



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

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Lesley Waxman

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING Minutes of June 15, 2023

The Chair, Commissioner Harris, called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM on June 15, 2023.

Present were the Chair, Commissioner Victoria Harris, Commissioner Larry Ward, Commissioner Ethridge King, Executive Director Tanya Ford, and Assistant Director Lesley Waxman. The Chair noted that Commissioner Marquardt is on his way. Commissioner Marquardt arrived at 5:03 PM.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Gary Mello was not in attendance, but he submitted an email and asked that it be read out loud. The Chair, Commissioner Harris, read the email out loud.

Motion: To close Public Comment.
Moved: Commissioner Harris
Seconded: Commissioner Ward
Passed: 4—0

II: MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of June 1, 2023 with corrections.
Moved: Commissioner Harris
Seconded: Commissioner King
Passed: 4—0

III: REPORTS

1. Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Ford reported that she attended the June 12, City Council meeting. A legal opinion was given to the council by Nancy Glowa from the Law Department (see attached) at this meeting regarding the earliest possible date the charter review recommendations could be placed on the ballot if their work is completed by December 31, 2023.
- Executive Director Ford voiced her concerns about the potential election administration impact the recommendations from the Charter Review Committee may have on compliance, the law, and regulations. A major concern was the potential for the Charter Review Committee to recommend commingling state elections with municipal elections. The prevailing thought by the Charter Review Committee is that moving the municipal election to an even year with the state election, this would increase voter turnout.
- Executive Director Ford shared her concerns with the City Manager during the department heads Charter Review Committee debrief meeting. The City Manager plans to reach out to Kathy Born (a member of the Charter Review Committee) to discuss the concerns raised by the Executive Director.

- The Chair, Commissioner Harris, suspended the rules for an impromptu public comment by John Hawkinson. Mr. Hawkinson reported that California’s municipal elections were moved to the same time as statewide elections and it significantly increased voter turnout.

2. Assistant Director’s Report

- The Assistant Director reported 66 SFIs are delinquent, the formal letter of “failure to file” will be mailed out in the next week. In addition, there are three “not yet returned” SFIs that were just mailed out to the filers last week.

3. Commissioners’ Reports

- Commissioner King reported that he attended the Fresh Pond Day event on June 10. There were no voter registrations but lots of interest in election dates and logistics.
- Commissioner King reported that he and Assistant Director Waxman visited 37 Harris St, on June 14 at 10am. Both Commissioner King and Assistant Director Waxman determined that the master bedroom was in Cambridge which reaffirms the 1988 decision by the Board to deem 37 Harris Street properly registered in the City of Cambridge.
- Commissioner Ward Reported that he and Commissioner Harris, met with Allen Gehant, CRLS’ Acting Assistant Principal—they had a very productive meeting regarding getting students on board to work the polls early on. Twelve (12) students already signed up to work the polls.
- Commissioner Marquardt reported that he attended the Humphrey School webinar “The local election official experience 2018 to 2022” put on by Professor Gronke, of the Early Voting Information Center (EVIC).

IV. ACTION AGENDA

Old Business

Municipal Election

Assistant Director Waxman is working on the candidate packets.

Executive Director Ford suggested that the Board add to the agenda (sooner rather than later) the fee structure for voter list because these fees are included in the candidate packet.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21, at 5:30 PM.

Motion: **To adjourn the meeting at 5:35 PM.**
Moved: Commissioner Harris
Seconded: Commissioner Ward
Passed: **4—0**

A True Record

Attested by: *Ethridge King*
 Ethridge A. King, Secretary

