

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

- - -

May 11, 2022

- - -

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- LISA DEELEY, CHAIRWOMAN
- SETH BLUESTEIN, COMMISSIONER
- OMAR SABIR, COMMISSIONER

HELD AT:

City Commissioners Warehouse
11311 Roosevelt Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19154

REPORTED BY: Patricia Slater

Strehlow & Associates, Inc.

(215) 504-4622

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

- - -
PROCEEDINGS
- - -

COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Good morning.

I call the May 11, 2022 meeting of the Philadelphia City Commissioners to order.

First, I will preserve the ordered 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 choose to do so, please succinctly state your objection. Objecting is not an opportunity for speech making.

We will now move to public

1 comment.

2 Commenter's shall state
3 where they live or if they are not
4 a resident of Philadelphia, but
5 they are a Philadelphia taxpayer.
6 Public comment is not an
7 opportunity for dialogue or Q&A,
8 it is public comment; a chance for
9 you to tell us what you think.
10 Each speaker shall have two
11 minutes. However, I may extend
12 this time at my discretion. All
13 public comments must be relevant
14 or germane to Board business.

15 Finally, it is my
16 responsibility to preserve the
17 order and decorum of the meetings.
18 As such, profane, slanderous, or
19 discriminatory or personal attacks
20 will not be tolerated.

21 Is there anyone here for
22 public comment?

23 Please step forward and
24 state your name for the record.

1 MR. VANCE: Good morning,
2 Shohin Vance. I am a Philadelphia
3 resident, but also an attorney and
4 that's the capacity I'm here
5 today.

6 I represent Teresa Dintino
7 who is a candidate for Republican
8 Executive Committee and State
9 Committee in the 26th Ward.

10 As you are all aware by now,
11 and I won't belabor the point, the
12 26th Ward has been a subject of
13 some questions as it relates to a
14 certain amount of ballots totaling
15 about between 30 or 40 that were
16 delivered Tuesday to the P.O. Box
17 associated with a political
18 connection.

19 Needless to say that these
20 circumstances are 100 percent
21 somewhat troubling and raise
22 concerns. In light of that, we'd
23 like to place an objection to the
24 -- to the applications for the

1 mail-in ballots that were
2 submitted by these individuals,
3 and ask that in the meantime until
4 the Sunshine Board has an
5 opportunity to conduct a hearing
6 relative to those ballots and
7 applicants that those -- to the
8 extent the Board has to seek any,
9 that those ballots be segregated.
10 At a subsequent hearing require by
11 the Election Board -- the
12 discussion of the legal factors
13 and circumstances that surround
14 the issue.

15 Given the time that's short
16 and there are a few other points
17 that I think are important to --
18 the submission for the members to
19 review.

20 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank
21 you.

22 MR. VANCE: If anybody has
23 any questions, I'm happy to answer
24 them.

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank
3 you for your comment.

4 Anyone else here to provide
5 public comment, please come
6 forward.

7 MR. GARELLA: Good morning.
8 Hi, my name is Rich Garella from
9 Protect Your Vote Philly.

10 I wanted to express our
11 continuing concern about the
12 abilities of Chinese speaking
13 voters to verify their votes and
14 to submit a cast write-in votes
15 during the election on May 17th.

16 As you know, the Voter
17 Rights Act Section 203 now
18 requires Chinese language voters
19 to be able to vote on an equal
20 basis with English language voters
21 and Spanish Speaking voters.

22 We appreciate the many steps
23 you have taken on making this
24 possible.

1 We note that there don't
2 seem to be instructional materials
3 for using machines in Chinese and
4 no sample printed out ballots for
5 the public to see. Whatever
6 mitigations have been put in place
7 for this, we definitely
8 appreciate.

9 We hope that with a better
10 understanding exactly how this is
11 going to work that we and other
12 groups could work with this Board
13 to make sure that these voters can
14 vote equally with others.

15 I want to also submit for
16 the record a revised version of a
17 statement that we put on the
18 record a couple of weeks ago now
19 that we have some new information.
20 This one is more accurate. I will
21 put it on the record to kind of
22 replace that other one.

23 So once again, thank you
24 very much for hearing me out and

1 thank you for efforts for these
2 voters.

3 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: We will
4 now hear from Commissioner
5 Bluestein -- oh, I'm sorry, is
6 there anybody else here for public
7 comment please come forward.

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Seeing
10 none.

11 We will now move to
12 Commissioner Bluestein for e-mail
13 public comment.

14 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN:
15 There were no e-mail public
16 comment as of 9:45 this morning.

17 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank
18 you, Commissioner.

19 We will proceed to old
20 business with Joe Lynch to hear
21 the report from the executive
22 director.

23 MR. LYNCH: Good morning,
24 Commissioners.

1 City Hall Room 140 is
2 currently available to produce
3 replacement ballots for voters who
4 have all ready applied for a
5 ballot this election, or for
6 voters who need an emergency
7 absentee ballot.

8 As of last night, we have
9 processed all ballot applications.
10 They have approved 105,199
11 vote-by-mail applications for the
12 Primary, which is 12,257 added
13 from last week's total.

14 Of those applications
15 processed so far, 64,646 are paper
16 applications and 40,553 are
17 electronic applications.

18 The Mail-in Ballot Unit,
19 ballots mailed to date 102,774.
20 Ballots received back to date is
21 47,295.

22 Voter registration unit
23 report for the election cycle they
24 have processed 104,087

1 applications. 9,221 were paper.
2 All applications are entered and
3 approved. All mail-in ballots
4 assigned to Delaware and Spring
5 Garden entered. All units are now
6 working on printing, labeling, and
7 mailing ID cards for the polling
8 places which has 55 changes.

9 Election Board Unit, 1,533
10 poll workers did online training.
11 Confirmed workers so far is 6,677.
12 Messages left was 356. There's
13 1,378 poll workers that said they
14 won't be able to work. In-person
15 trained poll workers overall is
16 2,463.

17 The polling place unit, we
18 will be going to court to seek an
19 emergency change of Ward 35
20 Division 28 from Hill Creek to
21 Franklin School due to chair-lift
22 replacement.

23 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank
24 you, Joe.

1 MR. LYNCH: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Joe,
3 real quick. I just have one
4 question.

5 When we say "no show pole
6 workers going to work," is that
7 subtracted from confirmed poll
8 workers?

9 MR. LYNCH: No. The
10 confirmed poll workers are
11 confirmed. The ones that say "no
12 show," they stand alone by
13 themselves. They are people that
14 said they are not going to work.

15 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Okay.

16 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank
17 you again.

18 Before we begin New Business
19 I have a few announcements that I
20 need to get through.

21 First, it is safe to go to
22 the polls and vote in-person on
23 May 17th. We would urge voters to
24 follow the current Health

1 Department recommendations, which
2 were issued on April 22, 2022. In
3 which strongly encourage, but not
4 require people, to wear a mask in
5 indoor public spaces.

6 Second, if you are
7 experiencing COVID-19 symptoms on
8 election day, we advise the
9 possibility of using an
10 alternative means of voting by
11 reference to instructions on
12 obtaining and using an emergency
13 absentee ballot found at
14 philadelphiavotes.com or call
15 (215) 686-1590.

16 Those symptomatic voters who
17 refuse voting alternatives should
18 maintain spaces of at least 6-feet
19 from all other persons at all
20 times while inside the polling
21 place or while waiting outside the
22 polling place.

23 Third, if the line to vote
24 in-person is long and it is

1 possible to wait in line outside,
2 please do so.

3 Fourth, we are still in need
4 of Election Board workers. Those
5 who are interested in serving an
6 Election Board worker, please sign
7 up at poleworkers.philadelphiavotes.com
8 or call (215) 685-4811.

9 Lastly, we are also in need
10 of people to serve as bilingual
11 interpreters on election day,
12 especially Spanish, Mandarin, and
13 Cantonese speakers.

14 Those who are interested as
15 severing as a bilingual
16 interpreter, please sign up at
17 interpreter.philadelphiavotes.com
18 or call (215) 685-4811.

19 I now call on Commissioner
20 Sabir for his motion.

21 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Thank
22 you, Madam Chair.

23 Sustainability, the quality
24 of being easy to obtain or use.

1 I'm proud to make a motion
2 for 10 more absentee mail-in drop
3 off locations. I think this is
4 going to make turning in ballots,
5 completed ballots more accessible
6 to the citizens of Philadelphia.

7 Chalmers Playground, N. 29th
8 Street and Chalmers Avenue.
9 Blackwell Library, 125 S. 52nd
10 Street. Liacouras Center, 1776 N.
11 Broad Street. Showmont Elementary
12 School, 535 Showmont Avenue.
13 Cobbs Creek Library, 5800 Cobbs
14 Creek Parkway. China Gourmet
15 Restaurant, 2842 St. Vincent
16 Street. Lincoln Financial Field -
17 Lot K, Pattison Avenue between S.
18 11th and Darien Streets. Bartram
19 High School, 2401 S. 67th Street.
20 Julia De Burgos Elementary School,
21 401 W. Lehigh. CFCF, 7901 State
22 Road.

23 These mobile locations will
24 start Friday, May 13th through

1 Monday, May 16th. And the
2 locations are available on
3 Philadelphiavotes.com.

4 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Second.
5 Commission Bluestein, call
6 the roll.

7 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN:
8 Commissioner Deely?

9 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: I.

10 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I
11 vote I.

12 Commissioner Sabir?

13 COMMISSIONER SABIR: I.

14 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: The
15 motion to schedule mobile drop off
16 events for the May 17th election
17 has passed unanimous.

18 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: I call
19 on Commissioner Bluestein for his
20 two motions.

21 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I
22 move that we approve the May 2022
23 absentee and mail-in ballot
24 application challenge procedure.

1 That was posted with the agenda
2 and it's at the public comment
3 table. As a challenge procedure
4 and absentee and mail-in ballot
5 applications for the 2022 primary
6 and special elections.

7 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Second.

8 Commissioner Bluestein, please call
9 the roll.

10 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN:

11 Commissioner Deeley?

12 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: I.

13 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I

14 vote I.

15 Commissioner Sabir?

16 COMMISSIONER SABIR: I.

17 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: The
18 motion to approve the May 2022
19 absentee and mail-in ballot
20 application challenge process has
21 passed unanimously.

22 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I
23 also move that we approve the 2022
24 primary election ballot canvass

1 procedure document that's posted
2 with the agenda, and it's
3 available at the public comment
4 table.

5 As the procedures, which
6 absentee and mail-in ballot
7 procedure -- the absentee and
8 mail-in ballot pre-canvass and
9 canvass and the rules for
10 pre-canvass and canvass observers
11 for the 2022 primary and special
12 election.

13 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: I
14 second. Commissioner Bluestein,
15 please call the roll.

16 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN:
17 Commissioner Deeley?

18 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: I.

19 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I
20 second.

21 Commissioner Sabir?

22 COMMISSIONER SABIR: I.

23 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: The
24 motion to approve 2022 primary

1 election ballot canvass procedure
2 past unanimously.

3 Finally, I have a motion. I
4 motion that we authorize and
5 deputize the Philadelphia Board of
6 Election staff to prepare for and
7 conduct a pre-canvass of canvass
8 of absentee and mail-in ballots at
9 the Philadelphia Ballot Processing
10 Center. The -- pre-canvass is to
11 begin on election day at 7 a.m.
12 and is to be conducted in
13 accordance with the Board's
14 practices and procedure.
15 Procedures approved here today,
16 the Election Board, and other
17 applicable law. The absentee and
18 mail-in canvass to begin on or
19 after 8 p.m. on election day and
20 is to be conducted in accordance
21 to the Board's historical
22 practices and procedure,
23 procedures approved here today the
24 election code and other law.

1 The canvass is to begin on
2 Friday, May 20, 2022 at 9 a.m.
3 Philadelphia Board of Elections
4 staff shall take an oath prior to
5 conducted the pre-canvass
6 administered by the Board's
7 Executive Director and prior to
8 conducting a canvass administered
9 by the board.

10 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN:

11 Second.

12 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY:

13 Commissioner Bluestein, please
14 call the roll.

15 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN:

16 Commissioner Deeley?

17 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: I.

18 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I

19 vote I.

20 Commissioner Sabir?

21 COMMISSIONER SABIR: I.

22 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: The

23 motion authorizing and the

24 Philadelphia board of election

1 staff to prepare for and conduct a
2 pre-canvass and canvass of
3 absentee and mail-in ballots has
4 passed unanimously.

5 Commissioner Sabir, do you
6 have any items to be added to the
7 agenda?

8 COMMISSIONER SABIR: No, I
9 do not.

10 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY:
11 Commissioner Bluestein, do you
12 have any items to be added to the
13 agenda?

14 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I
15 have none.

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

20 Thank you all.

21 (Whereupon, the meeting
22 concluded at or about 11:19 a.m.)

23

24

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

CERTIFICATE

I, hereby certify that the proceedings is a true record of the meeting.

Court Reporter - Notary Public

(The foregoing 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.)