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February 8TH, 2023
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COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- LISA M. DEELEY, CHAIRMAN
- SETH BLUESTEIN, COMMISSIONER
- ERIC KAPENSTEIN, COMMISSIONER
- VINCENT GOWANS, COMMISSIONER
- NICK CUSTODIO, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

HELD:

VIA ZOOM.
(Audio Transcription)

1 - - - - -

2 PROCEEDINGS

3 - - - - -

4 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Good

5 morning. I call the February 8th, 2023
6 meeting of the Philadelphia City Commissioners
7 to order.

8 First, I will preserve the order
9 of the Court of these meetings. Everyone in
10 attendance should be on notice that shouting
11 out or interrupting the proceedings will not
12 be tolerated. Those who violate this will be
13 asked to leave.

14 The Sunshine Act permits anyone
15 attending a public meeting to object to a
16 proceeding violation at any time during the
17 meeting. If you choose to do so, please
18 distinctly state your objection. Objecting is
19 not an opportunity for speech making.

20 We will now move to public
21 comment. Commenter's shall state where they
22 live or if they're not a resident of
23 Philadelphia, that they're a Philadelphia tax
24 payer.

1 Public comment is not an
2 opportunity for dialog or Q and A. It is
3 public comment. It's a chance for you to tell
4 us what you think. Each speaker shall have
5 two minutes. However, I may extend this time
6 at my discretion. All public comments must be
7 relevant or germane to board business.

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

12 Is there anyone here for public
13 comment?

14 - - - - -
15 (No response.)
16 - - - - -

17 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: We will now
18 move to Commissioner Bluestein for emailed
19 public comments.

20 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: There
21 were no email public comments as of 9:45 this
22 morning.

23 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank you.
24 I will now proceed to old business. I call on

1 Nick Custodio, to read Executive Director,
2 Joe Linche's report.

3 MR. CUSTODIO: Thank you. The
4 Board of Elections is now accepting mail-in
5 ballots applications. Annual mail-in ballot
6 lists will be receiving a new application in
7 the mail shortly.

8 Voters will need to complete and
9 return application to the Board of Elections
10 to continue to automatically receive either a
11 mail-in or an absentee ballot each election in
12 2023.

13 Voters may now apply online rather
14 than return their paper applications. As of
15 yesterday we have approved 1,021 vote by mail
16 applications. Of those, 115 are paper mail-in
17 applications, the other 906 are electronic
18 applications.

19 The ballot application process is
20 current through Tuesday. Petition for the
21 upcoming Primary Election Municipal Offices
22 are now available at both City Hall 142, and
23 at our website, vote.phila.gov. Petitions can
24 not be circulated, or filed until Tuesday,

1 February 14th.

2 The last date circulated
3 following nomination petitions is March 7th.
4 The last date for candidates to withdraw is
5 March 22nd, 2023. Petitions for judicial
6 offices in upcoming primary include Court of
7 Common Pleas, and Municipal Court are
8 available from the Department of State.

9 Ballots for Municipal candidates
10 will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March
11 15th, 2023, City Hall, Room 202. Cycle 7
12 Annual Reports have been scans and are
13 uploaded to our website.

14 All candidates and committees who
15 are using online system must return a signed
16 and notarize cover sheet, or a signed cover
17 sheet to the Board of Elections on February
18 10th.

19 Starting training on January 17th
20 for the Election Board Unit. So far, the unit
21 has trained over 1,000 poll workers on the new
22 electron poll books. There are 3,528 workers
23 scheduled for speciality trainings.

24 The unit is continuing to book

1 people for the remaining classes for the
2 electronic poll book training, and the
3 ordinary Election Board training. We have had
4 good responses so far.

5 Since the opening of this election
6 cycle, the unit has processed 2,500 paper
7 voter registration requests, and 19,814 online
8 voter registration requests applications.
9 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank you.
11 Commissioner Bluestein, any new business? Oh,
12 yes. I'm sorry. We will not hear from
13 Deputy Commissioner Gowens.

14 COMMISSIONER GOWENS: Thank you.
15 I would also like to recognize, Commissioner
16 Sabir who is here at this meeting. On behalf
17 of Vice Chairman, City Commissioner Sabir, I
18 would like to take this moment to recognize
19 Black History Month.

20 We honor the contribution of
21 black people who have made American history.
22 As such, it's important to recognize the
23 voting of black people in America. Blacks
24 were not granted the right to vote until

1 February 3rd, 1870. Black woman were not
2 granted the right to vote until 1920. Even
3 with that right, African Americans did still
4 not have access to voting.

5 The coordinated and strategic,
6 other wise known as Jim Crow Laws, it
7 recognized the voting as of 1965 that gave
8 black federal protections in their right to
9 vote. We recognize this history as a reminder
10 of how far we've come, how far we have to go,
11 how much we have to protect, and to recognize
12 the millions of black people that have
13 forfeited their right to vote.

14 We stand with those worldwide in
15 the month long commemoration of the
16 achievements and sacrifices of the people of
17 African decent. Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Thank you
19 for those important remarks.

20 Commissioner Bluestein, do you
21 have any items to add to the agenda?

22 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I do not.

23 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Commissioner
24 Sabir, do you have any items to be added to

1 the agenda?

2 COMMISSIONER SABIR: No.

3 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: With no
4 items remaining on the agenda this meeting is
5 adjourned by the call of the Chair.

6 Thank you.

7 - - - -

8 (Whereupon, the hearing is
9 concluded.)

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

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

Court Reporter - Notary Public

(The forgoing 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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