the record.

5 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: I have also  
6 reviewed it. Please move the comment into the  
7 record.

8 We will now move onto new business. I  
9 would like to announce that this morning  
10 Commissioner Al Schmidt notified me that he is  
11 stepping down as vice chair.

12 He will continue to serve as  
13 commissioner until his resignation from the  
14 Board. Commissioner Sabir.

15 COMMISSIONER SABIR: I want to start by  
16 thanking my staff, my fellow commissioners for  
17 another successful election.

18 I will also like to congratulate  
19 Commissioner Schmidt on his appointment as  
20 president and CEO of the Committee of 70.

21 Commissioner Schmidt has served the  
22 City Commissioners with honor and prestige. I  
23 look forward to continue to working with him  
24 and the Committee of 70 in conjunction with my

1 previous task force to expand access to vote  
2 and keeping elections simple, safe and secure.

3 I make a motion that I be appointed to  
4 the new vacant position of vice chair.

5 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: I second and vote  
6 aye.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Aye.

8 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Motion carries. I  
9 motion to direct the Deputies to submit a PER  
10 and fill the vacancies in the department. Do  
11 I have a second?

12 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Second.

13 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: I vote aye.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Aye.

16 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Motion carries.

17 Tie breakers for Judge of Elections. We will  
18 call on Garrett Dietz.

19 MR. DIETZ: Good morning,  
20 Commissioners. I'll just quickly go over the  
21 rules of the road of our tie breaker that  
22 we'll have in a second. Races where one or  
23 more candidate is present will be prioritized  
24 as far as the drawing today.

1           The County Board will draw in order or  
2           ward division. If more than one person is  
3           present to draw for the same race, the  
4           candidate that was checked in first will draw  
5           first and so on.

6           The candidate that draws ball number  
7           one wins the position of Judge of Elections.  
8           To draw on behalf of the candidate as proxy,  
9           the proxy must have a letter signed by the  
10          candidate authorizing them to do so.

11          A County Board of Elections employee  
12          will draw for candidates not present. For all  
13          races where candidate or proxy is present we  
14          will use a random function in Excel to decide  
15          the tie breaker.

16          The candidate that draws the largest  
17          number in the random function will win the  
18          tie. Once a race has been drawn either in  
19          person or in Excel we will not re-do the tie  
20          breaker draw for any reason.

21          All board worker position winners will  
22          be mailed a certificate if not present. You  
23          can also wait and I can print them on demand  
24          in 10, 20 minutes if you wish.

1                   CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Garrett, just to be  
2 clear, these are for races where there are no  
3 -- where there is no majority inspector to  
4 break the tie, correct.

5                   MR. DIETZ: Correct. So in prudence,  
6 if there's a tie between two or more Judge of  
7 Election candidates, the Majority Inspector  
8 would break the tie. However, for these 17  
9 races there is no elected Majority Inspector.

10                  CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank you. Please  
11 proceed.

12                  MR. DIETZ: We have one person here.  
13 We have a Regina McTeague (ph) for Ward 56,  
14 Division 11 tied with Dominique Jones. Regina  
15 selects ball number one. Is there anybody  
16 else here for the tie.

17                  CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Is there anybody  
18 else for the tie breaker in the Judge of  
19 Elections race.

20                  MR. DIETZ: Then all other races will  
21 be decided by a random function in Excel.

22                  CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank you, Garrett.  
23 Commissioner Schmidt, do you have any items to  
24 be added to the agenda?

1                   COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: I do not, madam  
2                   Chair.

3                   CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Commissioner Sabir  
4                   had to leave due to an engagement. Devon, do  
5                   you have any additional items to add on his  
6                   behalf?

7                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER UQDAH: No, madam  
8                   chair.

9                   CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank you. Before  
10                  we adjourn -- since this is the last meeting  
11                  of the election season and barring any special  
12                  meeting, this will be Al's last meeting as  
13                  Commissioner.

14                  I would like to thank him for his  
15                  exceptional service to the voters and his  
16                  friendship and guidance over the years.

17                  Things started out for us kind of rocky  
18                  but we worked through that and a partnership  
19                  emerged that I believe has moved this  
20                  department to accomplish things that few  
21                  thought we ever could.

22                  I will miss him but I am comforted by  
23                  the fact that he isn't going far and I look  
24                  forward to working with him and his new



1 capacity at 70.

2 Al, before we adjourn would you like to  
3 say anything.

4 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Madam Chair,  
5 that's very kind of you. I just want to say  
6 what an honor its been to work with you over  
7 these years and through possibly the most  
8 challenging time in the history of our City  
9 for elections with implementing a new voting  
10 system, with implementing vote-by mail and all  
11 happening in a presidential election is  
12 probably unlike anything the City has ever  
13 seen before and because of your leadership it  
14 was a success.

15 I won't be going far. I might very  
16 well next time you see me sitting in that  
17 empty chair right over there across the room  
18 but you know we'll still stay in the election  
19 space and we'll still be working to make sure  
20 that all registered voters have their votes  
21 cast and counted.

22 I also want to thank the -- not just  
23 the executive, the exempt staff that we work  
24 with very closely everyday but the

1 professional staff that has been here for a  
2 long time and seen a lot of commissioners come  
3 and go.

4 Their dedication, their commitment,  
5 their hard work goes frequently unnoticed and  
6 that's usually because they're working  
7 evenings and they're working weekends and  
8 they're working around the clock away from  
9 their friends, away from their family and  
10 other responsibilities because it's clear how  
11 much they really care about elections and how  
12 much they're committed to do a good job and  
13 the work ethic.

14 So I would just like to thank them as  
15 well.

16 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank you  
17 Commissioner. With no items remaining on the  
18 agenda, this meeting is adjourned to the call  
19 of the chair. Thank you all.

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21 (Whereupon the meeting concluded at 11:10 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

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