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PHILADELPHIA CITY COMMISSIONERS

ELECTIONS MEETING

Friday, April 26, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Job No.: 42228

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ATTENDANCE

- OMAR SABIR, CHAIRMAN
- VINCENT GOWANS, DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR
- LISA DEELEY, VICE CHAIR
- NICHOLAS CUSTODIO, DEPUTY TO VICE CHAIR
- SETH BLUESTEIN, COMMISSIONER
- ERIC KAPENSTEIN, DEPUTY
- JOSEPH LYNCH, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
- STEPHANIE REID, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIONS

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Call to order the Return Board
3 of the Philadelphia City Commissioners, Board of
4 Elections for Friday, April 26, 2024. This meeting is
5 in compliance under the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.
6 The Philadelphia City Commissioners are a three-member
7 bipartisan board of elected officials in charge of
8 elections and voter registration for the County of
9 Philadelphia.

10 Each commissioner is elected to serve a four-year
11 term that coincides with the municipal election cycle
12 for mayor and city council. The commissioner set and
13 enforced departmental policies to administer voter
14 registration and conduct elections in accordance with
15 federal state voter registration election laws.

16 The City Commissioners were created by the
17 Pennsylvania Assembly in 1711 with a focus on taxation
18 and held various regulatory powers throughout the
19 centuries. The Commissioner started maintaining voter
20 lists in 1799 and took on more election related
21 responsibilities, but didn't emerge into its current
22 form into the adaption of Philadelphia's Home Rule
23 Charter.

24 We'll start off with public comments. Before
25 beginning their comments, commenters shall state where

1 they live, or if they are not a resident of
2 Philadelphia and that they are Philadelphia taxpayer.
3 Public comment is not an opportunity for dialogue or Q
4 and A. It is public comment, a chance for you to tell
5 us what you think. Each speaker will have two minutes
6 to speak, however, I may expend the time at my
7 discretion. Public comment must concern matters on
8 today's meeting agenda.

9 Finally, it is my responsibility to preserve the
10 order and decorum of the meetings as such. Profane,
11 slanderous, discriminatory, or personal attacks will
12 not be tolerated. If you wish to make a public
13 adjustment, public objection to the perceived Sunshine
14 violation, please raise your hand and I will recognize
15 you. Outbursts will not be tolerated.

16 Anyone wishing to offer to public comment, please
17 step forward. No public comment. We will now report
18 -- we will now move to report from Secretary Bluestein
19 for email public comments. Are there any email public
20 comments?

21 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: There were no email public
22 comments.

23 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you. We will now proceed
24 to old business. We have report from our Directors of
25 Election of Administration and Operation which will be

1 reported by Joe Lynch and Stephanie Reid.

2 MR. LYNCH: Morning, Commissioners. Good morning
3 staff. Everything is going well. I'm looking forward
4 to starting canvas and certify this election. But
5 most of all, I'd like to thank all the people behind
6 me that if it wasn't for them, we wouldn't be where we
7 are today. I really appreciate all the hard work that
8 everybody's putting in this election and looking
9 forward to November election. Thank you. Thanks
10 everyone.

11 MS. REID: Other than just an additional thank
12 you to everyone who has been working diligently, it's
13 really incredible to see the attention to detail that
14 our staff has been using to make sure that everything
15 is done perfectly, it's dotted, it's crossed. Thank you
16 so much for all of your work, and I don't have
17 anything additional. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you. We will proceed to
19 the swearing in of the professional staff. Well, the
20 staff, please raise your right hand. Everybody, got
21 to raise your right hand. Everybody. Okay, hold on.
22 Joe, you chump. Don't do my job. I got it.
23 Everybody raise your right hand. And we want
24 everybody to rise up. So everybody, right hand is up.
25 Everybody, this is our lawyer. She said we want

1 everybody right hand up. All right.

2 Do you and each of you solemnly swear that you
3 will perform your duties in assisting in canvassing
4 and computation of the votes cast in the primary and
5 special election held on Tuesday, April 23rd, in the
6 City and County of Philadelphia? And do you swear
7 that you will perform your duties impartially and that
8 you shall not read, write, count, or certify any
9 returns, votes falsely or fraudulently, so help you
10 God?

11 (Staff sworn in.)

12 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you. Pursuant to the 1937
13 Pennsylvania Election Code, the canvas of the election
14 votes cast on the primary and special election,
15 Tuesday, April 23rd in the City and County of
16 Philadelphia, is now officially open, called the first
17 ward and division. Thank you. There are no other
18 business. This Return Board stands in recess.

19 (The meeting was recessed.)

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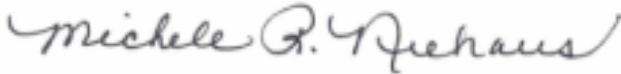
CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST

I, MICHELE NIEHAUS, Legal Transcriptionist, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing is a complete and true transcription of the original digital audio recording of the testimony and proceedings captured in the above-entitled matter. As the transcriptionist, I have reviewed and transcribed the entirety of the original digital audio recording of the proceeding to ensure a verbatim record to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am neither attorney for nor a relative or employee of any of the parties to the action; further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 16 day of May, 2024.



MICHELE NIEHAUS

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