



# 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 May 19, 2021

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm on May 19, 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.

### I. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair opened the meeting for public comment.

There was no public comment provided.

**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
<b>Passed:</b>	<b>4—0</b>

### II: MINUTES

**Motion:** To approve the Minutes of May 5th, 2021 with corrections.  
**Moved:** Commissioner Ward  
**Seconded:** Commissioner King

### Roll Call

Commissioner Ward	Yea
Commissioner Harris	Yea
Commissioner King	Yea
Commissioner Marquardt	Yea
<b>Passed:</b>	<b>4—0</b>

### **III: REPORTS**

#### **1. Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Ford-Crump made the following report:

a. Budget for FY 2022

The Election Commission budget was not pulled for review during the City Council Finance Committee meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> and was forwarded to the City Council with a positive recommendation.

b. City Census

The second mailing to those residents who did not respond to the first mailing has been sent out.

#### **2. Assistant Director's Report**

Ms. Waxman made the following report:

a. Statement of Financial Interests

Statement of Financial Interests have been received from 62 out of 154 respondents to date.

b. GIS

The GIS Department will attend the Commission's June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to discuss their role in the upcoming re-precincting as well as respond to questions from the Commissioners. Ms. Waxman asked if they could go first on the agenda to which the Commissioners agreed.

c. Re-precincting Update

In addition to GIS attending the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Commission meeting, Ms. Waxman reported that GIS and Commission staff have a meeting with the Secretary of State's Office on June 10<sup>th</sup> to go over data and timelines for the process.

#### **3. Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner King reported that he, Commissioner Ward and Executive Director Ms. Ford-Crump attended the meeting of the School Committee's Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee on May 12th. Additional details regarding the outcome of the meeting and next steps will be discussed under Old Business.

Commissioner Marquardt reported that he had attended part of the Joint Committee on Election Laws hearing that afternoon covering certain proposals to make permanent certain of the pandemic related changes made to voting laws in 2020. He reported that there appears to be more urgency with regard to these proposals in light of the Governor's announcement that the State of Emergency will end on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Harris reported that she also had attended some of the Joint Committee on Election Laws hearing that afternoon. She also reported that the Center for Technology and Civic Life has some good information on the redistricting process.

### **IV. ACTION AGENDA**

#### *Old Business*

#### *Coordination/Communication with City Council Regarding Proposed Legislative Changes for the 2021*

#### *Municipal Election*

Commissioner Marquardt reported that he has completed a draft of the memo discussed in the previous meeting, but the memo is being revisited in light of the Governor's announcement on Monday.

#### *Polling Locations*

Commissioner Harris reported that Cadbury Commons and Reservoir Church are both happy to host polling

locations for the upcoming Municipal Election.

Ms. Ford-Crump reported that she was in communication with Ms. Ellen Semonoff, Assistant City Manager, Department of Human Services Programs about the use of the West Cambridge and Moses Youth Centers as polling locations.

Ms. Ford-Crump reported that she has sent an email to her contact at the National Guard Armory regarding the use of that location as a polling place. She also mentioned that she would reach out to the Water Department to determine if the Water Plant could be a location if needed.

Commissioner Marquardt reported that he had read that Harvard and MIT are requiring students to be vaccinated as a condition to returning to campus in the fall. He asked if this would impact our polling locations at MIT. Commissioner Ward said that he would reach out to his contact at MIT regarding the requirement.

Commissioner King asked if mobile trailers or heated tents could be used if building locations are not available. After discussion it was concluded that these are not attractive options.

Commissioner Marquardt asked about the construction ongoing at City Hall and whether that could impact its viability as a polling location. Commissioner Marquardt to reach out to John Logiudice, Assistant Project Manager for the City on this project.

There was discussion about the Kennedy Longfellow School not being available for the Municipal Election. This school served as a double precinct so its loss would require finding either one larger location and two locations. Commissioner Marquardt volunteered to assist Commissioner Ward with looking for potential sites in the East Cambridge area.

Ms. Ford-Crump provided an overview of the School Committee meeting she and Commissioners Ward and King had attended on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The School Department and School Committee are focused on the safety and security of the students and asked that security plans for each school location be provided. Ms. Ford-Crump informed all that the plans are being worked on and that the safety and security of the children at these locations are the Commissions top priority. The Commissioners wholeheartedly agreed with keeping the children safe as a top priority.

*New Business*

There was no new business.

**The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for June 2, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Zoom.**

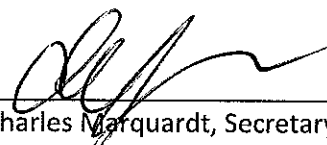
**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:29 pm  
**Moved:** Commissioner Ward  
**Seconded:** Commissioner Harris

**Roll Call**

Commissioner Ward	Yea
Commissioner Harris	Yea
Commissioner King	Yea
Commissioner Marquardt	Yea
<b>Passed:</b>	<b>4—0</b>

True Record

Attested by:

  
Charles Marquardt, Secretary