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2 APRIL 5th, 2023

3 - - - - -

4 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

5

6 JAMES C. CRUMLISH, CHAIRMAN

7 VINCENT FURLONG, COMMISSIONER

8 VINCENT JOHNSON, VICE CHAIR

9 NICK CUSTODIO, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

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13 HELD:

14 VIA ZOOM.

15 (Audio Transcription)

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2 PROCEEDINGS

3 - - - - -

4 JUDGE CRUMLISH: Good morning. I'd
5 like to call to order the meeting of
6 Philadelphia County Board of Elections for
7 April 5th, 2023.

8 First, as Chair, first, I'll
9 preserve the order and decorum of these
10 meetings. You should be on notice that
11 disruptive or interference with the ordinary
12 conduct of the meeting will be caused for
13 removal.

14 The Sunshine Act permits anyone
15 attending a public meeting to object to a
16 proceeded violation at any time during the time
17 of the meeting. If you choose to do so, please
18 state your objection. You'll be reminded that
19 the objection is not a opportunity for
20 litigation, interrogation or speech making.

21 We will now move to public comment.
22 Is there anyone here today that wishes to make
23 a public comment for the record?

24 Sir, I see you raising your hand.

1 You can stand. Identify yourself and where
2 you're from. Mr. Lynch will give you the
3 microphone.

4 MR. LOMELI: Good afternoon. I'm
5 going to read from my file if you don't mine.
6 City Commissioners, Honorable Judges, and
7 Deputies, my name is Marcos Lomeli. I'm the
8 Program Director at Ceiba. A community based
9 organization serving Philadelphia's Latino and
10 immigrant communities.

11 We want to thank your office.
12 Especially this past September last year, the
13 motion on Language Access Expansion to triple
14 the number of languages our communities can
15 vote in. With this action your office has
16 helped insure that democracy of Philadelphia
17 includes every voice and strengthen our
18 democratic process.

19 A functioning democracy is one in
20 which the voices of -- disadvantage are with
21 the same intention as the wealthy and
22 empowered.

23 Philadelphia's Latino community is
24 an example of a community that faces many

1 challenges. High poverty rate, gun violence,
2 public agencies and business. Despite of
3 these challenges of the Hispanic community to
4 the City can not be overstated.

5 Growth in the Hispanic population
6 -- of the whole City and successfully offset
7 the population of other groups in the City.
8 Between 2010 and 2020 Philadelphia's Hispanic
9 whole population grew by 5 percent thanks to
10 25.6 percent growth in the Hispanic
11 population. But for Hispanic growth in the
12 City as a whole, Pennsylvania would have lost
13 more than one seat in the redistricting
14 process. More than one congressional seat.

15 Our growth continues to stay at
16 4,670 Latinos Philadelphians and 21,000 Latino
17 Pennsylvania's. Latino also feel that the
18 economic growth in the recent years between
19 2020 and 2022 Hispanic in Pennsylvania grew to
20 -- among the fastest growth in Hispanic market
21 by 112 percent. Hispanics are also helping
22 Pennsylvania's vitality.

23 As Pennsylvania's population grows
24 older with the median age of 41 years old, the

1 Latino population median age is 26 years old.

2 One of the biggest challenges
3 facing the Latino community is the history of
4 low voter turn out. The voter turn out of the
5 Latino wards in the City in the November 2021
6 election was 6 and 8 percent perspective.

7 As the community grows it's voter
8 and City engagement has not grown. Elected
9 officials have been so bold to proclaim, "your
10 community does not matter as much for us
11 because you do not vote".

12 When we address those issues in
13 our neighbors -- since education and
14 nonpartisan voter information is also
15 important in the Latino community because it
16 is a community that is vulnerable to
17 misinformation and conspiracy theories.

18 The Washington Post recently
19 reported that 70 percent of Spanish language
20 misinformation has stayed online compared to
21 the 29 percent of English language
22 misinformation.

23 At Ceiba we believe that we should
24 be lower the barriers to voting. In

1 particular, we think that the presence of
2 official mail-in ballot drop-boxes in the
3 neighborhoods with historically low turnout
4 would be a good way of lowering those
5 barriers.

6 During last Novembers last General
7 Election there were no official mail-in ballot
8 drop-boxes in the portions of Eastern North
9 Philadelphia where the majority of Latinos
10 live.

11 In fact, the mail-in ballot
12 drop-boxes located at Shissler Rec, Stenton
13 Playground, and -- Rec formed sort of a
14 Bermuda triangle ensuring that Latinos would
15 be less likely to cast their votes using the
16 simple and effective pool.

17 We respectfully request that the
18 Office of City Commissioners and their serious
19 consideration in placing one or more fixed
20 ballot drop-boxes in neighbors where majority
21 of residents are Latinos.

22 A few locations that are public
23 facilities with video surveillance already
24 setup, including the Lillian Marrero Library

1 located at 601 Lehigh, and Kensington High
2 School located on the 2000 block of
3 East Cumberland Street.

4 If you don't like these examples,
5 I invite you to come take a drive with me
6 through the neighborhood. We can find other
7 locations.

8 We would especially like to see
9 these boxes setup in the 74 hours leading up
10 to the election, which research shows is when
11 ballot drop-boxes are most useful.

12 The Office of City Commissioners
13 will once again demonstrate that Philadelphia
14 is at the national cutting edge of it's ending
15 democracy to conclude all it's eligible
16 voters.

17 Gracias for your attention on this
18 matter.

19 JUDGE CRUMLISH: Thank you very
20 much. Do we have any other public comments?
21 Thank you very much.

22 Mr. Furlong, do we have any
23 submitted comments?

24 JUDGE FURLONG: We do. All

1 comments that were emailed by 9:45 a.m. were
2 shared with members of the Board and to the
3 Deputies at 10:00 a.m.

4 We received one comment from Robin
5 Aluko(ph). I've reviewed the comment and ask
6 that it be moved into the record.

7 JUDGE CRUMLISH: I also reviewed
8 the comment. Judge Johnson, have you had an
9 opportunity to review the comment?

10 JUDGE JOHNSON: I have not seen
11 it.

12 JUDGE CRUMLISH: I'll have that
13 for you.

14 JUDGE JOHNSON: Thank you.

15 JUDGE CRUMLISH: As this is not a
16 matter before the Board today, I would ask
17 that Judge Johnson and Judge Furlong to have
18 both read this comment and to be received into
19 the record.

20 All in favor?

21 - - - - -

22 (Respond I.)

23 - - - - -

24 JUDGE CRUMLISH: For old business

1 we will call Mr. Lynch for the report.

2 MR. LYNCH: Good morning. I'll
3 read the Sunshine Act Report for April 5th,
4 2023.

5 The County Board of Elections as
6 of yesterday, they have approved 71,545 vote
7 by mail applications, which is 10,742 added
8 from March 15th. Of those, 43,793 are paper
9 applications, and 27,752 are electronic
10 applications. This includes the civilian
11 overseas and the military voters.

12 We have a total of 1,798
13 applications waiting to be proceeded. Of
14 those 1,610 are paper applications, and 188
15 are electronic applications.

16 The County Board are currently
17 working on multiple appeals filed regarding
18 candidacy objections. This is Vote.Phila.Gov
19 to follow our objection tracking.

20 The last day to apply for a
21 mail-in for oversea ballot is May 9th. The
22 staff discovered obvious facial defects on
23 unchallenged candidates affidavits. Qawi
24 Abdul-Rahman, the candidate for Court of

1 Common Pleas, Delscia Greg, candidate for
2 Mayor, and Jacque Whaumbush, candidate for
3 Sheriff on the line where they list their ward
4 and division.

5 We consulted with the law
6 department. They advised the staff, the ward
7 and candidates residing in -- and should be
8 put -- what is printed next to the candidate's
9 name on the ballot. Notwithstanding the
10 incorrect information on the affidavit.

11 Therefore, Qawi Abdul-Rahman will
12 be listed in the 52nd Ward. Delscia Greg will
13 be listed in the 56th Ward. And Jacque
14 Whaumbush will be listed in the 21st Ward.

15 The Voter Registration Unit for
16 the election cycle to date, they have
17 processed 102, 478 registration applications
18 of which 4,550 were paper. All applications
19 are up to date. They have had 442 petitioners
20 from the review and stipulate petitions. All
21 petitioner users are done. They have sent
22 7,491 I.D. card out this week.

23 The Election Board, since Spring
24 training began for poll workers on March 13th,

1 the unit has trained 904 people to date. The
2 unit began doing makeup classes for people
3 that couldn't attend the fall trainings of
4 electronic poll pads.

5 They will do these trainings every
6 Friday until the week before the elections.
7 Last Friday they had 53 people show up for the
8 March -- I'm sorry. They had 53 people show
9 up last Friday, which was March 31st. That's
10 doing pretty good, the makeup trainings for
11 the poll pads. So that will be every Friday
12 leading up to the election.

13 JUDGE CRUMLISH: Thank you,
14 Mr. Lynch.

15 MR. LYNCH: Thank you.

16 JUDGE CRUMLISH: That is very
17 important work. We thank the staff for all
18 their hard work. That concludes old business.
19 Let's move to new business. Mr. Stroman is
20 here to present polling place relocations.

21 Do we have anyone here for
22 specific poll relocations.

23 MR. SCOTT: Good afternoon,
24 Commissioners. Thank you for having me. My

1 name is John Scott. I am the former Ward
2 leader at the 18th Ward, one of the effected
3 polling places on this list. They moved from
4 the Fillmore to the Fishtown Rec Center.
5 That's not my division, but I am at the
6 Fishtown Rec Center as of right now.

7 I was a ward leader, and then my
8 predecessor, the ward leader before me worked
9 very hard to divide the division that had a
10 lot of high population in the two divisions
11 and split it along Girard Avenue, which is
12 about --

13 The idea was to have fewer people,
14 particularly elderly people, crossing the
15 street to vote. So we worked very hard to
16 split the divisions that way. When a polling
17 place become available we moved the people to
18 a polling place where they didn't cross Girard
19 Avenue.

20 So this change undoes that. I
21 don't believe there us any data to support
22 that move other than the comity person --
23 however, once we did that move -- we did that
24 a year ago. After we did that move we saw an

1 increase in in-person turnout in that
2 division, at their new polling place, at the
3 Fillmore.

4 So as it stands right now, if we
5 move them back, I believe that we are
6 suppressing their vote because some of them
7 will be unwilling to walk up the hill to the
8 further away polling place that they used to
9 be at.

10 There are numbers in the past that
11 shows that that's definitely an impact. A
12 couple years ago -- I have copies if you would
13 like them.

14 JUDGE CRIMLISH: We can move this
15 as part of the record.

16 MR. SCOTT: Yes. Thank you.

17 On the first page, these are the
18 last four elections. As you can see in red,
19 this is Division 18 and 19, in red prior to
20 the change, which is where the purple bar is.
21 Division 18 and 19 were always laggard in
22 terms of in-person turn out.

23 Once we made the change in the
24 2020 primary the turn out got a little higher

1 in-person. By last year's general election is
2 almost on pare with the other divisions. You
3 can see from the percentages they were 10
4 percent or more. It is now only a few points
5 behind.

6 The second page is the same
7 information but in absolute numbers. Division
8 19 is in yellow. As you can see in the first
9 two elections it lags. By the 2022 general
10 elections it is 3rd places as opposed to 4th
11 place division. So people have -- once they
12 learned about the new polling place they
13 actually showed up there more in-person. So
14 it's now inline with the other divisions.

15 Finally on the third page. My
16 polling place at Fishtown Rec Center. I am a
17 voter there. I vote in every electio. They
18 currently would have approximately 1,000
19 people voting on a regular day, and about
20 2,000 people that would be registered there.
21 It is about half the size of the Fillmore
22 polling place. If we move that division to
23 Fishtown Rec Center my polling place goes up
24 30 percent than the previous polling place,

1 which is going to be largely empty.

2 So there are seven divisions
3 total. I think it makes more sense to keep
4 the four divisions at Fillmore where they're
5 geographically closer. They won't have to
6 cross a wide street. They won't have to climb
7 up a large hill, and where the turnout numbers
8 clearly show --

9 JUDGE CRUMLISH: Thank you, sir.

10 Members of the Commission, I
11 would like to make a motion that the decision
12 of this objections -- and make the
13 recommendation -- because of this issue, at
14 the next commissioner meeting.

15 Do I have a second?

16 - - - - -

17 (Second.)

18 - - - - -

19 JUDGE CRUMLISH: All in favor?

20 - - - - -

21 (Respond I.)

22 - - - - -

23 JUDGE CRUMLISH: By unanimous

24 consent --

1 JUDGE FURLONG: May I ask a
2 question?

3 JUDGE CRUMLISH: You may.

4 JUDGE FURLONG: The increase in
5 voter turn out at the Fillmore, what effect
6 does all that new construction in that area
7 have on voter turnout?

8 MR. SCOTT: So the new
9 construction is on the -- west of Frankford
10 Ave. So Most of the construction is west of
11 Frankford Avenue. Those divisions don't
12 generally vote in-person as much. They vote
13 more by mail. The division on the east side
14 Frankford Avenue, they're mostly row houses.
15 So the new construction is not filling that
16 polling place on that west side of Frankford.

17 JUDGE FURLONG: There's a rec
18 center is on --

19 MR. SCOTT: On Montgomery. So
20 it's --

21 JUDGE FURLONG: Thank you.

22 JUDGE CRUMLISH: Thank you very
23 much, sir. We'll take that into
24 consideration.

1 MR. SCOTT: Thank you.

2 JUDGE CRUMLISH: Mr. Stroman,
3 would you like to present the polling place
4 change propositions?

5 MR. STROMAN: Sure. Good morning,
6 Judges and Deputies. First of all, update on
7 the polling places. We have 356 sites surveys
8 in preparation for the poll pads. As of right
9 now this morning, 625 sites have been
10 confirmed out of the 705 sites to be used.

11 Now I'll move to the polling place
12 changes. In Ward 7, Division 14 there is a
13 request to move from the store front 3255
14 North Front Street to the Cramp School at 3449
15 North Master Street for voter convenance.

16 JUDGE CRUMLISH: I vote that the
17 Board accept this polling place change of ward
18 7, Division 14.

19 Do I have a second.

20 - - - - -

21 (Second.)

22 - - - - -

23 JUDGE CRUMLISH: All in favor?

24 - - - - -

1 (Respond I.)

2 - - - - -

3 JUDGE CRUMLISH: So moved.

4 MR. STROMAN: Next one, Judge, in
5 18th Ward, 19 Division. We're going to take
6 -- next year, correct?

7 JUDGE CRUMLISH: Yes.

8 MR. STROMAN: Thank you. The next
9 four I'm going to lump together in the 21st
10 Ward, 10th Division, 11 Division, 17 Division,
11 and the 18th Division going from the Kendrick
12 Rec Center to Journey's Way at 403 Rector
13 Street. The reason for these four changes is
14 due to construction going on at the rec
15 center.

16 JUDGE CRUMLISH: I would move that
17 the Board accept these polling place changes
18 for 21-10. I would move that the Board accept
19 the polling place changes for the 21-10,
20 21-11, 21-17, and 21-18.

21 Do I hear a second?

22 - - - - -

23 (Second.)

24 - - - - -

1 JUDGE CRUMLISH: All in favor?

2 - - - - -

3 (Respond I.)

4 - - - - -

5 JUDGE CRUMLISH: So moved.

6 MR. STROMAN: The next three I'm
7 going to lump together again. The 21st Ward,
8 19 Division, 20th Division, and the 27th
9 Division. Going from Bethany Lutheran Church
10 to the Epic Church at 6035 Ridge Avenue. The
11 reason for this move is the church closed.

12 JUDGE CRUMLISH: I would move that
13 we accept the changes for the reasons states
14 for 21-19 and 21-20.

15 Do I have a second?

16 - - - - -

17 (Second.)

18 - - - - -

19 JUDGE CRUMLISH: All in favor?

20 - - - - -

21 (Respond I.)

22 - - - - -

23 JUDGE CRUMLISH: So moved. You
24 may proceed.

1 MR. STROMAN: The next move will
2 be in the 21st Ward again. The 33rd Division
3 moving from the Lanckenau High School to the
4 Cathedral Village at 600 East Cathedral Road.
5 That is back to the original location.

6 JUDGE CRUMLISH: I move to accept
7 the proposed change of the polling place of
8 21-33.

9 Do I have a second?

10 - - - - -

11 (Second.)

12 - - - - -

13 JUDGE CRUMLISH: All in favor?

14 - - - - -

15 (Respond I.)

16 - - - - -

17 JUDGE CRUMLISH: I move as
18 accepted. You may continue.

19 MR. STROMAN: The next move is the
20 22nd Ward, the 6th Division moving out of the
21 (inaudible) Apartments to the Germantown Home
22 at 6950 Germantown Avenue. That is moving to
23 their own division.

24 JUDGE CRUMLISH: I would move to

1 accept that proposed change as stated. Do I
2 heard a second?

3 - - - - -

4 (Second.)

5 - - - - -

6 JUDGE CRUMLISH: All in favor?

7 - - - - -

8 (Respond I.)

9 - - - - -

10 JUDGE CRUMLISH: You may continue.

11 MR. STROMAN: Next three I'm going
12 to lump together. In the 23rd Ward, 5th
13 Division, 6th Division, and the 7th Division.
14 Moving out of the Frankford Branch Library to
15 the Frankford High School at 5000 Oxford
16 Avenue and this is due to construction at the
17 library.

18 JUDGE CRUMLISH: I'll move to
19 accept the proposed changes of 23rd-5, 23rd-6,
20 and 23rd-7.

21 All in Favor?

22 JUDGE CRUMLISH: All in favor?

23 - - - - -

24 (Respond I.)

1 - - - - -

2 JUDGE CRUMLISH: Accepted. You
3 may continue.

4 MR. STROMAN: Next move is the
5 23rd Ward again, 14th Division. Moving out
6 of the Baptist Worship Center to the First
7 Preparatory Charter School at
8 4300 Tacony Street. That is moving into the
9 ward also into the division.

10 JUDGE CRUMLISH: I move that we
11 accept that we accept the proposed change of
12 23-14 for the reasons stated.

13 Do I have a second?

14 - - - - -

15 (Second.)

16 - - - - -

17 JUDGE CRUMLISH: All in favor?

18 - - - - -

19 (Respond I.)

20 - - - - -

21 JUDGE CRUMLISH: The motion is
22 accepted. You may proceed.

23 MR. STROMAN: The next two I'm
24 going to lump together again. The 24th Ward,

1 9th Division and the 14th Division. Moving
2 out of (inaudible) into the Clayborn & Lewis
3 Community Center at 101 North 38th Street.
4 The 9th Division will move back into it's own
5 division. The 14th Division will move back
6 into their Ward.

7 JUDGE CRUMLISH: I move that we
8 accept the proposed change of 2-9 and 24-14.

9 Do I hear a second?

10 - - - - -

11 (Second.)

12 - - - - -

13 JUDGE CRUMLISH: All in favor?

14 - - - - -

15 (Respond I.)

16 - - - - -

17 JUDGE CRUMLISH: Accepted. You
18 may continue.

19 MR. STROMAN: Next three I'm going
20 to lump together in the 25th Ward, 6th
21 Division, the 10th Division and the 12th
22 Division. Moving out of the Cohocksink Rec
23 Center to the Richmond Elementary School at
24 2944 Belgrade Street. This is for voter

1 convenience. All the divisions are east?

2 JUDGE CRUMLISH: I'm going to
3 propose to make a motion to accept those
4 changes of 25-6, 25-10 and 25-12.

5 Do I hear a second?

6 - - - - -

7 (Second.)

8 - - - - -

9 JUDGE CRUMLISH: All in favor?

10 - - - - -

11 (Respond I.)

12 - - - - -

13 JUDGE CRUMLISH: You may continue.

14 MR. STROMAN: Next one is the 29th
15 Ward, the 3rd Division. Moving out of the
16 Celestial Word Ministries at 2800 West
17 Thompson, and that is back to the original
18 location.

19 JUDGE CRUMLISH: I move to accept
20 that change of 29-3.

21 Is there a second?

22 - - - - -

23 (Second.)

24 - - - - -

1 JUDGE CRUMLISH: All in favor?

2 - - - - -

3 (Respond I.)

4 - - - - -

5 JUDGE CRUMLISH: You may continue.

6 MR. STROMAN: Next two I'm going

7 to lump together again. The 33rd Ward again,

8 the 1st Division and the 2nd Division. We're

9 moving (inaudible) to the Juniata Park Academy

10 at 801 East Hunting Park Avenue. That is for

11 voter convenience.

12 JUDGE CRUMLISH: I move that we

13 accept that we accept that change of 33-2, and

14 33-2 for the reasons stated.

15 Do I hear a second?

16 - - - - -

17 (Second.)

18 - - - - -

19 JUDGE CRUMLISH: All in favor?

20 - - - - -

21 (Respond I.)

22 - - - - -

23 JUDGE CRUMLISH: Thank you very

24 much. We appreciate the hard work of the

1 staff in preparing these.

2 Can we follow-up -- we want to
3 make sure the record is clear that we
4 have -- I want to make a motion for 21 to be
5 accepted as -- 21st Ward.

6 All in favor?

7 - - - - -

8 (Respond I.)

9 - - - - -

10 JUDGE CRUMLISH: Thank you again,
11 Mr. Stroman.

12 Do we have any other additional
13 items to be added to the agenda?

14 Judge Furlong, do you have anything to add to
15 the agenda?

16 JUDGE FURLONG: No.

17 JUDGE CRUMLISH: Judge Johnson, Do
18 you have anything to add to the agenda?

19 JUDGE JOHNSON: No, sir.

20 JUDGE CRUMLISH: Having said that
21 I make a motion to adjourn.

22 All in favor?

23 - - - - -

24 (Respond I.)

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JUDGE CRUMLISH: Thank you all.

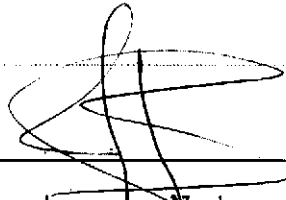
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(Whereupon, the hearing is
concluded.)

- - - - -

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 in the foregoing matter, and that this is a correct transcript of the same.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above a horizontal line.

Court Reporter - Notary Public

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