

1 MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS

2 * * * *

3 Wednesday, March 6, 2013

4 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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6 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

7 ANTHONY CLARK, Chairman
8 AL SCHMIDT, Vice Chairman
9 STEPHANIE SINGER, Commissioner
10 CARLA MOSS, Deputy Commissioner
11 DON GARECHT, Deputy Commissioner
12 DENNIS LEE, Deputy Commissioner

13 PRESENT:

14 FRED VOIGT, Legal Counsel
15 JOHN DAY, Warehouse Supervisor
16 TIM DOWLING, Documents
17 GARY FERRIS, Poll Material Supervisor
18 JOSEPH LYNCH, Election Material
19 GREGORY IRVING, Data Support Supervisor
20 SETH BLUESTEIN
21 GREGG KRAVITZ
22 ALESSANDRO GATTA, Transportation Union
23 CHRIS BRENNAN, Philadelphia Daily News
24 MOLLY MORRILL, Committee of Seventy

HELD AT: Delaware and Spring Garden Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

REPORTED BY:
Renée Helmar, Shorthand Reporter

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21 CLASS ACT COURT REPORTING AGENCY

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1 (Whereupon, the proceeding began
2 at approximately 11:00 a.m.)

3 MR. CHAIRMAN: Good morning, everyone. We are
4 going to start the meeting. If everyone could be seated.

5 Today is Wednesday, March 6th. This is the
6 Sunshine Meeting. It is 11 a.m.

7 I want to start the meeting with open comments
8 from the public; if there is any?

9 (Whereupon, there was no
10 response.)

11 MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Then let's go to old
12 business.

13 Are there any old business?

14 (Whereupon, there was no
15 response.)

16 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. John Day.

17 MR. DAY: We got the school letters for the first
18 schools. They're all mailed out. And all school letters
19 are done. So each week we're going to be mailing out
20 different letters for different schools.

21 And the plotter, new plotter is going to be
22 delivered this week and they're going to be setting it up
23 next week. And we'll be testing it next week to make sure
24 that everything works with it. And I'm pretty much sure

1 that I got everything all set up for them guys, what they
2 have to get done and everything. All the dates that they
3 have to get done.

4 Hopefully I'm back before the ballots get done,
5 printed.

6 That's it.

7 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Tim Dowling.

8 MR. DOWLING: Petitions, as it stands right now,
9 Tuesday, March 12th, will be the deadline to file. The door
10 will close at five. Anybody that's in line by 5:00 their
11 petitions will be accepted and processed.

12 March 20th, which is the next Wednesday after
13 that, will be the drawing.

14 That will be held here at Delaware and Spring
15 Garden in this hearing room here.

16 The way that we're going to handle the petitions
17 on the 12th is, we're going to have all hands on deck
18 accepting the petitions, clocking them in, writing the
19 receipts.

20 And on March 13th, the next day, which will be the
21 Wednesday, will be the first day that people can review
22 them.

23 I'm not going to be able to make any copies on
24 that day.

1 We have 95 people that picked up for Traffic
2 Court. That doesn't mean that they're all going to turn
3 them in. But 95 people, plus all the board workers, it's
4 going to be a very hectic day in Room 142.

5 And right now the way it's going to work, anybody
6 who requests copies, we have an order form all set up. And
7 it's first in, first out.

8 Whoever puts their request in first gets it done
9 first, and then we'll go in chronological order as people
10 put their request in.

11 We have a new set up. Hopefully, it will go
12 faster and there won't be a long wait for people.

13 And that's about it.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: With providing copies to
15 people, as I understand, you're putting a system in place
16 where you can provide them electronically in some cases?

17 MR. DOWLING: There could -- I mean, we could burn
18 it to a CD.

19 I wouldn't want anybody putting a flash drive into
20 a City computer --

21 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Oh, no. I agree.

22 MR. DOWLING: -- because we don't know what's on
23 that flash drive and what could happen to our computer
24 system.

1 If we print them out they're going to be printed
2 out on 11-by-17 pages. And it's going to be duplex front
3 and back. The petition will be Page 1, side 1, side 2 will
4 all be one page.

5 And that will be -- each page is going to cost a
6 dollar to the requester.

7 We could also burn to a CD. And then it could be
8 incumbent on the challenger or the person requesting that
9 they would have to print them out themselves.

10 But the past practice has been people want those
11 hard copies so that they can see them.

12 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Has anyone filed yet?

13 MR. DOWLING: We've had one person file for
14 Traffic Court, and that's it.

15 Nobody -- we've been getting drips and drabs of
16 individual judges of elections, inspector of elections. But
17 nothing in mass yet.

18 COMMISSIONER SINGER: And is there any impediment
19 to e-mailing images to people who want them by E-mail? Is
20 E-mail available on the computer where the images are?

21 MR. DOWLING: No. No.

22 COMMISSIONER SINGER: E-mail is not available --

23 MR. DOWLING: It is a closed system. I don't want
24 anything coming into it or going out of it. That's for

1 security.

2 MR. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely.

3 COMMISSIONER SINGER: Got it.

4 MR. DOWLING: Yeah. That's a stand-alone system.

5 COMMISSIONER SINGER: And when you say, all hands
6 on deck, how many people is that exactly?

7 MR. DOWLING: I have three permanent employees,
8 me, plus two other permanent employees, a temp and I believe
9 Joe and another staff member will come up to assist.

10 COMMISSIONER SINGER: Okay. So five permanent and
11 one temp?

12 MR. DOWLING: Yeah.

13 COMMISSIONER SINGER: Okay. Thank you.

14 MR. DOWLING: And the reason that amount is,
15 because 142 is cramped and I don't want us walking on top of
16 each other.

17 So -- and with the number of people who are going
18 to be filing, it's going to be hectic.

19 MR. CHAIRMAN: Gary Ferris.

20 Thank you, Tim.

21 MR. DOWLING: You're welcome.

22 MR. FERRIS: Good morning, Commissioners.

23 We're continuing to work on the polling places,
24 securing polling places, calling people who haven't

1 responded.

2 We have hearings that will be set up in front of
3 the three Commissioners. That will be on April 3rd.

4 We will have that broken down into two sessions,
5 at 9:00 in the morning and then at 1:00 in the afternoon
6 after the Sunshine Meeting. That will be held here on the
7 sixth floor.

8 You have a list there. There is 30 scheduled
9 right now for that date. All the Commissioners received
10 that list this week of the final ones that are for that
11 date.

12 Signs will be posted alerting the public in those
13 divisions, and the ward leaders will be notified of those
14 changes.

15 Besides that we have myself and Seth have a
16 meeting with the school district on Tuesday to try to move
17 forward with some improvements to -- using HAVA funds to try
18 to improve some schools, also.

19 So, hopefully, we get some, kind of, good response
20 out of that.

21 And that's all I have right now. Thank you.

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you very much, Gary.

23 Joe Lynch, please.

24 MR. LYNCH: Good morning, Commissioners.

1 We're still working on the election materials,
2 getting them prepared.

3 I sent the database over to John Day, to the
4 warehouse, so they can plot the ballots for the seminars,
5 and along with the cartridges.

6 The seminar -- the first class starts here --
7 Monday the 11th. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday,
8 we'll be on the sixth floor here, at Delaware and Spring
9 Garden.

10 And that's about it.

11 I mean, if anybody wants to -- I did put the order
12 in for Watcher Certificates. We don't have them yet,
13 obviously. But we'll take any requests if anybody wants to
14 put a request in for Watchers. They can get them in, we can
15 get them looked over. And then when the books come in we
16 can start writing them, okay.

17 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

18 MR. LYNCH: That's it.

19 MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Greg Irving.

20 MR. IRVING: Good morning, Commissioners.

21 MR. CHAIRMAN: Good morning.

22 (Whereupon, documents submitted
23 to the Commissioners.)

24 MR. IRVING: I'm going to submit to you copies of

1 our Voter Registration Statistics.

2 Applications have been processed. We've processed
3 over 43,000 applications this election period. Currently
4 we're processing documents that had dates as of March 5th on
5 them. March 5th was yesterday, okay. We've processed over
6 43,000.

7 Out of 43,000, 9300 have been paper documents, the
8 rest have been electronic.

9 Our five-year notices, we've received 800
10 responses to those, and they have all been processed.

11 The majority of that 800 so far are people who are
12 confirmed that they still reside at the exact same address.

13 We've had probably two different groups come in
14 starting to review their own petitions.

15 By that, they're looking at their own circulators
16 to make sure that they are valid, indeed, and they're also
17 checking some of their own signatures.

18 Other than that, that completes what the computer
19 room is up to.

20 COMMISSIONER SINGER: And do we have a status
21 report on -- on -- remember there were all those trays of
22 mail that was returned to us that we were wondering whether
23 the large volume was due to something -- it didn't seem --
24 it seemed out of the ordinary?

1 MR. IRVING: Well, in the meeting that we had with
2 the post office, which you sat in on, Commissioner, what
3 they basically explained to us was, there is a phrase at the
4 top of the card which states, if it is not delivered within
5 five days please return.

6 So that's why the bulk of those get returned,
7 because they're not delivered in five days. Which is a
8 little bit rough to do, in my estimate.

9 But --

10 COMMISSIONER SINGER: So, that's on the post
11 office they're not delivered.

12 MR. IRVING: Right.

13 Because of the statement. It's on the actual ID
14 card.

15 COMMISSIONER SINGER: No. I'm sorry.

16 So, who's -- so, who -- if something isn't
17 delivered within five days --

18 MR. IRVING: We don't deliver.

19 So that would be the post office.

20 COMMISSIONER SINGER: Right. Okay. Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: And they're first-class
22 mail; right?

23 MR. IRVING: Yes. They are.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Okay. I thought they were

1 required by law to deliver first-class mail within two to
2 three days.

3 MR. IRVING: Because of the statement, I don't
4 have one, but I'll get you one after the meeting, there's a
5 statement on there that says, if it's not delivered within
6 five days please return.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Okay.

8 MR. IRVING: And they come back to us.

9 COMMISSIONER SINGER: And is that -- why is that
10 statement there; because we want it there?

11 Is it something that the Commission controls that
12 statement?

13 MR. IRVING: That, I'm not sure of. I'm not sure
14 who.

15 I can make a phone call and find out --

16 COMMISSIONER SINGER: Please.

17 MR. IRVING: -- whose language that is on there.

18 COMMISSIONER SINGER: Yeah. Thank you.

19 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Is there any new business?

20 (Whereupon, there was no
21 response.)

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Okay. We're going to
23 have an Executive Session after this meeting.

24 Fred.

1 MR. VOIGT: To discuss litigation.

2 MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. We are going to adjourn
3 this meeting to the call of the Chair.

4 (Whereupon, the proceeding was
5 adjourned at approximately 11:13
6 a.m.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 I, RENÉE HELMAR, a Shorthand Reporter, and
4 Notary, Public, certify that the foregoing is a true
5 and accurate transcript of the proceedings which
6 were held at the time, place and on the date herein
7 before set forth.

8 I further certify that I am neither
9 attorney, nor counsel for, nor related to or
10 employed by, any of the parties to the action in
11 which these proceedings were taken, and further that
12 I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or
13 counsel employed in this action, nor am I
14 financially interested in this case.

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19 Renée Helmar

20 Shorthand Reporter

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