

Meeting of the Commissioners Elections
October 21, 2020

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MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS

October 21, 2020

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COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

LISA DEELEY, CHAIRWOMAN
AL SCHMIDT, COMMISSIONER
OMAR SABIR, COMMISSIONER

HELD AT:

Pennsylvania Convention Center
1101 Arch Street, Hall E
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

REPORTED BY: Patricia Slater

Strehlow & Associates, Inc.

(215)504-4622

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2 PROCEEDINGS

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4 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Good

5 morning. I call to order the
6 meeting of Wednesday, October 21,
7 2020.

8 If you need to use the
9 restroom, they are located in the
10 rear of this hall in the hallway.

11 I have an announcement
12 first; The Philadelphia City
13 Commissioners met virtually in an
14 executive session on Monday,
15 October 19, 2020, to meet with
16 Counsel in order to receive
17 information on a legal matter
18 concerning potential litigation.

19 We will now move to public
20 comment. Commenter's shall state
21 where they live, or if they are
22 not a resident of Philadelphia but
23 they are a Philadelphia taxpayer.
24 Public comment is not an

1 opportunity for dialogue or Q and
2 A, it is public comment. A chance
3 for you to tell us what you think.
4 Each speaker shall have two
5 minutes. However, I may extend
6 this time at my discretion. All
7 public comment must be relevant or
8 germane to Board business.

9 Finally, it is my
10 responsibility to preserve the
11 order and decorum of the meeting.
12 As such; Profane, slanderous,
13 discriminatory or personal attacks
14 will not be tolerated.

15 Anyone wishing to offer
16 public comment please step
17 forward.

18 MS. MCCARTHY: Good morning,
19 Commissioner's. My name is
20 Mirelle McCarthy. I'm a resident
21 and tax payer of Philadelphia.

22 You just mentioned that you
23 have a motion in executive session
24 without giving details of the case

1 that you discussed. It's a
2 violation of the Sunshine Act. I
3 just want to put it on there for
4 the record.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Is there
7 anyone else present to make public
8 comment?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Hearing
11 none.

12 I would hear from a report
13 from the secretary, Commissioner
14 Sabir, for e-mailed public
15 comment.

16 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Good
17 morning. We have none.

18 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank
19 you.

20 I make a motion after being
21 reviewed that we will proceed.

22 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Second.

23 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: All in
24 favor?

1 (All respond I.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: We will
3 now proceed to old business with a
4 executive report that will be --
5 it is a report authored by our
6 Executive Director, Joe Lynch, but
7 it will be given for the record by
8 Deputy Nick Custodio.

9 MR. CUSTODIO: Good morning.
10 Executive Director Report from the
11 Executive Director, Joe Lynch.

12 So far we have approved
13 401,816 absentee and mail-in
14 ballot applications. Of that,
15 43,858 were absentee, which 3,332
16 were paper and 40,826 were online.
17 Mail-in, we have approved 353,628,
18 from that we have 166,994 with
19 paper. 186,634 came in online.
20 We approved 1,207 civilian
21 overseas. 2,549 federal voters
22 and 574 military.

23 We have a total outstanding
24 applications of about 10,600.

1 Total outstanding applications
2 excluding estimated duplicate
3 applications is about 4,800.

4 Voter registration this
5 cycle we have processed 274,361
6 registrations of which 60,300 were
7 paper. We currently have a
8 backlog of 5,013 electronic
9 registrations and 1,050 paper
10 applications. And they are
11 sorting the mail from 10/20.

12 The E-Board Unit has
13 confirmed 8,090 electric board
14 workers. They have a 360
15 unconfirmed, 67 maybes, and left
16 messages for 240, totalling 8,758.
17 Election activities, they are
18 following a request for
19 certificates and re preparing
20 materials to be shipped to the
21 police station for election board
22 workers to pick up.

23 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank
24 you, Nick.

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1 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Thank
2 you.

3 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Thank
4 you, Nick.

5 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: We will
6 now hear the Deputy Report from
7 Nick Custodio.

8 MR. CUSTODIO: Good morning,
9 Commissioners. Last Wednesday we
10 installed a drop box in Fairmount
11 outside of Eastern State
12 Penitentiary. We are continuing
13 to search for locations elsewhere
14 in Philadelphia with video camera
15 surveillance and video retention
16 requirements for us to install a
17 drop box. Today, the 17th office
18 Feltonville Intermediate School
19 will be transitioned to full
20 service. Now all of our offices
21 are open for voters who applied
22 for mail-in or absentee ballots,
23 receive it, fill it out, and
24 return it on the same trip. They

1 may also drop off ballots and
2 applications to the office.

3 On Monday, the Court of
4 Common Pleas approved two
5 emergency polling place changes.
6 Both division were changed in time
7 to be included with the postcard
8 mailing that is going out later
9 this week. We are sending them to
10 every household in the City and
11 staff will be assigned to the
12 divisions to let the public know.

13 That was Ward 8 Division --
14 Ward 4, excuse me, Division 8
15 which was originally at Martin
16 Lewis Apartments will now be at
17 Universal Daroff Charter School,
18 and Ward 22, Division 25 which is
19 a Unitarian Universal Church is
20 moving to Dare Imagine Church.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank
23 you, Nick.

24 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Thank

1 you.

2 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Anyone
3 have any new business?

4 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Madam
5 Chair, if I may. I just want to
6 thank all the deputies for all the
7 work they are doing. I would like
8 to thank the staff of the Election
9 Board. I would also like to thank
10 the staff of the Convention
11 Center. You guys were very
12 accommodating. We have a few more
13 weeks and keep up the good work.
14 And we will get through this.

15 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Agreed,
16 Commissioner. Thank you.

17 Mr. Schmidt, any new
18 business?

19 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: I
20 have none.

21 MS. TRAMBLE: I have
22 something.

23 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Oh, I'm
24 sorry, ma'am, did you have --

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1 MS. TRAMBLE: Yes.

2 MS. DEELEY: Come forward.

3 MS. TRAMBLE: Good morning,
4 Commissioner's. My name is Emma
5 Tramble, Philadelphia taxpayer
6 46th Ward 18th Division
7 representing My Family Votes.

8 My comment is to ask the
9 City Commissioner's Office to
10 publish an emergency absentee
11 ballot procedure for voters. All
12 voters. All voters need to know
13 their voting options in advance.

14 On October 28th, voters who
15 did not apply for mail-in or
16 absentee ballots who cannot go to
17 the polls because of an illness,
18 disability, or travel will be
19 eligible to apply for an emergency
20 absentee ballot.

21 I have personally been
22 involved with many citizen
23 initiatives to educate voters
24 about their options in this

1 election cycle. I request that
2 the Commissioner's update
3 philadelphiavotes.com to inform
4 voters where they or their
5 designee can apply and return an
6 emergency absentee ballot since
7 this information is currently not
8 on the City's official voting
9 website.

10 With rising COVID-19 case
11 counts during this pandemic,
12 Philadelphian's need to know more
13 about critical voting safety net.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank
16 you. I believe that emergency
17 absentee ballots process can be
18 found on our website, but we will
19 look at it.

20 MS. TRAMBLE: It's the
21 location, like, it's just the
22 location. The rest of the
23 information is there, but not
24 where you go.

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1 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Oh,
2 thank you very much.

3 Hearing no more new
4 business, I make a motion to
5 adjourn.

6 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT:
7 Second.

8 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: All in
9 favor?

10 (All respond I.)

11 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: This
12 meeting is adjourned to the call
13 of the chair.

14 Thank you everyone.

15 (Whereupon, the meeting
16 concluded at or about 11:09 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

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I, hereby certify that the
witness was duly sworn by me and that the
proceedings is a true record of the
testimony given by the witness.

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.)

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