

1 PHILADELPHIA CITY COMMISSIONERS

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SUNSHINE MEETING

10

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

11

11:00 a.m.

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ATTENDANCE

Chairman - Omar Sabir
Sit-in for Deputy to the Chair, Vincent Gowans -
Khalif Chestnut
Vice-Chair - Lisa Deeley
Deputy to Vice-Chair - Nicholas Custodio
Commissioner - Seth Bluestein
Deputy - Eric Kapenstein
Director of Operations - Joseph Lynch
Director of Administrations - Stephanie Reed
Deputy Director of Compliance - Dana Eckroade
Polling Place Investigation Supervisor -
Charlie Stroman

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

2 (11:00 a.m.)

3 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Good morning.

4 (Good morning.)

5 CHAIRMAN SABIR: I call to order the meeting of
6 the Philadelphia City Commissioner's Board of
7 Elections for Wednesday, October the 16th, 2024. This
8 meeting is in compliance with the Pennsylvania
9 Sunshine Act.

10 The Philadelphia City Commissioners are a three
11 member bipartisan board of elected officials in charge
12 of elections and voter registration for the city of
13 Philadelphia. Each commissioner is elected to serve a
14 four year term that coincides with the municipal
15 election cycle for mayor and city council. The
16 commissioners set and enforce departmental policies to
17 administer voter registration and conduct elections in
18 accordance with federal and state voter registration
19 and election laws.

20 The city commissioners were created by the
21 Pennsylvania Assembly in 1711 with a focus on taxation
22 and held various regulatory powers throughout the
23 centuries. The commissioner started maintaining voter
24 lists in 1799 and took on more election related
25 responsibility, but didn't emerge into its current

1 form until the adoption of Philadelphia's Home Rule
2 Charter in 1951.

3 We will start off with public comments. Before
4 beginning their comments, commenters shall state where
5 they live or if they are not a resident of
6 Philadelphia and that they are a Philadelphia
7 taxpayer. Public comment, it's not an opportunity for
8 dialogue or Q and A. It is public comment, a chance
9 for you to tell us what you think. Each speaker will
10 have two minutes to speak, however, I may extend the
11 time at my discretion. Public comment must concern
12 matters on today's meeting agenda.

13 Finally, it is my responsibility to preserve the
14 order and decorum of the meetings. As such, profane,
15 slanderous, discriminatory, personal attacks will not
16 be tolerated. If you wish to make a public objection
17 to a perceived Sunshine violation, please raise your
18 hand and I will recognize you. Outbursts will not be
19 tolerated. Anyone wishing to offer to public comment,
20 please step forward. Hearing none, we will now move
21 to a report.

22 Secretary Bluestein, are there any public
23 comments emailed?

24 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: There, there were no email
25 public comments by 9:45 a.m.

1 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you very much. We will
2 now proceed to old business. We have a report from
3 our Directors of Election and Administration, Mr.
4 Joseph Lynch and Ms. Stephanie Reed. Joe, we'll start
5 off with you.

6 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Morning, Commissioners.

7 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Morning, Joe.

8 DIRECTOR LYNCH: This is our Sunshine report for
9 October 16, 2024. The warehouse unit has been working
10 to repair machines for the general election. For our
11 voter registration report, the election cycle to date,
12 they have processed 390,713 voter registration
13 applications. 206,500 of those applications were
14 paper. As of right now, they have a backlog of 5,300
15 applications. Delaware and Spring Garden is working
16 to eliminate the backlog and making necessary
17 corrections. Just a note, Monday, October 21st, 2024
18 is the last day to register to vote. Delaware and
19 Spring Garden will be open until midnight to
20 accommodate the deadline.

21 As of Tuesday, we have approved 182,305 vote by
22 mail and absentee applications, which is 12,849 added
23 from last week's total. Of those, 93,569 are paper
24 applications and 88,736 are electronic applications.
25 This includes military, civilian overseas, and federal

1 voters. We currently have a total of 2,029
2 applications waiting to be processed. Of those, 350
3 are paper applications and 1,679 are electronic
4 applications.

5 As of October 14th, we have sent out 178,467 vote
6 by mail ballots for the 2024 general election. Voters
7 who have not yet received their ballot or need a
8 replacement can visit our website to request a
9 replacement ballot or visit one of our satellite
10 offices for assistance. ID verification letters have
11 gone out to voters that either did not include their
12 required proof of identification on their absentee/
13 mail-in ballot applications or their proof of
14 identification could not be verified by the County
15 Board of Elections Office. Voters who have received
16 this letter may submit their proof of ID to the County
17 Board of Elections via email at
18 phillyelection@phila.gov, fax, US mail, telephone, or
19 in person. Voters have until 5:00 p.m. on November
20 12th to return their proof of identification for the
21 general election.

22 Our satellite office at City Hall, room 140, is
23 now open. The voters can request a mail-in or
24 replacement ballot in person and return it all in the
25 same visit. Office hours are Monday through Friday,

1 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 10:00
2 to 4:00. Voters who would like to vote by mail for
3 the November 5th general election can apply for a
4 mail-in or absentee ballot at [vote dot phila dot gov](http://vote.phila.gov).
5 The deadline to apply is Tuesday, October 29th at 5:00
6 p.m.

7 The Election Board Unit is working to confirming
8 board workers through calls and emails. They have
9 confirmed 8,003 so far, but 557 had declined, and
10 they've left 297 voicemails. In the general election
11 training sessions, 2,442 board workers attended and
12 2,210 confirmed for schedule and training.

13 We are thrilled to share that all 10 satellite
14 offices are open to the public. The district 7
15 office, located in the Mayfair Shopping Center, opened
16 this -- opened yesterday morning. Media, elected
17 officials, and community organizations attended the
18 grand opening. Voters can visit any site, no matter
19 where they live in the city, and we are open to the
20 public seven days a week until election day. You can
21 find a list of satellite election offices, hours, and
22 services on our website at [vote dot phila dot gov](http://vote.phila.gov).
23 Thank you, that's all I have.

24 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Vice-Chair, do you have any
25 questions?

1 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I
2 have no questions, but just for the record, Joe, I
3 just -- you misspoke. It was satellite election 6,
4 district 6.
5 DIRECTOR LYNCH: What did I say?
6 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: You said 7.
7 DIRECTOR LYNCH: My Lord.
8 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: Just for the record.
9 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Sorry.
10 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Strike that.
11 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: Just for the record.
12 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Satellite 6.
13 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Thank you.
14 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: Thank you.
15 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Sorry about that.
16 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, do you have
17 any questions?
18 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: I have none. Thank you.
19 CHAIRMAN SABIR: I'd like to say thank you. I
20 know there was a lot of people who were saying that we
21 couldn't do this. We got through it. I've been
22 working tirelessly and I was actually praying that we
23 got these open and we actually got them open. And
24 Councilman Driscoll, actually, he had a Bible
25 scripture. He said that the last shall be first and

1 the first shall be last. And so, you know, it just
2 really brought everything back together. We still
3 have a lot of work to do. We have to let our
4 constituents know what those satellite offices do, and
5 we want -- if we want to get the participation up
6 there. So that's our next project. Stephanie.
7 Sorry.

8 DIRECTOR REED: No problem. Good morning.
9 I'm pleased to address you today and share updates
10 from our administration report for October 16th, 2024.
11 This past week, with only three weeks to go, we
12 continued our preparations for the general election.

13 In our budget and procurement department, the
14 team has been focused on the normal processing of
15 invoices and purchase orders, addressing any related
16 issues as they arise. We're working with procurement
17 to get our final orders approved for the general
18 election.

19 In communications, we've been designing requested
20 materials, including social media graphics, updated
21 poll worker documents, and signage for the warehouse
22 and city hall. Requested updates were also completed
23 for language access materials, the department's atlas
24 tool, and one pagers for our satellite election
25 offices. Additionally, we have been planning for

1 general election communications, including sessions
2 with our consultants and providing input for the paid
3 media campaign.

4 Regarding engagement, we're distributing
5 materials at Independence Library, Oregon Market, and
6 First Oriental Market. Our efforts also involve
7 sharing flyers for poll workers and interpreters,
8 encouraging voter registration, recruiting bilingual
9 interpreters, and engaging with the community through
10 feedback and questions at events. We continue
11 identifying hair salons, temples, or churches where we
12 can distribute a collection of materials.

13 I think there might be a mistake at the end of
14 this. I need to double check the number of events
15 we're scheduled for. I think it's two.

16 In human resources, our total workforce stands at
17 224 employees, with 189 in civil service and 35
18 exempt. This includes 56 clerk ones, 33 clerk twos,
19 17 clerk threes, nine trades helpers, nine voting
20 machines techs, and 44 temps. We're continuing with
21 new hire activities and preparing for upcoming
22 orientations.

23 Our IT team completed setting up all IT
24 components for our last two satellite election
25 offices. They've been updating surveys and signing --

1 sign up forms, posting notices, and maintaining our
2 website. They've also been working on the call
3 center, asset retrieval center, and poll worker
4 dashboard. The team has finished new phone setup with
5 the help of surge staffing from the city. And one
6 note here is that the Shepherd Rec Dropbox is still
7 down, and that is, I think, IT related. It's, it's
8 not anything that's our fault, but the entire power is
9 out at Shepherd Rec.

10 DIRECTOR LYNCH: It's up.

11 DIRECTOR REED: It's up now?

12 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Yeah.

13 DIRECTOR REED: Okay, well, never mind. Update.
14 It's up. So that's good.

15 DIRECTOR LYNCH: I'm sorry. We, we, we, we found
16 out that it went up last night, so we, we had somebody
17 go out and open it up.

18 DIRECTOR REED: Great. All right.

19 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Okay. And were you finished?
20 I'm sorry.

21 DIRECTOR REED: Just one more thing. With three
22 weeks until the general election, our staff's done a
23 wonderful job preparing and solving challenges as they
24 arise. I'd like to thank them for their ongoing
25 commitment and hard work. And I'd also like to thank

1 OIT for their support as we've worked together to
2 troubleshoot and they provided specialized support
3 staffing to help our IT unit. I am finished.

4 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Okay. Thank you. Vice-Chair
5 Deeley, did you have any questions?

6 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: Thank you. I have none.

7 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary?

8 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: Thank you. I have none.

9 CHAIRMAN SABIR: I just want to go back, I guess,
10 with the, the drop boxes. Now, is the communications
11 together between them and a website far as, like,
12 what's up or not up? Because I know it's, like,
13 another page to the website.

14 DIRECTOR REED: Yeah, you know what that was -- I
15 just -- that was a news item. And this is something
16 Joe and I have talked about. It's really frustrating
17 when we put -- I'm sorry. It's frustrating when we
18 put the, like, details in a news item. What we need
19 to do moving forward is link back to the main page.
20 Because what happens then is, when people search, they
21 can find an old news item, and it was one that was
22 missed. He did update it, but he and I talked about
23 as soon as we get through this election, really
24 thinking about, like, where we put things, how they
25 link back so that we don't have multiple places where

1 information is stored.

2 CHAIRMAN SABIR: So there's no possible way we
3 could change that for this election? It's no possible
4 way?

5 DIRECTOR REED: Well, we did update that one. It
6 is updated.

7 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Okay. That's what I'm saying.
8 Just make sure that we do the updates --

9 DIRECTOR REED: We did.

10 CHAIRMAN SABIR: -- on that backside. That's
11 all.

12 DIRECTOR REED: Yep, we did. For sure.

13 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Sure. Okay. Thank you. Thank
14 you, I appreciate y'all both.

15 DIRECTOR REED: Of course.

16 CHAIRMAN SABIR: We will now proceed to new
17 business. We will begin considering our first agenda
18 item. Vice-Chair Deeley's motion. Vice-Chair Deeley,
19 did you want to make a statement before you put your
20 motion in or you just wanted to put your motion in?

21 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: Yes, Mr. Chair, a few brief
22 comments before I put my motion up.

23 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Sure.

24 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Yeah.

1 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: So just a quick history
2 lesson. When the pandemic hit in 2020 and the number
3 of mail ballots requests skyrocketed, the Department
4 of State recommended that we purchase these envelope
5 grinders to open all the mail. We brought two of
6 them, but when it came time to use them, they really
7 weren't that effective. First, they only cut one of
8 the four sides, so it's not quick to get the contents
9 out. But worse, they damaged several thousand
10 ballots. Let me repeat, the grinders damaged several
11 thousand ballots in the 2020 primary election. These
12 ballots needed to be hand recreated one at a time with
13 full transparency for the observers. It took a good
14 amount of time.

15 Afterwards, finding a solution to the envelope
16 opening problem was one of our top priorities. We
17 traveled the country during the pandemic. We also
18 called jurisdictions that vote almost exclusively by
19 mail. What we found out is that they all use the
20 extraction desks. All of them. Nobody mentioned
21 grinders, so we bought extraction desks. They are not
22 outdated equipment.

23 Now, things with them haven't been perfect. I
24 think it was the second election where we had to get
25 the service techs out here because they were damaging

1 the ballots. But we got them on the right maintenance
2 schedule, and since then, they have worked great. Now
3 they move at the speed of the operator. Faster
4 operators will extract more ballots than slower ones.
5 And I know that in the past we have sometimes used the
6 grinders on a small scale to help out.

7 Now, I know there has been talk about juicing
8 this year's process by purchasing additional grinders
9 and using them on the secrecy envelopes. And I know
10 that Allegheny County uses grinders. But in my
11 opinion, we are not in a race against Allegheny
12 County. This is a serious election, not a race. It
13 would be just immature to try and race another county.
14 They have their way of doing things for their unique
15 circumstances and we have ours for our unique
16 circumstances.

17 We have already made a lot of changes leading up
18 to this year that will make the count take much less
19 time than it did in 2020, namely implementing
20 electronic poll books, which means it's not going to
21 be days anymore. We do not need to take unnecessary
22 risks. We will get people clarity in a reasonable
23 time frame.

24 I know that I have said no changes in the
25 presidential election, and I know that the Chairman

1 has delivered that message to everyone numerous times.
2 No changes. So I am perplexed as to why we would
3 think about changing something about the canvas.
4 Maybe everything goes well. Maybe these newly
5 purchased grinders that have never been used before or
6 tested at scale will work great. Maybe they do not
7 damage any ballots. Maybe they speed things up a
8 little bit, in which case everyone just forgets that I
9 made this motion.

10 But this is not the election for maybe because
11 maybe the grinders again damage a couple thousand
12 ballots, like in 2020 in the primary. Maybe the
13 presidential race comes down to a couple thousand
14 votes. If that's the case, those will be the most
15 watched and anticipated ballot recreations in the
16 history of the world. That is, after the lawsuits
17 over them have finished. I do not want to risk that.
18 If we have new ideas on how to do things more
19 efficiently, then let's try it out next year in the
20 Controller DA Race, when the people of Denmark don't
21 care about the outcome.

22 So for the sake of peace of mind, I motion that
23 the staff only utilize the extraction desks on -- or
24 hand letter openers for the opening of declaration and
25 secrecy envelopes, and do not utilize grinders unless

1 there is a significant mechanical issue that arises
2 with the extraction desks. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you. Secretary, did you
4 want to make a comment?

5 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. May I
6 be recognized, please?

7 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Yes, you may.

8 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: First, I just want to thank
9 the deputy commissioners and the staff for being
10 innovative in trying to find ways to speed up our
11 processing times when it comes to the canvas. And
12 this is not about being in a race with another county.
13 It is about knowing that the world is looking to find
14 out when the results will be known.

15 In Pennsylvania and in Philadelphia in
16 particular, we know that the window of time from when
17 the polls close to when the race is called is when is
18 at the greatest risk for miss and disinformation and
19 harassment and threats to our workers.

20 The technology under consideration today was a
21 godsend for our department when in the 2020 primary,
22 we needed to open 175,000 mail ballots, and we needed
23 to use them and get it done quickly. Also, when the
24 extraction desks did damage ballots, over 4000 of
25 them, in the 2021 primary, we rushed the grinders up

1 here to use them to finish the job.

2 Now, the grinders that were just purchased have
3 already been tested. We have some of the test
4 material here, and you can see that they did not
5 damage any of the ballots. And the reason for that is
6 it's not about which extraction desk or grinder that
7 we use. It is about how long the ballot is and how it
8 is folded, and when it sits in the envelope properly,
9 as these ones clearly do, because it's a smaller
10 ballot, there is very little risk for them being cut
11 when they're being opened. And the risk doesn't
12 change whether it's the extraction desks or the
13 grinders. That risk is the same.

14 So, you know, I would be remiss in not using a
15 technology that can open potentially 40,000 envelopes
16 an hour, as opposed to the extraction desks, which can
17 only open 3,600 envelopes an hour. So for that
18 reason, I do think we should utilize both the
19 extraction desks on the outer envelopes and then use
20 the secrecy -- the grinders on the secrecy envelopes
21 as the professional staff have recommended. Thank
22 you.

23 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Real quick. Joe, could I call
24 you back up, Joe?

25 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Sure.

1 CHAIRMAN SABIR: So Joe, so you done tests on
2 these grinders.

3 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Uh-huh.

4 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Tell us a little about it. Did
5 you just order them or did you talk to, like,
6 Allegheny County? Did you talk to other election --

7 DIRECTOR LYNCH: No, I didn't talk to any other
8 county. I don't need to talk to any other county. I
9 just thought that it would be better to have them,
10 because there's kind of, like, a choke point --

11 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Okay.

12 DIRECTOR LYNCH: -- when it comes to take --
13 opening up the declaration envelopes at the -- at the
14 tables. So I figured if we put one at each -- at the
15 end of each station, we would be able to make -- we'd
16 be able to open these quicker, the declaration
17 envelopes.

18 CHAIRMAN SABIR: How long did you --

19 DIRECTOR LYNCH: And I ran -- I ran tests
20 yesterday and it came out fine.

21 CHAIRMAN SABIR: And so just for the record's
22 sake, so how long you been running elections, or in
23 the election --

24 DIRECTOR LYNCH: I've been here 28 years.

25 CHAIRMAN SABIR: So in 28 years, you think that

1 this is a good idea for us to open it up in this
2 election?

3 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Yes, I do. I do.

4 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you.

5 DIRECTOR LYNCH: Those machines are, are awesome.
6 They really are.

7 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you, Joe.

8 DIRECTOR LYNCH: But I, I, I, I understand what
9 the Commissioner is saying. But, I mean, I wouldn't
10 jeopardize the election if I didn't think this would
11 work, so.

12 CHAIRMAN SABIR: You wanted to add something,
13 Stephanie?

14 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: Mr. Chairman, if I may?

15 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Sure.

16 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: I'm questioning the 40,000
17 number since the ballots are batched up, and we're
18 not, not going to be running 40,000 at one time, so.

19 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: The, the numbers are
20 directly from OPEX's website for how fast the
21 equipment can be used. It's no different than saying
22 that the -- in theory, the extraction desks can handle
23 up to 3,600 per an hour, but as you said in your
24 statement, it depends on the user, and in fact, it
25 never opens 3,600 per an hour. And in our experience

1 over the last four years, each extraction desks
2 probably maxes out about 900 per an hour, in real
3 world use. So yes, in the real world, it won't hit
4 40,000 per an hour, the same way the extraction desks
5 don't hit 3600 per an hour.

6 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Okay. I mean, it's my
7 statement, I guess, is that I don't want this board to
8 risk accuracy over speed, you know. However, the
9 longer we keep the canvas going, that's a threat to
10 our life. You know, in 2020, that little short
11 window, you know, it put -- it put all our election
12 board workers, in my opinion, life at stake, keeping
13 it going longer. And if we have an opportunity, and
14 we do have a recommendation from someone who has done
15 elections for 28 years and they feel, you know, that
16 this is confident that this is going to work. Other
17 counties use the same machine, same equipment, and
18 they do it faster, you know, but I just wanted to say,
19 everybody, to understand your position,
20 Vice-Chair Deeley. And I know it's in the best
21 interest of the board, and I do. But did you -- so I
22 know you made the statement -- I know we just all made
23 statements, but for the record, I don't know if I
24 clearly heard your actual motion.

25 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: Thank you, Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Okay.

2 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: So for the sake of peace of
3 mind, I motion that the staff only utilize the
4 extraction desks or hand letter openers for the
5 opening of declaration and secrecy envelopes and do
6 not utilize grinders unless there is a significant
7 mechanical issue that arises with the extraction
8 desks.

9 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Is there a second? Hearing no
10 second, this motion does not pass.

11 We will now move to the next agenda item, polling
12 place changes. We will hear from polling place
13 investigation supervisor Charlie Stroman.

14 MR. STROMAN: Good morning, Commissioners.

15 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Good morning.

16 MR. STROMAN: I have five proposals for change.
17 The first will be in the 9th Ward, the 17th Division,
18 moving out of the Chestnut Hill Towers to the Chestnut
19 Hill Friends Meeting, and that is due to a refusal.

20 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Having heard the recommendation
21 of the professional staff, I move that we accept the
22 polling place change for Ward 9, Division 17. Is
23 there a second?

24 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Are there any comments before we

1 proceed to vote?

2 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: I have none.

3 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: I have none.

4 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, please
5 call the roll.

6 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: Vice-Chair Deeley?

7 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: I vote aye.

8 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. Chairman
9 Sabir?

10 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Aye. Please proceed.

11 MR. STROMAN: Next one will be in the 10th Ward,
12 the 23rd Division, moving out of the storefront at
13 7163 Stenton Avenue, to the Congregation Temple
14 Bethel, 7350 Lowber Avenue, and that is back to the
15 original location.

16 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Having heard the recommendation
17 of the professional staff, I move that we accept the
18 polling place change for Ward 10, Division 23. Is
19 there a second?

20 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Are there any comments before we
22 vote?

23 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: I have none.

24 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: I have none.

25 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, please call

1 the roll.

2 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: Vice-Chair Deeley?

3 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: I vote aye.

4 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. Chairman
5 Sabir?

6 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Aye. Please proceed.

7 MR. STROMAN: Next one will be in the 19th Ward,
8 the 1st Division, moving out of Cognitive Behavioral
9 Health to The Children's Playhouse, and that is due to
10 a refusal.

11 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Having heard the recommendation
12 of the professional staff, I move that we accept the
13 polling place change for Ward 19, Division 1. Is
14 there a second?

15 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Does anyone have any comment
17 before we vote?

18 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: I have none.

19 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: I have none.

20 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, please call
21 the roll.

22 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: Vice-Chair Deeley?

23 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: I vote aye.

24 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. Chairman
25 Sabir?

1 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Aye. Please proceed.

2 MR. STROMAN: Next one would be in the 21st Ward,
3 the 24th Division, moving out of Roxborough Memorial
4 Hospital to the Lingelbach School, and that is due to
5 overcrowding.

6 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Having heard the recommendation
7 of the professional staff, I move that we accept the
8 polling place change for Ward 21, Division 24. Is
9 there a second?

10 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Any comments before we vote?

12 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: I have none.

13 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: I have none.

14 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary -- oh, is it? Oh.
15 Secretary Bluestein, please call the roll.

16 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: Vice-Chair Deeley?

17 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: I vote aye.

18 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. Chairman
19 Sabir? CHAIRMAN SABIR: Aye. Please proceed.

20 MR. STROMAN: Next one is in the 25th Ward, the
21 14th Division, moving out of Community Center of
22 Visitation to the NKCDC, Suite Number 1, 2771 Rue
23 Street, and that is moving into the ward and into its
24 own division.

25 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Having heard the recommendation

1 of the professional staff, I move that we accept the
2 polling place change for Ward 25, Division 14. Is
3 there a second?

4 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Any comments before we vote?

6 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, if I may.
7 Charlie, thank you so much. It was a last minute
8 change and I think it's better for the voters. So
9 thank you for your work you did --

10 MR. STROMAN: You're welcome.

11 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: -- at the very last minute.
12 I appreciate you always taking my call and getting
13 that done. Thank you.

14 MR. STROMAN: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you. Secretary?

16 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: I have no comments, thank
17 you.

18 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Please call the roll.

19 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: Vice-Chair Deeley?

20 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: I vote aye.

21 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. Chairman
22 Sabir?

23 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Aye. That's it, Charlie?

24 MR. STROMAN: That's all I have.

25 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Cool. Thank you, Charlie. I

1 appreciate you, as always.

2 MR. STROMAN: You're welcome.

3 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Okay, that was our last agenda
4 item. Is there any business that needed to be raised
5 at this meeting that was not on the agenda?

6 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: Mr. Chairman, if I may?

7 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Yes, you may.

8 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: Thank you. I would just like
9 to say that yesterday I had launched a campaign to
10 educate and inform voters about the need to recognize
11 the importance of voting down the ballot. Certainly,
12 we know everybody's watching and thinking about the
13 presidential election and it's absolutely important
14 because that will affect the whole world. But there
15 are other races on the ballot that affect people's
16 everyday lives. So we're taking this opportunity to
17 inform and educate folks on the importance of voting
18 down the ballot. So thank you very much.

19 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you. Secretary, did you
20 have anything?

21 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: I have nothing to add.
22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Okay. I motion that we adjourn
24 this meeting. Is there a second?

25 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, please call
2 the roll.

3 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: Vice-Chair Deeley?

4 VICE-CHAIR DEELEY: I vote aye.

5 SECRETARY BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. Chairman
6 Sabir?

7 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Aye. This meeting is adjourned.

8 (Meeting adjourned.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST

2

3 I, HEATHER FACTOR, 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 23rd day of October, 2024.

21

22



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Heather Factor

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Public Meeting Agenda

October 16, 2024 – 11:00 A.M.

Philadelphia City Commissioners
11311 Roosevelt Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19154

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
 - A. In-Person Public Comments
 - B. Report from the Secretary – Emailed Public Comment
- III. Old Business
 - A. Report from Directors of Election Administration and Operations
- IV. New Business
 - A. Vice-Chair Deeley Motion – Motion to only utilize extraction desk or hand letter openers for opening of declaration and secrecy envelopes
 - B. Polling place changes
- V. Adjournment



Philadelphia
City Commissioners

	Wd	Div	OLD POLLING PLACE, Address	PP	NEW POLLING PLACE, Address	PP
1	09	17	CHESTNUT HILL TOWER, 7600 STENTON AVE	FL	CHESTNUT HILL FRIENDS MEETING, 20 E MERMAID LN	FH
2	10	23	STOREFRONT, 7163 STENTON AVE	MN	CONGREGATION TEMPLE BETHEL, 7350 LOWBER AVE	FL
3	19	01	COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, 3253 6TH ST	BN	THE CHILDRENS PLAYHOUSE, 3169 N 5TH ST	MN
4	21	24	ROXBOROUGH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, 5800 RIDGE AVE	ML	LINGELBACH SCHOOL, 6340 WAYNE AVE	FL
5	25	14	COMMUNITY CENTER AT VISATATION, 2646 KENSINGTON AVE	FN	NKCDC SUITE # 1, 2771 RUTH ST	FN