



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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COMMISSIONERS

Ethridge A. King, Jr.
Larry W. Ward
Charles J. Marquardt
Victoria A. Harris

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Tanya L. Ford-Crump

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Lesley Waxman

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING Minutes of June 16, 2021

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm on June 16, 2021 via Zoom.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Larry Ward	Present
Commissioner Victoria Harris	Present
Commissioner Ethridge King	Present
Commissioner Charles Marquardt	Present

Also, present were Executive Director Tanya Ford-Crump and Assistant Director Lesley Waxman.

The meeting was changed from in-person to Zoom in response to the Governor's signing of a law extending the use of Zoom meeting until April 2022 earlier in the day.

In light of the change of the meeting to Zoom the Commission:

Motion: To suspend the rules to take review of Minutes prior to Public Comment.

Moved: Commissioner Ward
Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward	Yea
Commissioner Harris	Yea
Commissioner King	Yea
Commissioner Marquardt	Yea
Passed:	4—0

II: MINUTES

Motion: To approve the Minutes of June 2, 2021 with corrections.

Moved: Commissioner Ward
Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward	Yea
Commissioner Harris	Yea
Commissioner King	Yea
Commissioner Marquardt	Yea
Passed:	4—0

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair opened the meeting for public comment.

Mr. Gary Mello expressed his concern to the Commission regarding the late change in the meeting from in-person to Zoom and urged the Commission to close the meeting and reschedule to another date to allow more time to notify the public.

Motion: To close Public Comment.

Moved: Commissioner Ward

Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward Yea

Commissioner Harris Yea

Commissioner King Yea

Commissioner Marquardt Yea

Passed: 4—0

III: REPORTS

1. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Ford-Crump made the following report:

a. I voted sticker contest

The results of the I Voted Sticker contest at Cambridge Rindge and Latin were shared with the Commission with the winning sticker design to be used in the November 2nd Municipal Election.

b. Updated Operational Changes

The updated office re-opening timeline was provided and discussed with the Commission.

c. Meeting Changes

The change in the meeting was made in response to the change in state law enacted that day and to provide for the safety of the public and the staff.

2. Assistant Director's Report

Ms. Waxman made the following report:

a. Re-Precincting Update

i. Staff and GIS met with the Secretary of State's office and they provided GIS with UMass Donohue Institute Population Estimates at the census block level to assist practicing and planning for re-precincting. Estimates provided show Cambridge's population being between 120,000 and 125,000.

ii. The Massachusetts House of Representatives has passed a bill that would have the Legislature drawing Representative, State Senate and Congressional districts before local election commissions would draw ward and precincts. Ms. Waxman provided copies of the bills, a letter from the Secretary of State's office opposing the change and a resolution from the Waltham City Council opposing the change.

The Commission discussed the impacts of the changes included in the bill which would greatly impact the work of the Commission, with the potential to result in the division of communities of interest when drawing precincts as well as negatively impact voters' ability to participate in elections. After discussion it was determined that the Commission would pass a resolution opposing the bill passed by the State House of Representations.

Motion: To approve a resolution opposing House bill H3863 (attached)

Moved: Commissioner Ward

Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward Yea

Commissioner Harris Yea

Commissioner King Yea

Commissioner Marquardt Yea

Passed: 4—0

Commissioner Marquardt agreed to provide Ms. Ford-Crump with a list of email addresses to which the resolution should be sent.

b. Statements of Financial Interests

Ms. Waxman provided an update that Formal Notice of Failure to File was mailed to 42 municipal officials on June 15.

c. Candidate Packet Updates

Packets have been updated to include the changes to office access resulting from the changes to operating procedures and to include information on which items need to be included on the nomination papers. It was recommended to include information on-line as well as in printed packets regarding the completion of forms

3. Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Harris reported that:

- She visited the Burns Apartments on Churchill Ave and the renovated space looks great and will work well as a polling location
- Attended a webinar put on by the Brennan and Ashe Centers about the continuing threats to free and fair elections.

Commissioner King reported that:

- He attended the School Committee's Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee meeting where the use of the schools as polling locations was an agenda item.

Commissioner Ward reported that:

- He also attended the School Committee's Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee meeting with Commissioner King

Ms. Ford-Crump expressed her thanks regarding the assistance the Police Department provided in helping to secure the use of certain school buildings as polling locations.

IV. ACTION AGENDA

Old Business

Polling Locations

Ms. Waxman provided the Commission with a listing of current polling locations, some of which are listed as temporary while some can revert to their original locations. After discussion the Commission considered the following motions:

Motion: To approve Cadbury Commons, 66 Sherman St. as the location for Ward 10 Precinct 3

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward Yea

Commissioner Harris Yea

Commissioner King Yea

Commissioner Marquardt Yea

Passed: 4—0

Motion: To remove the temporary language for Trinity Armenian Church as the location for Ward 9 Precinct 1

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward Yea

Commissioner Harris Yea

Commissioner King Yea

Commissioner Marquardt Yea

Passed: 4—0

Motion: To approve Burns Apartments, Churchill Ave. as the location for Ward 11 Precinct 3

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward Yea

Commissioner Harris Yea

Commissioner King Yea

Commissioner Marquardt Yea

Passed: 4—0

New Business

There was no new business.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for June 30, 2021 at 5:30 pm. via Zoom

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:03 pm

Moved: Commissioner Ward

Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward Yea

Commissioner Harris Yea

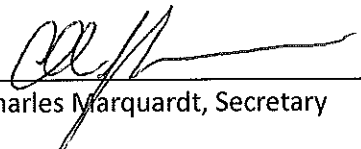
Commissioner King Yea

Commissioner Marquardt Yea

Passed: 4—0

A True Record

Attested by: _____


Charles Marquardt, Secretary