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PHILADELPHIA CITY COMMISSIONERS

ELECTIONS MEETING

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Job No.: 39042

<p>1 ATTENDANCE</p> <p>2 OMAR SABIR, CHAIRMAN</p> <p>3 LISA M. DEELEY, VICE CHAIR</p> <p>4 SETH BLUESTEIN, COMMISSIONER</p> <p>5 ERIC KAPENSTEIN, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER</p> <p>6 RICH GARELLA</p> <p>7 STEPHANIE REID</p> <p>8 JOSEPH LYNCH</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>	<p>1 beginning their comments, commenters shall state where</p> <p>2 they live or, if they are not a resident of</p> <p>3 Philadelphia, that they are a Philadelphia taxpayer.</p> <p>4 Public comment is not an opportunity for Q/A. It is</p> <p>5 public comment, a chance for you to tell us what you</p> <p>6 think. Each speaker will have two minutes to speak,</p> <p>7 however, I may extend that time at my discretion.</p> <p>8 Public comment must concern matters only to today's</p> <p>9 meeting agenda.</p> <p>10 Finally, it is my responsibility to preserve the</p> <p>11 order and decorum of the meetings as such, profane,</p> <p>12 slanderous, discriminatory, or personal attacks will</p> <p>13 not be tolerated. Anyone wishing to offer public</p> <p>14 comment, please step forward.</p> <p>15 Good morning. Please state and spell your first</p> <p>16 and last name for the record and proceed with your</p> <p>17 comments.</p> <p>18 MR. GARELLA: My name is Rich -- my name is Rich</p> <p>19 Garella. That's G-A-R-E-L-L-A, and I'm a resident of</p> <p>20 South Philadelphia and I'm speaking on behalf of</p> <p>21 Protect Our Vote Philly. We appreciate -- we</p> <p>22 appreciate that this commission, this Board, has been</p> <p>23 voting on things like the proposed budget, which is</p> <p>24 never done before. We'd appreciate it more, and I</p> <p>25 think the public would be served better if such</p>
<p>1 P R O C E E D I N G S</p> <p>2 (11:00 a.m.)</p> <p>3 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Good morning. I call to order</p> <p>4 the meeting of the Philadelphia City Commissioners</p> <p>5 Board of Election for Wednesday, February 7th, 2024.</p> <p>6 This meeting is in compliance under the Pennsylvania</p> <p>7 Sunshine Act. The Philadelphia City Commissioners are</p> <p>8 a three-member bipartisan Board of elected officials</p> <p>9 in charge of elections and voter registration for the</p> <p>10 City of Philadelphia.</p> <p>11 Each commissioner is elected to serve a four-year</p> <p>12 term that coincides with the municipal election cycle</p> <p>13 for mayor and city council. The city commissioners</p> <p>14 set and enforce departmental policies and administer</p> <p>15 voter registration and conduct elections in accordance</p> <p>16 with federal and state voter registration election</p> <p>17 laws. The city commissioners were created by the</p> <p>18 Pennsylvania assembly in 1711 with a focus on taxation</p> <p>19 and held various regulatory powers throughout the</p> <p>20 centuries. The commissioner started maintaining voter</p> <p>21 less in 1799 and took on more election related</p> <p>22 responsibilities, but didn't emerge in its current</p> <p>23 form until the adaption of the Philadelphia Homewood</p> <p>24 Charter in 1951.</p> <p>25 We will start off with public comments. Before</p>	<p>1 motions actually had the substance of the motion</p> <p>2 included on the agenda that's distributed. So we</p> <p>3 don't know, for example, if today's vote on a budget</p> <p>4 is even voting -- is a re-vote of last week's, or if</p> <p>5 there were changes for the -- on the budget or what</p> <p>6 that budget is composed of, so it makes it very</p> <p>7 difficult for the public to meaningfully comment.</p> <p>8 Similarly, there was an item on the agenda last</p> <p>9 week about the hiring of a GIS analyst. It had no</p> <p>10 substance of who was being hired and what the salary</p> <p>11 was, it makes it hard for people to comment.</p> <p>12 I notice regarding today's proposal of rules for</p> <p>13 public meetings that you're saying that public comment</p> <p>14 has to be on items that are on the agenda. So again,</p> <p>15 without this detail, it's difficult to do that. Not</p> <p>16 only that, that rule in itself violates the Sunshine</p> <p>17 Act, which states clearly that public comment may be</p> <p>18 on business that is before or may be before this</p> <p>19 Board. The public can't possibly know, especially if</p> <p>20 you don't tell them what it is, what the substance of</p> <p>21 the business is. And as we know, additional items may</p> <p>22 be added to the agenda under certain circumstances.</p> <p>23 So I just want to point out that if you enforce</p> <p>24 such a rule, you would be, in fact, violating the</p> <p>25 Sunshine Act. And I think telling the public that</p>

<p>1 there is such a rule is a form of violation of the 2 Sunshine Act. The public should be told correctly 3 what the rule. I mean, would you be willing to 4 consider modifying these rules and behaviors to better 5 meet the Sunshine Act? 6 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you, Rich. Your time is 7 up. 8 MR. GARELLA: Okay. I'm just wondering -- I 9 mean, if you would just consider it. 10 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you. Your comments -- two 11 minutes are up. I gave you a couple extra little bit 12 more than two minutes. 13 MR. GARELLA: Okay. I'd hope that at some point 14 you would consider interacting with the public, 15 because -- 16 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you, Rich. Have a nice 17 day. I'll see you next week, I'm certain. Are there 18 any other speakers? 19 We will now move to report from the secretary for 20 email public comments. Commissioner Bluestein, are 21 there any email public comments? 22 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: There were no public 23 comments emailed by 9:45 a.m. 24 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you very much. We will 25 now proceed to old business. First, we have a report</p>	<p>1 can apply online at vote.philly.gov. So far, we've 2 approved 1,812 vote-by-mail applications. We process 3 333 paper applications and 1,479 electronic 4 applications. 4,025 online applications are waiting 5 to be processed. All units were notified this morning 6 to put a full court press on the process of these 7 applications. 8 The deadline for following cycle seven campaign 9 finance reports was January 31st, 2024, covering 10 transactions through December 31st, 2023. If you're a 11 candidate, a political committee, or a former 12 candidate for the 2023 election influencing a city 13 election, you must file a report. If you're using the 14 online system, you may return the necessary documents 15 by February 10th. 16 For our election Board report, we have 2,144 poll 17 workers registered for training. So far, 450 have 18 attended seminar training and 218 have attended 19 express poll refresher training sessions. We're also 20 working on polling location changes and resolving any 21 conflicts by the end of the week. We'll be sending out 22 notifications to confirm the use of polling sites for 23 the April 23rd primary elections. Thank you. That's 24 all I have today. 25 MS. REID: Good morning, Commissioners.</p>
<p>1 from our directors of election administration and 2 operation, which will be reported by our Director of 3 Elections Operation, Mr. Joe Lynch, and our Director 4 of Administration. 5 MR. LYNCH: For our voter registration report, we 6 processed a total of 50,824 registration applications 7 so far. Out of these, 4,070 were sent to us on paper. 8 We're keeping all registration records up-to-date and 9 making sure they're accurate. 10 We're also seeing a lot of requests for street 11 lists. We sent out 286,000 permanent mailers for 12 voting by mail on February 2nd and mailed 32,338 ID 13 cards this past Monday. 14 It is still petition season and we witnessed 15 significant engagements with 21 petitioners at 16 Delaware and Spring Garden. Our petition checking 17 hours extended from 8:30 to 7:00 p.m. Monday through 18 Thursday, with an additional hours on Fridays if 19 needed, and over the weekend from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 20 p.m. 21 For the County Board of Elections report, we're 22 still accepting applications and the deadline for the 23 primary election mail in applications is April 16th at 24 5:00 p.m. We're still -- we're also sending out 25 applications to those who receive them annually. You</p>	<p>1 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Good morning. 2 MS. REID: I'm delighted to address you today to 3 share some exciting updates from our weekly 4 administration report. First, we'll start with budget 5 and procurement. Our budget and procurement team have 6 been hard at work conducting bid openings for various 7 essentials such as lanyards, election materials, 8 envelopes, and disposable face masks. Orders have 9 been confirmed, approvals received, and we're geared 10 up for further bid solicitations. Additionally, we've 11 established a timeline for the updated logistics RFP 12 and have made significant progress on the required 13 updates for that. 14 For communications, we've been busy redesigning 15 crucial materials such as mail and ballot envelopes 16 and polling place relocation forms. All mail in 17 ballot materials have been submitted to the Department 18 of State for approval. We're also enhancing the 19 online presence and developing graphic templates for 20 social media, aiming to create a cohesive and engaging 21 communication strategy. Key dates are being defined 22 for our social media calendar and we're streamlining 23 the graphics request process to ensure seamless 24 communications. 25 Our engagement staff has made significant strides</p>

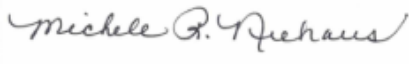
<p>1 in planning voter education events and securing 2 locations for voting machine demos. Collaboration 3 with other city departments is key as we work on 4 translating materials and ensuring accessibility for 5 all members of the community. 6 In Human Resources, the department has been hard 7 at work and has an exciting update. We are welcoming 8 new additions to our team with plans to hire temps, 9 clerk ones and trades helpers. Preparations are 10 underway for new orientations, ensuring a smooth 11 onboarding process for our expanding workforce. 12 And last, but not least our information 13 technology team is ensuring the seamless functioning 14 of all of our systems. From configuring printers to 15 updating terminals, they've been working diligently to 16 support our operations and ensure the readiness of our 17 systems for all of our offices. In conclusion, I 18 would like to express my gratitude to all of our teams 19 for their dedication and hard work. Together, we are 20 making significant progress towards our mission to 21 serve our community and uphold the integrity of our 22 electoral process. Thank you. 23 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you. 24 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a 25 question of the Director of Election Administration?</p>	<p>1 was really happy to take that on as his primary 2 responsibilities. The GIS person moving to project 3 management, he's not giving up all of the GIS. He 4 will be overseeing GIS in determining how we're doing 5 a lot of other things. 6 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank you. How many people 7 did we interview for the graphic designer a new media 8 position before it was decided? 9 MS. REID: We did not. We did an internal 10 transfer or internal reassignment. 11 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: So we did a reassignment 12 that Commissioner Bluestein's principal assistant 13 would be moved into that position without interviewing 14 anyone else for that position. 15 MS. REID: That was the decision at the deputy's 16 meeting, yes. 17 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: That was your decision? 18 MS. REID: It was the decision of everyone at the 19 deputy's meeting. 20 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Did you discuss it with 21 Commissioner Bluestein or his deputy before bringing 22 it to the deputies for consultation? 23 MS. REID: I discussed it with -- actually, I 24 first discussed it with Deputy Commissioner Gowans, 25 and I first discussed it with him, and then I</p>
<p>1 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Yes, you may, Commissioner 2 Deeley. 3 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank you. It is now the 4 beginning of February, and we are 76 days from the 5 primary. How many clerk ones and trades helper 6 vacancies do we have to fill? 7 MS. REID: I can get that information from HR and 8 have that for you. 9 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Do you know how many we may 10 have filled to date? 11 MS. REID: I don't, because exempt is what I 12 watch day to day. So I check with Annie on that, and 13 that was on her report, but I can certainly find out 14 for you, and I will get that to you. 15 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Okay. Since so called 16 reassignments are not being brought before this Board, 17 can you explain to me the rationale for moving our 18 experienced project manager to facilities and moving 19 our award-winning GIS analyst to project manager? 20 MS. REID: Oh, yeah, I'd be happy to. So the 21 person who was doing project management was largely 22 focused on facilities. It was 95 percent of what he 23 was doing, and he was doing it really, really well. 24 And as we are continuing to expand our operations, we 25 know that that is going to be a pressure point. So he</p>	<p>1 discussed it with Deputy Commissioner Kapenstein to 2 ask if it would be a problem for them if we did. 3 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Based on your previous 4 working relationship with the candidate? 5 MS. REID: No. 6 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Well, how would you then 7 know that she would be a candidate for graphic 8 designer? 9 MS. REID: Because of the work that she has been 10 doing for this office. So I've seen the work, which 11 is why I first touched base with Deputy Commissioner 12 Gowans to see what he thought about her work and how 13 she had been as a candidate. 14 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank you. No further 15 questions. 16 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you again for all of the 17 hard work that everyone does. We will now hear from 18 Deputy Commissioner Eric Kapenstein with a report from 19 the deputies on our language access committee. 20 MR. KAPENSTEIN: Good morning again, 21 Commissioners. 22 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Good morning. 23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER KAPENSTEIN: Good morning, 24 all. In keeping with the requirements of the 2022, 25 language access expansion motion, the Deputy</p>

<p>1 Commissioners have prepared a report on the number of 2 ballots cast in Spanish and Chinese on the express 3 vote XLS in the 2023 general at the division level. 4 There was a total of 2,371 ballots cast on the express 5 vote XLS in Spanish and 493 ballots cast in Chinese. 6 This represents an increase of hundreds of voters from 7 each language group compared to the primary of last 8 year. 9 There were 191 voters who either applied to vote 10 by mail in Spanish or who had previously identified a 11 preference for receiving voting materials in Spanish. 12 Of those, 128 ballots were returned and counted. 13 There were similarly 87 applications for Chinese 14 ballots, of which 55 were returned and counted. This 15 represents a modest increase for each language group 16 compared to the primary of last year. 17 The Deputy Commissioners are hosting a meeting of 18 the language access advisory committee tomorrow to 19 receive feedback on the municipal election. We look 20 forward to meeting and hearing from the community 21 about what went well and what more we can do to 22 continue improving our language access program. 23 That's all I have. 24 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you. Mr. Thank you, Mr. 25 Cappuccin -- Kapenstein, I'm sorry. My eyes are</p>	<p>1 second for that motion. If there are no further 2 comments, I move to adopt the proposed public meeting 3 rules for the Board of Elections. Is there a second? 4 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: Second. 5 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Commissioner Bluestein, please 6 call the roll. 7 MR. BLUESTEIN: Commissioner Deeley. 8 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: No. 9 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. 10 Commissioner Sabir? 11 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Aye. Being moved and properly 12 second, I'll go ahead, myself. The ayes are two, the 13 nays are one. With the majority of the members having 14 voted in the affirmative, the motion pass. 15 We will now move to the next agenda item, the 16 Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Proposal to the Mayor for 17 inclusion and the mayor proposed budget. Before we 18 begin, I should clarify that it was brought to the 19 attention of this Board that the public notice for the 20 January 31st, 2024, Board of Elections meeting, 21 although available on the city commissioner's website 22 on January 26th, did not appear in print until January 23 29th, which may be later than the required by the 24 Sunshine Act. Out of abundance of caution, this Board 25 has determined that the best course of action to</p>
<p>1 getting -- I got to make this print a little bit 2 bigger. This completes our business. We will begin 3 by considering our first agenda item under new 4 business, the proposed public meeting rules for the 5 Board of Elections. Do the Commissioners have any 6 comments on this item before we proceed to vote? 7 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I have none. 8 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Commissioner Deeley? 9 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I have 10 a question about -- I have questions for the Director 11 of Election Administration on the budget. May I ask 12 those questions? 13 CHAIRMAN SABIR: We're not at the budget portion 14 right now. We're at the meeting for the Board rules 15 for the Board of Elections. 16 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: My apologies. Thank you. 17 CHAIRMAN SABIR: So that was a no? 18 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Yes. I would -- 19 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Okay. 20 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: I would like to motion that 21 this question be tabled until next week so that the 22 rules can be included with the agenda that is posted 23 24 hours before the meeting so that the public can 24 review it. 25 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Is there a second? There's no</p>	<p>1 address potential concerns is to consider and vote on 2 the actions the Board took at the January 31st, 2024, 3 meeting during today's meeting we will do that now. Do 4 the commissioners have any comments on the proposed 5 budget before we proceed to vote? 6 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Mr. Chairman, yes. First, 7 I apologize. I went out of order with the agenda 8 earlier. So I do have questions for the Director of 9 an Election Administration on this budget. May I ask 10 them? 11 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Yes, you may. 12 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank you. Last week, I 13 asked if we could submit an actual operating budget. 14 It looks like you are now requesting over \$2.6 million 15 in additional funds that are not included in the 16 budget. You said that you needed to confer with your 17 staff. I received no answer. And you returned this 18 week without an actual operating budget. What was the 19 result of your conference? 20 MS. REID: You do have a budget, so I think. I 21 don't understand the question you're asking if it was 22 sent around to everyone. 23 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Yeah, we need the actual 24 operating budget. You have additional justifications, 25 additional staff, but we are looking for an actual</p>

<p>1 operating budget with a full budget.</p> <p>2 MS. REID: It was sent around to all the</p> <p>3 Commissioners in advance.</p> <p>4 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Okay. It doesn't include</p> <p>5 over the \$2.6 million in additional funds that are not</p> <p>6 in there.</p> <p>7 MS. REID: Those are in the justifications.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: It's not in the budget.</p> <p>9 MS. REID: So the way that the budget office</p> <p>10 wants that submitted is that that gets submitted as a</p> <p>11 separate justification. That is the rules that they</p> <p>12 ask us to follow.</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: But it needs to be shown in</p> <p>14 the budget.</p> <p>15 MS. REID: That is how the budget office asks you</p> <p>16 to show it in the budget.</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Okay, we'll move on. 71-</p> <p>18 53I voter registration. Last week you said that you</p> <p>19 were going to correct the placement or listing of the</p> <p>20 voter registration administrator, yet it remains</p> <p>21 unchanged. Can you explain why there was no change</p> <p>22 made?</p> <p>23 MS. REID: I'm going to it, yeah. So, honestly,</p> <p>24 the reason is because of everything needed to be</p> <p>25 revoted, so we were trying to get it all together at</p>	<p>1 vacant throughout the general election. In November</p> <p>2 of 2023, the office reported a total staff count of</p> <p>3 136, with 43 positions vacant, resulting in a 24</p> <p>4 percent vacancy rate. By filling vacancies and adding</p> <p>5 an additional 22 people through justifications, we</p> <p>6 will see an overall increase of 65 positions,</p> <p>7 representing a 48 percent increase over the number of</p> <p>8 staff scheduled to work during the general election in</p> <p>9 FY 25 over FY 24. This should leave us well prepared.</p> <p>10 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Yeah. You are reducing the</p> <p>11 number of clerk ones by five, budgeted -- the budgeted</p> <p>12 clerk.</p> <p>13 MS. REID: How many? 30 clerk ones. So I have</p> <p>14 been assured that all of this is what is needed for</p> <p>15 those operations by the people who run those</p> <p>16 operations. We have looked at these numbers over and</p> <p>17 over, and I trust the people who run these parts of</p> <p>18 the operation to tell me if they have the staff that</p> <p>19 they need. We do have an increase over last year if</p> <p>20 we fill these positions, which is what we're working</p> <p>21 to do right now.</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: So we are eliminating this</p> <p>23 staff and there was a cut of five clerks?</p> <p>24 MS. REID: Yes. So what it is, is we're asking</p> <p>25 for six more in a justification which gives it a total</p>
<p>1 this meeting. So, I mean, that's the answer. I think</p> <p>2 there is a little bit of confusion in that.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: So everything needed to be</p> <p>4 revoted. So you couldn't correct the voter</p> <p>5 registration administrator, but you did add 2.6</p> <p>6 million in additional funds?</p> <p>7 MS. REID: Yes, we will correct it.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Okay. Thank you for adding</p> <p>9 the computer user support specialist line back in.</p> <p>10 However, we had a computer support specialist in</p> <p>11 November, so it would have been in our incremental</p> <p>12 run. Are you willing to make that correction?</p> <p>13 MS. REID: Yeah, of course. We'll check the</p> <p>14 incremental run.</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: I see that we are still</p> <p>16 reducing our clerk ones by five. I asked last week</p> <p>17 why we would be eliminating staff in a presidential</p> <p>18 year. You said that you needed to confer with your</p> <p>19 staff. I have received no answer and we're still</p> <p>20 cutting staff. What was the result of your</p> <p>21 conference?</p> <p>22 MS. REID: Yes, so I'd be happy to go over</p> <p>23 staffing. On the front I understand why it looks that</p> <p>24 way, but our budgeted staff number for FY 24 was 179.</p> <p>25 However, there were many positions that remained</p>	<p>1 net one.</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Now we have a decrease in</p> <p>3 clerk ones by 16. Three of them became clerk twos,</p> <p>4 two were shifted to electronic poll book</p> <p>5 responsibility center, and the six you ask back on</p> <p>6 your additional request. Still, that leaves a</p> <p>7 reduction of five clerks in the department. And that</p> <p>8 -- and that we promoted to new clerk three positions,</p> <p>9 the ones that we promoted to new clerk three positions</p> <p>10 still need to be backfilled by clerk ones.</p> <p>11 MS. REID: So we can look into this. What I can</p> <p>12 tell you is that the total number of staff -- is a lot</p> <p>13 of this is that positions were not filled. You might</p> <p>14 have had them budgeted, but they were not filled. So</p> <p>15 if you look at what it took to run the election this</p> <p>16 past year in the general election, we have built on</p> <p>17 that. So a lot of this, you just have to look at the</p> <p>18 total number of people that are going to be working.</p> <p>19 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Okay. So comparing the</p> <p>20 general election that we just went through with a</p> <p>21 presidential election is irrelevant to me. So you're</p> <p>22 saying we are eliminating five based on the</p> <p>23 information you've gotten from the people that know</p> <p>24 the work?</p> <p>25 MS. REID: No, we are not eliminating five, but I</p>

<p>1 will find out and get back to you. Yeah, there's five 2 trades helpers. Some of this is how things are 3 classified, so the classifications have changed on 4 some of these. 5 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Okay, we'll move on. We're 6 going to move to the Admin 71-53I, principal 7 assistance. The rules passed on January 10, 2024, set 8 the city commissioner's office staff budget at a 9 million 80,000. That is how much is budgeted for 10 principal assistants and deputies. However, a clerk 11 three has been reassigned to serve as an assistant to 12 you and the Director of Operations. It is my 13 understanding that you intend to move a clerk three 14 from civil service to principal assistant to serve as 15 an assistant. Before we even get to the principal 16 assistant, I would like to start with the assistant 17 role for you and Joe. Can you point to me where in 18 our fiscal year 2024 budget is this clerk three for 19 your use, and where were they moved from? 20 MS. REID: We have a huge surplus in that budget. 21 We talked to the budget office, and it passed budget 22 check. 23 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Okay. Can you show me 24 where it is in the budget? 25 MS. REID: No, I cannot because it was not</p>	<p>1 Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Proposal in front of us. 2 Where in the budget is this additional principal 3 assistant at the proposed salary of 70k? 4 MS. REID: Yeah, you know what -- It's actually, 5 we have it listed as assistant director and it needs 6 to be updated. It's in a justification. 7 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: It's not. 8 MS. REID: We just didn't update the title. 9 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Why does this position need 10 to be exempt and what in their duties makes it so it 11 cannot be performed by a civil service clerk three? 12 MS. REID: I might not be the best person to 13 answer that question. I definitely rely on HR to help 14 guide me through that. But we did look at the specs 15 and we did do it in consultation with HR, so I'm not 16 going to try to make something up for you about that. 17 We looked at it both ways. This position already 18 existed within the department, and it is very well 19 aligned with the work that she is doing. So HR said 20 that would make the most sense, and that's both, like, 21 within our department, but also HR on the city side. 22 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank you. Our payroll 23 clerk was recently promoted to a clerk three. So we 24 now have three clerk threes in HR and zero payroll 25 clerks. Are we willing to correct this?</p>
<p>1 budgeted. But there is an underspend in class 100. 2 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Right. But for next year. 3 MS. REID: For next year, yes, I should be able 4 to. It's in a justification. 5 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Just out of time. Commissioner 6 Deeley, you said that you had questions, so right now 7 you're actually making comments and questions. So we 8 have a time sort of schedule so you can know a few 9 more. So questions. We had deputy meetings where 10 sort of the back and forth, and Stephanie was 11 available for everyone. We had these deputy meetings 12 where a lot of these things should have gotten worked 13 out. So again, so I'll give you a little bit more 14 leeway that can you just clear just ask whatever 15 question that you wanted to ask the Election 16 Administrator and not make the comment before. 17 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Okay, thank you. 18 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Just ask her a direct question 19 and then she can answer it. She may not answer. She 20 may send you over some things, but again, in the 21 interest of time, that's why we have the deputy 22 meetings. And so all week, if anybody wanted any 23 input into the budget, you could have had that sort of 24 input. 25 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank you. Back to the</p>	<p>1 MR. LYNCH: We have two clerk threes in 2 personnel. 3 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Hold on. Joe Lynch, if you're 4 going to come to respond, can you please come to the 5 microphone and respond and identify yourself, please. 6 MR. LYNCH: Yes, Commissioner, I believe we have 7 two clerk threes in personnel right now. 8 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank you, Mr. Lynch, it is 9 my understanding that our payroll clerk was recently 10 promoted to a clerk three. 11 MR. LYNCH: Correct. 12 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: So that would be three. 13 MR. LYNCH: Unless a third one that I won't name 14 is a clerk three, I'm not sure. 15 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Okay, you'll look into that 16 and get back to me. 17 MR. LYNCH: Yes, thank you. 18 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: The position of the 19 Director of Election administration -- operations is a 20 new position, not a name change from Executive 21 Director. So Executive Director needs its own listing 22 that it was previously how it was previously budgeted 23 and on the incremental run in November, then not 24 budgeted in 2025. Director of Election 25 Administrations should be listed like Director of</p>

<p>1 Election Administration as a new position. Are you 2 willing to correct this? 3 MS. REID: Yes. 4 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: I see that the Deputy City 5 Solicitor is on the budget. The Deputy City Solicitor 6 is not on our budget. Per the charter, the Deputy 7 City Solicitor has to work for the law department. 8 While the department has had a lawyer on staff in the 9 past, a deputy solicitor has more force per the 10 election code and the city charter, which is why that 11 route was chosen. While we are currently funding the 12 position, a joint request needs to be made with the 13 law department for additional funding for them to fund 14 the position long term. If not, if we are going to 15 continue to fund the position, it should be listed as 16 199 funds. Are you willing to correct this? 17 MS. REID: Yeah, of course. 18 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: A new position for election 19 facilities manager did not exist in 2023, so it 20 wouldn't have shown up on the incremental run. Are 21 you willing to correct this? 22 MS. REID: Yes. 23 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Hold on. We have the matter 24 that we're going to vote on, so, again, these 25 decisions cannot be made. We already are at the time,</p>	<p>1 objection. 2 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Okay. 3 MR. GARELLA: Thank you. 4 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Just before we let you do this 5 again, just why don't you ask the Chair to be 6 recognized because we still have decorum with our 7 meeting, so the yelling and the shouting is not 8 necessary. 9 MR. GARELLA: I did ask to be recognized. 10 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Oh no, you didn't. You want to 11 come up to the microphone? 12 MR. GARELLA: I have to have some way to call 13 your attention. 14 CHAIRMAN SABIR: It's fine. Again, you're not 15 new to this, Rich. You come on up. You can have a 16 seat. 17 MR. GARELLA: Absolutely. 18 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Again, can you state your name 19 again for the record, please? 20 MR. GARELLA: Yeah. My name is Rich Garella, and 21 I'm making an objection to a Sunshine Act violation, 22 which is that this Board is now voting on a motion to 23 adopt a budget that the public has never seen, either 24 this week or last week or even now as you're voting on 25 it. What you're doing is hiding the content of a</p>
<p>1 so we cannot make sort of any additions. What we are 2 talking about is this budget proposal right here, 3 which is on agenda, which every Commissioner sort of 4 had. So, Commissioner Deeley, if he doesn't have any 5 more questions, again, we're going to have to move to 6 the vote. And again, I gave you more than enough time 7 to ask your questions, and we're going to move to 8 adopt the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Proposal to the 9 mayor for inclusion and the mayor proposed budget. Is 10 there a second? 11 MR. GARELLA: Could I be recognized for a 12 Sunshine Act objection. 13 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Is there a second? 14 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: A second. 15 MR. GARELLA: A Sunshine Act objection can be 16 made at any time during -- 17 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Being moved properly seconded I 18 ask the secretary to please call the roll. 19 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Mr. Chairman. 20 CHAIRMAN SABIR: I ask the secretary to please 21 call the roll. 22 MR. GARELLA: The law of the State of 23 Pennsylvania that any citizen can object to a 24 perceived violation of the Sunshine Act at any time 25 during the meeting. May I be recognized to make this</p>	<p>1 motion inside an unpublished document. I know in some 2 cases you do publish the documents like the rules 3 belatedly handed out today. But it is not 4 deliberation of a motion before the public if the 5 public cannot be aware of what the content of the 6 motion is. 7 CHAIRMAN SABIR: We allowed you to have 8 questions. So now, in the position that we are at 9 right now had always been properly second. So being 10 moved and properly second, I ask the secretary to 11 please call the roll. 12 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: Commissioner Deeley. 13 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: No. 14 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. Commissioner 15 Sabir? 16 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Aye. The ayes are two, the nays 17 are one. With the majority of members having voted in 18 the affirmative, the motion passes. We will now move 19 to other business portion of our agenda. Commissioner 20 Deeley, do you have any other business to be raised at 21 this meeting? 22 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank you, I do not. 23 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Mr. Bluestein, do you have any 24 other business to be raised at the meeting? 25 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I have none.</p>

<p>1 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you, Commissioners. 2 Hearing no other business, I make a motion that the 3 meeting be adjourned. 4 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: Second. 5 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Mr. Bluestein, please call the 6 roll. 7 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: Commissioner Deeley? 8 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Aye. 9 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. 10 Commissioner Sabir? 11 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Aye. 12 (The meeting was adjourned.) 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>	
<p>1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST 2 3 I, MICHELE NIEHAUS, Legal Transcriptionist, do 4 hereby certify: 5 That the foregoing is a complete and true 6 transcription of the original digital audio recording 7 of the testimony and proceedings captured in the 8 above-entitled matter. As the transcriptionist, I 9 have reviewed and transcribed the entirety of the 10 original digital audio recording of the proceeding to 11 ensure a verbatim record to the best of my ability. 12 I further certify that I am neither attorney for 13 nor a relative or employee of any of the parties to 14 the action; further, that I am not a relative or 15 employee of any attorney employed by the parties 16 hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the 17 outcome of this matter. 18 19 IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand 20 this 21st day of February, 2024. 21 22  23 _____ 24 Michele Niehaus 25</p>	

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