**GOVERNMENT** 

OF

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY

MAY 4, 2022

+ + + + +

The District of Columbia Board of Elections convened via Video-Teleconference, pursuant to notice, at 10:34 a.m. EDT, Gary Thompson, Chair, presiding.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEMBERS PRESENT:

GARY THOMPSON, Chair MIKE GILL, Member KARYN GREENFIELD, Member

BOARD OF ELECTIONS STAFF PRESENT:

MONICA HOLMAN EVANS, Director
TERRI STROUD, General Counsel
CECILY COLLIER-MONTGOMERY, Office of
Campaign Finance
WILLIAM SANFORD, General Counsel
MARISSA CORRENTE, Assistant Registrar of

Voters

## CONTENTS

Call to Order	. 3
Ascertainment of Quorum	. 3
Adoption of Agenda/Approval of Minutes, Regular Board Meeting Wednesday,	
	. 4
Board Matters	. 5
Executive Director's Report	. 6
General Counsel's Report	.12
Litigation Status	.51
Jason Christopher Long v. D.C. Board of Elections	.51
Henderson v. D.C. Board of Elections	.51
Public Interest Legal Foundation v. Monica Evans	.52
McDuffie v. D.C. Board of Elections	.52
Candon v. D.C. Board of Elections	.54
Jenkins v. D.C. Board of Elections	.55
Campaign Finance Report	.57
Public Matters	.77
Adjournment	. 88

## P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(10:34 a.m.)

CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay, well good
morning everybody, hopefully you can hear me
okay. My name is Gary Thompson, I'm the chair of
the Board of Elections. I'm here at home, wish I
could be downtown, but I am still in the late
stages of COVID, omicron subvariant version. I
feel fine, but apologies if I'm a little
congested. So, but I'm okay, and I'm glad I'm
here, and not down there, because I'm still
testing positive.

Anyway, so here we are, and I'll ask the other two board members to introduce themselves please. Karyn, starting with you.

MEMBER GREENFIELD: Hi, Karyn Greenfield, one of the board members.

MEMBER GILL: Mike Gill, board member.

CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay, all three of us are here, once again we have a quorum. First thing we'll do is I'll make a motion to adopt our agenda, which has been distributed in advance,

1	and posted for the public to see. Do I have a
2	second?
3	MEMBER GILL: Second.
4	CHAIR THOMPSON: All in favor?
5	MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.
6	MEMBER GILL: Aye.
7	CHAIR THOMPSON: And the second thing
8	we do is I'll make a motion to approve our
9	minutes from our last regular board meeting,
10	which was on Wednesday, April 6th. It seems like
11	a year ago, but they were distributed, I've had a
12	chance to read them, they look fine to me, so I
13	would make a motion to adopt them. Do I have a
14	second?
15	MEMBER GILL: Second.
16	CHAIR THOMPSON: All in favor?
17	MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.
18	MEMBER GILL: Aye.
19	CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay.
20	MS. STROUD: Mr. Chair, can we
21	ascertain the presence of the court reporter?
22	CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you for

1	reminding me of that. We normally have a court
2	reporter, although this is being recorded as well
3	on Zoom. Is our court reporter here?
4	MEMBER GREENFIELD: If they could
5	raise their hand.
6	CHAIR THOMPSON: There it is,
7	Jacqueline Denlinger. No, that's a clap. Maybe
8	it's meant to be a hand raised.
9	MS. STROUD: Unmute her Randy.
10	CHAIR THOMPSON: Court reporter, you
11	could also type it in the chat what all right,
12	well
13	MS. STROUD: Okay, Jacqueline
14	Denlinger is the court reporter, and she has
15	indicated her presence.
16	CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay, fabulous.
17	Okay, with that, before we turn to the executive
18	director, any board matters that anyone would
19	like to raise at this time, Karyn, or Mike?
20	MEMBER GREENFIELD: No, I don't have
21	any.
22	MEMBER GILL: No, I mean just that

since we last met, there has been a vote, and a court case, and such like on the attorney general, and I guess I just want to reiterate that the board never likes in this case, or in other cases where there are signature petitions, having to take folks off balance. All things being equal, we would like the people to decide, not the board.

That being the case, I was pleased to see that the Court of Appeals agreed that where we have rules, we have to enforce them.

CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah, well said.

It's no fun to rule the way we did, I was down about it for a couple days. Although intellectually I felt like we reached the correct ruling under the language of the statute, I just felt down about it. And watched the court hearing closely, and it was pretty clear from the oral argument that they were in agreement, and sure enough they were unanimously in agreement with our ruling.

It is what it is. So, with that,

Monica Evans, if you could please proceed with your report.

MS. EVANS: Thank you, and good morning. I'll begin with voter education, and outreach. During the month of April, the voter education, and outreach division conducted 26 outreach, or recruitment events on behalf of the agency. The division conducted an additional 22 events that targeted seniors. 21 events were held in Wards 7 and 8.

In addition to providing education, and engagement services, the division conducted election worker recruitment, and voter registration events. We are currently processing new voter registrations, and voter focus, and producing registration reports. We discontinued the use of Integrity as of April 1st. In April we registered 1910 new voters, and processed 700 registration changes.

In total we mailed 2610 voter registration cards. As we are preparing to mail ballots for the June primary, we are encouraging

voters to review, and update their voter registration information. We are within the 90 day window before the primary election, therefore no additional voters will be moved from an active to an inactive status until after the election.

Online voter registration, our online voter registration portal is giving us the same functionality as a mobile app, those registering to vote can complete the process with a cell phone, tablet, laptop, or desktop computer. To date we have registered 3933 voters using the portal. National Voter Registration Act.

Under the NVRA, voter registration agencies must provide their clients with the opportunity to register to vote by offering voter registration services. To date, we have trained 13 of the 16 voter registration agencies in the district. We have reached out to all 16. Now, moving to update regarding the June primary election.

As previously indicated, the primary election will be held on June 21st, 2022. As far

as petitions, we received a total of 23 challenges, determinations have been made, and the orders have been issued on all of those. We will mail a ballot to every registered voter affiliated with one of the four major parties for the June primary.

We are working with KNH Mailhouse to prepare the documents to be mailed. The ballot lottery was held on Friday, April 29th. Ballot proofing was conducted on Saturday, April 30. The ballot has been finalized, and sent to KNH Mailhouse. And it is anticipated that they will begin mailing ballots on May 16th. The final mailing of ballots will occur on June 10th.

And anyone who does not receive a ballot in the mail by June 16th, should plan to vote in person. We will have 40 early vote centers, and 90 election day vote centers, and those locations are listed on our website. Early voting is June 10th, through June 19th. Vote centers will be closed on June 20th in observance of the Juneteenth holiday.

But we will reopen on June 21st for the primary election. Mail ballot drop boxes will open on May 27th, voters can deposit ballots at any vote center during early voting, and on election day. Ballots may also be returned to BOE using the U.S. Postal Service. We are still recruiting election workers, and election worker training began on March 22nd.

Our goal is to recruit, and train between 2000, and 2500 election workers for the primary. To date, we have trained 1435 election workers. And election workers are using our online training portal to supplement the in person training. Communications. Ready, set, vote. Our first postcard mailer went out in March, and the postcards started reaching households last week.

We plan to mail a total of three postcards for the primary election. The latest edition of The Hill Rag contains a full page advertisement regarding the June primary. The voter guide is scheduled to go to the printer on

May 9th, and we are developing additional content for print, radio, and television advertising.

And one final thing I'd like to put on the agenda, I would just like to recognize Karen

Brooks.

After nearly 40 years of Board of Elections, our registrar Karen Brooks has decided to retire. Her retirement was effective May 1st, and we wish her the best, and appreciate the many years of service she provided to the board. In the interim, our assistant registrar, Marissa Corrente will oversee operations of the voter services division. And that concludes my report, thank you.

MEMBER GILL: Gary, I think you're on mute. While they unmute our chairman, no questions Monica, two comments. One, thanks for recognizing Karen, I had no idea she had actually been there 40 years. But always, she was a pleasure to work with, and we will definitely miss her. Two, just for point of clarification, Integrity is a software program I believe, that

we are no longer using.

We of course, will continue to operate with the highest degree of integrity at the Board of Elections.

CHAIR THOMPSON: I was also going to quickly jump in, and say wow, Karen, I hope we get to say a little bit more publicly, but I knew she was retiring soon, I didn't know it was May 1st, but I'm not surprised, it's a long time to be in that position. I'm pretty sure she registered me to vote five years ago, whatever it was, when I first voted in D.C.

It's an incredible amount of work, and a lot of work this primary season, that's for sure, in the last month. And the team as well, so that's all. Okay, I guess onward with the general counsel's report, and we've got a couple of issues to consider in the course of Terri Stroud's presentation.

MS. STROUD: Good morning everyone.

The first item on my agenda is the adoption of
the petition to recall Holly Muhammad, Advisory

Neighborhood Commissioner for Single Member
District 8A01. And just to state the statutory
background, pursuant to D.C. Official Code 11001.1 17E, in response to a recall petition, the
board prepares, and provides an original petition
form to the proponent of a recall measure for the
purpose of signature collection.

adopt such petition as their own. We received a notice of intent to recall from Thomas Donohue, it was filed on March 22nd, and a response was timely filed on April 1st. Both of those did not exceed the word count limitations. The board has prepared, and is prepared to issue to Mr.

Donohue, an original petition form for adoption.

And the sole purpose of this proceeding is the adoption of the recall petition. And with that, the board is only inquiring of the proponent whether they adopt the petition form prepared by the board as their own. And I know Mr. Donohue has had the opportunity to review the petition. And so if he adopts it,

then he will (audio interference). Is Mr. Donohue present on the call?

CHAIR THOMPSON: I see him, but he's muted.

MS. STROUD: Unmute him.

CHAIR THOMPSON: While we're unmuting him, let me just say at the outset, we do have the statute that Ms. Stroud just referenced, and that 1001.17El sets for that somebody who is filing such a petition to recall can file a statement not to exceed 200 words giving the reasons for the proposed recall. And there's no process for us to edit that person's statement.

So, likewise, the elected official has a right to file a response of not more than 200 words, and once again, we don't -- there's no process for us to edit that statement either.

Unlike some other statements that we do have the ability to edit as the people who are on this call involved in an issue of 82 know well, that there's a whole process for editing proposed language.

So, we're sort of stuck with the statement as filed, and the response as filed, and having no process to edit either of them, what the statute then says is we the board shall issue the petition form. And if the initiator wants to proceed, the choice is to adopt the petition as prepared, and then go out, and obtain signatures.

That's the way the statute reads anyway. I think all we can do is -- if the statement, and the response are worded aggressively, all we can do is ask the people involved to edit their statements. But let's hear from Mr. Donohue first, and then we'll turn, we'll hear from Ms. Muhammad.

MS. STROUD: Okay, so Mr. Donohue, if you could state your name, and address for the record?

MR. DONOHUE: Yes, it's Thomas

Donohue, 2200 Prout Street Southeast, Unit 1,

Washington D.C., 20020.

MS. STROUD: Okay, so what I'm going

to have you do is to -- you have the petition form, and I want to know whether you have the information on the petition form accurately reflects the information that you provided to us. I'm looking at whether your name is correct, whether we have correctly provided your statement of reason to recall.

Your address, whether that information is correctly, and accurately reflected on the petition form that the board has prepared, and provided for you to review.

MR. DONOHUE: Yes, it has.

MS. STROUD: Okay, and so then the next inquiry is whether, or not you approve the petition form, and adopt it as your own. And there will be the opportunity for us to answer any questions you may have at the end of the proceeding. But for now, the question is of whether you approve that form, and adopt it as your own?

MR. DONOHUE: Is Holly going to be given an opportunity to speak?

MS. STROUD: She will.

MR. DONOHUE: So, the purpose of this is for me to approve the petition as is. What would be the --

MS. STROUD: Well, actually it's in the board's discretion as to whether, or not Ms.

-- because again, this is a limited proceeding, where the sole purpose is to adopt (audio interference) board deems it proper to hear from Ms. Muhammad, then that is for the board to choose. Do you adopt the form as your own?

MR. DONOHUE: The only -- as I had spoke to you earlier, the only thing I would request is -- not that there's any change to it whatsoever, but just a spacing issue, and it's actually my error. But if we could just change the third bullet down, it's there, and the next line after that bullet, it says this is my second -- I just want to make it correct so that way people are not getting lost with it.

So, it says this s my second, and it should say this is my second petition, the first

1	was withdrawn as a result
2	MS. STROUD: You seem to be frozen.
3	CHAIR THOMPSON: The bullet's in the
4	wrong place.
5	MR. DONOHUE: Yeah, but it's fine the
6	way it is. I can
7	MS. STROUD: So, the question is
8	whether, or not you adopt the form as your own
9	for purposes of circulation.
LO	MR. DONOHUE: Yes, and of course as
L1	I've stated in the past, with these objections.
L2	MS. STROUD: Okay, so I think you
L3	trailed off at the end. So, just wanted to get
L <b>4</b>	on the record that you do adopt the petition
L5	form, the sheet that you have reviewed, as your
L6	own?
L7	MR. DONOHUE: Yes, with objections.
L8	Ms. STROUD: Okay.
L9	MR. DONOHUE: Meaning this is the only
20	option that I have
21	MS. STROUD: You'll have the
22	opportunity to speak once we complete the

process.

MR. DONOHUE: Okay, that's fine.

MS. STROUD: Okay, so Mr. Chair, if you want to announce that the board has approved the petition form that Mr. Donohue has indicated that he has adopted?

CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah, that's the process, and the statute calls only for the proposer to accept the petition as prepared, which incorporates both statements. And I understand that Mr. Donohue objects to the statement that's been made by Ms. Muhammad, as I'm sure she objects to his statement. But the way the process works is they both prepare their statements.

They're incorporated on the form, if the proposer, in this case, Mr. Donohue, accepts the petition, and it is the petition that he'll carry forth onto the streets to collect signatures, then that is our process for approving the petition. That said, before we move, and vote, I think we should hear from Ms.

1	Muhammad, this concerns
2	MR. DONOHUE: Mr. Thompson, I think I
3	should be able to express those concerns.
4	CHAIR THOMPSON: Well, I'll just say
5	this, there's no process for us to edit either
6	statement, and we don't want to start
7	MR. DONOHUE: I know, but I think it's
8	fair that I'm being put on the record, that
9	CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah, absolutely
10	MR. DONOHUE: If she's going to have
11	the opportunity to speak, then I should be able
12	to have that opportunity as well.
13	CHAIR THOMPSON: That's a fair
14	MR. DONOHUE: Or I'm fine with you
15	accepting it, and moving forward without hearing
16	her speak, and I'm being quite frank with you.
17	CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah, I do want to
18	give her an opportunity to speak, she's clearly
19	asking to speak in the chat, and so
20	MR. DONOHUE: Okay, then I should have
21	that opportunity as well.
22	CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay, why don't you

take a minute, and tell us the reasons why you object to what she wrote, and then I'll recognize Ms. Muhammad, and she can speak for a minute, or two, and then we'll hopefully not get into an open --

MR. DONOHUE: And I don't want to do that either, but I think it is important for me to say that there are things within her response that have nothing to do with whatever -- the job related issues that I have presented. I have been blocked from attending my ANC meetings. I have been -- she has not conducted her job duties when asked to respond to FOIA requests.

I mean this is all job related matters. Her response however is very personable. She calls me a racist. Let that sink in folks, a racist. These are things that if I go to anybody's door in southeast, and my neighbors are reading these terrible things that are not true about me, imagine what kind of atmosphere that that creates for me.

Asking my neighbors to read this

1	document, of which you folks at Board of
2	Elections are publishing, and distributing, that
3	I have no choice what it says on there, this is a
4	flawed system. And I understand, I've been back,
5	and forth with a lot of different people
6	discussing this, but this is a flaw. That as a
7	voter I should not be targeted.
8	I should not have to defend myself in
9	requesting for this petition. So, I'll leave it
10	at that, I appreciate your time. But I do think
11	that this is a flawed area of this system, and it
12	needs to be resolved.
13	CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you so much.
14	Let's hear from Ms. Muhammad for a minute, or
15	two.
16	MS. MUHAMMAD: Yes, are you able to
17	hear me?
18	CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes.
19	MS. MUHAMMAD: Okay, thank you.
20	MS. STROUD: Okay, Ms. Muhammad
	II
21	(Simultaneous speaking.)

received a call from Terri Stroud --

(Simultaneous speaking.)

MS. MUHAMMAD: Board of Elections, requesting that I meet with her, and Tom Donohue the petitioner, because he did not like what he was saying about him in my response to the recall. It sounded as if she was his legal representation. I felt unsettled by the request, and believe that the Board of Elections, and the staff had greatly overstepped its bounds in this case.

Ms. Stroud's actions are biased in nature, and a serious conflict of interest. As the general counsel for the Board of Elections, she has a duty to remain neutral in all cases, with no appearance of favor. This appears to be a violation of the professional rules of conduct for attorneys. Mr. Donohue has attempted to use his privilege at many other district government agencies to gain favor, and he failed.

It is unconscionable that he would succeed in gaining favor at the Board of

Elections, where we expect the greatest amount of integrity.

His complaint has no merit, and is based on two years of the harassment of a black female Muslim elected official who has dedicated the last 13 years to serving the voiceless in the District of Columbia.

Harassing black women who refuse to bow to his demands seems to be a pattern of his.

As I, along with other senior officials received a complaint from the owner of his building, another black woman seeking assistance due to his continued harassment, and intimidation of her while she tries to operate her business.

Many of my supporters argue that by
the petitioner's actions, and cries for
assistance from the Board of Elections, and their
response with the phone call to me on April the
8th, that Tom Donohue would like the Board of
Elections to be his co-conspirator in removing me
from office. My constituents, and I hold that
this is not the case.

I believe that this recall has all the signs of a lack of impartiality, and should not be allowed to move forward. Therefore due to the circumstances of what has taken place, I respectfully request that the Board of Elections dismiss this petition.

Muhammad, we appreciate your statement. Hold on Mr. Donohue, I see you. Why don't you take 30 seconds, those were comments certainly about your character, and respond, and we're just going to move on. Because we don't want to have a whole debate between you here on the record. Ms. Muhammad, if you could go on mute, and not interrupt.

And Mr. Donohue, just 30 seconds in rebuttal, and I see you wanting to speak, so we'll get you unmuted, go ahead.

MR. DONOHUE: I just think it's incredible irresponsible for this board to allow her to say these things, that there's no backing, there's no support of any of it. I have the --

as a voter, I filed a petition that says that I feel that it rises to the level of my elected official can no longer be able to represent me. I have not attacked her personally.

I have not said anything negative about her personally, or anything in that degree. But to sit here, and allow the Board of Elections to allow her to attack me personally when none of what I have got to say, or anything that she has said is in relation to anything that I put in my petition. Now, as a regular Joe Schmoe resident, how does it -- how can I get -- why is it fair that I'm being attacked by my representative?

Who is calling me a racist. Folks, I live in Ward 8. A white man being called a racist, going, and knocking on my neighbor's doors asking for signatures is not appropriate at all. And it puts me at a serious risk for my safety. I mean I'm sure that my neighbors that don't know who I am -- and I'm not attacking her personally.

I'm just saying that giving her --

what she just said to me, and what you all heard is just irresponsible of this board when the only thing that she should be responding to is the claims that I make on the petition. And they're all job related, not personal.

CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you so much.

Let me top it off there, you've had some time to speak your minds. Mr. Donohue, if you could go on mute. I thank you so much. As I mentioned, the statute each gives you a right to make a statement. Mr. Donohue has the right to move to recall under the statute, Ms. Muhammad certainly has the right to oppose such a motion.

Look, I was an ANC commissioner for eight years, it's the toughest battleground in D.C., I know it well. And I think at this point, the way the process works is Mr. Donohue will take his petition, and go forth, and I forget how many signatures you need exactly, but see if you can get the requisite number of signatures in a safe manner.

And then it will be up to the voters

in a 54 to 114 day window. Whenever the right number of signatures are returned, it's the next election within 54 to 114 days, which probably would be the general election, which is when the ANC commissioner is up for reelection anyway, so this is -- ultimately this kind of merges in with the reelection issue.

But nevertheless, Mr. Donohue, you have the right to proceed, and so in that regard I would make a motion to approve the petition.

Mr. Donohue has accepted it with the statements incorporated therein. We'll make the change to the bullet to make sure that's accurate. And with that, I'll just make that motion.

MEMBER GILL: Second.

CHAIR THOMPSON: Any comments, board members, or general counsel?

MS. STROUD: And now we'll hear from the representative from voter services will comment on the remainder of the recall process, and Marissa Corrente, if you could state your name, and address for the record?

1 CHAIR THOMPSON: Do we go ahead, and 2 vote at this point? 3 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yeah, we didn't 4 vote. 5 CHAIR THOMPSON: All in favor? Aye. MEMBER GREENFIELD: 6 Aye. 7 MEMBER GILL: Aye. CHAIR THOMPSON: All right, go ahead. 8 9 I apologize. MS. STROUD: 10 MS. CORRENTE: Good morning, my name 11 is Marissa Corrente, and I serve as the assistant 12 registrar of voters here at the board. The address here is 1015 Half Street Southeast, Suite 13 14 750. I'm going to read the memorandum that I wrote, it's dated May 4th, today's date. 15 16 subject is notice of intention to recall Holly 17 Muhammad, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, 18 Single Member District. 19 And it reads on March 22nd, 2022, 20 Thomas Donohue, a duly registered voter in the 21 Single Member District, SMD 8A01 timely filed a 22 notice of intention to recall Holly Muhammad,

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Single

Member District 8A01, known as the notice. The

notice specified Commissioner Muhammad as the

elected officer (audio interference), contained

a statement in support of the recall that did not

exceed the 200 word count limit.

And included the proposer's name, telephone number, email address, residence, address, and an affidavit that the proposer is a registered, and bona fide elector in the same SMD as the elected officer whose recall is sought.

Commissioner Muhammad timely filed a response to Mr. Donohue's statement of reasons to recall with the board on Friday April 1st, 2022.

The response did not exceed the 200 word count limit. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code 1-1001.17G, the proposer of the recall of an ANC shall have 60 days to circulate the recall petition, and file the same with the board, beginning on the date when the proposer of the recall formally adopts the original petition form as their own.

The petition form is available for Mr.

Donohue to pick up at the board's office. In the event the board issues the petition today, Mr.

Donohue must file the recall petition with the board no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July

5th, 2002. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code 1
1001.17H3, a petition for the recall of an ANC shall include the valid signatures of ten percent of the registered qualified electors in the SMD.

The ten percent shall be computed by the total of the number of the registered electors from the SMD according to the latest official count of registered electors by the board, which was issued 30, or more days prior to submission of the signatures for the particular recall petition.

While the signature requirement cannot yet be determined, if the most recent registration figures published by the board were used, the petition filed in support of the notice of intent to recall Commissioner Muhammad would be required to include the signatures of 215

dully registered voters in SMD 8A01. And that's in regards to total number of registered voters in ANC SMD 8A01 as of January 30th, 2022.

Which is 2145. Both the proposer of the recall measure, and the elected official who is the subject of the recall are advised to check with the board's voter services office on a monthly basis as new statistical reports are published.

MS. STROUD: Okay, so as the chair indicated, should the recall measure be successful, meaning should the petition be submitted, and it contains the requisite number of signatures, pending any challenge to the petition, if the initiative were found to survive challenge, in the event of a challenge, then the measure would go before the voters in that SMD in November.

Because that would be the time frame within which the measure could go before the voters in that Single Member District.

CHAIR THOMPSON: All right, thank you.

I'm having a little audio, and connectivity issues here at home, something's in the air it seems. So, with that, I think we will move on to the next issue.

MS. STROUD: Okay, the next item on my agenda is the motion to intervene filed by James Bagwell through counsel Richard Bianco, and it's a motion to intervene in the challenge to initiative measure number 82 -- John Bagwell is the name of the individual who is represented by Mr. Bianco. And it's a motion to intervene in the challenge to initiative measure number 82.

Which was filed by Valerie Graham this is a challenge to -- it was initially to signatures, or to -- it was a challenge to registered voters on the petition submitted, and supportive of Initiative 82, and it was to registered voters, and the signatures in Wards 2, 5, 7, and 8 alleging that the proposer of Initiative 82, the petition submitted by that proposer did not contain enough valid signatures to appear on the ballot.

1 And Mr. Bianco, on behalf of his 2 client, filed a motion to intervene. And an opposition to the motion to intervene was filed 3 4 by counsel for the proposer, Ryan O'Leary, and if 5 I could ascertain whether, or not Mr. Bianco is 6 present? 7 MR. BIANCO: Yes, I am here. 8 And whether, or not MS. STROUD: 9 counsel for the proposer is present, Joseph Sandler? 10 11 MR. SANDLER: Yes, I'm here Ms. 12 Stroud, thank you. 13 MS. STROUD: And Mr. Bianco, the board 14 will allow you to state your position with 15 respect to the motion to intervene that you 16 filed, and then we'll hear from Mr. Sandler. 17 MR. BIANCO: Absolutely, thank you 18 very much, I appreciate the opportunity to 19 address the board. My name is Richard Bianco, I 20 am counsel for John Bagwell. This matter has 21 been briefed, so I don't want to go back, and 22 simply read from the pleadings that we filed.

But I think to sum up our filings, and our position in this matter, our request to intervene is at its core, a request for access.

so, the basic facts that support our motion are that we attempted to access the petition during supposedly what was the ten day review period during hours of operation for BOE, and were denied access for the purpose of conducting that review. We appeared at the board, attempted to come into the building, and it was closed, and locked.

The security guard informed us BOE was not there, and I called with my client, and we left a message with respect to the purpose of our visit. And then the very next day, reached out to the board, and contacted general counsel, and indicated that we had attempted to review the petition during the review period, and were denied access.

And asked as required by low, that both us, and any similarly situated voters, meaning others who may have tried to access, and

review the petition during the ten day review period be granted a consecutive ten day review period as the statute requires to take a look at the petition, and compare it to the relevant BOE records as to registered voters.

We were again denied that request. On that following day, Ms. Stroud did offer to provide us an electronic copy of the petition, and they in fact followed through on that, but it was after BOE had closed for the day on March 7th, being the 10th day of the review period, and the challenge period had closed at that point. Our motion to intervene followed.

And we think this is problematic for a couple of reasons. One, the most obvious one, Mr. Bagwell being denied access, and the ability to review the records, and formulate a challenge of his own. And second, and perhaps more importantly, the experience that we had in attempting to access the records, and review them, raises the question of how many other people during that ten day period were turned

away because BOE's office was closed when it was supposed to be open for review.

The other thing that I think is

telling in this case is that among the reasons

that BOE provided in its response was that

there's no particular hours posted on BOE's

website for weekend review of petitions. And

that's of course true, the website gave operating

hours during the weekends, and that's when we

appeared -- I'm sorry, during the weekdays.

But we appeared on the weekends, and I think that is problematic, because any other D.C. citizen wishing to review this petition on the weekends would not have had any notice as to when the office might be open for that particular purpose. So, it not only is a situation where Mr. Bagwell is impacted, it's where similarly situated D.C. citizens are likewise impacted.

And I would also note that for challenges to candidate petitions, that issue has been corrected by BOE now providing information as to what times citizens can review petitions

filed during the weekend, on the weekend, and not just during the week. So, essentially we were deprived of the opportunity to review, and since we were deprived of that opportunity -- I'm sorry, since the office was closed.

And we didn't get any response from the office with respect to okay, an employee showed up late by some amount of time, and you can come in now, or you can come in tomorrow. We did not get any response until we then reached out during regular business hours on the next business day. And since we have filed this motion to intervene, and because of delays in the process having nothing to do with us, we attempted to use the time productively.

And worked with the Office of General Counsel and Voter Services in an effort to get access to voter signature cards to compare them to the petition that was provided to us after the close of the challenge period to see exactly what issues we might have that we could raise in the context of the overall challenge.

And although initially the response 1 2 that we received was favorable, that they would be willing to work with us to provide us access 3 4 to that information in the intervening three 5 weeks, that has not materialized. It's been constant moving of goal posts. Emails of me 6 7 inquiring as to status, and the response being --8 CHAIR THOMPSON: Can you wrap up? 9 MR. BIANCO: Yeah, and the response being that they're working on it, and will 10 11 provide that to us. And as we sit here today, 12 we've still not been given access to the 13 information that we have requested. So, what our 14 ask is here is that the board allow not only us, but citizens at large, or similarly situated 15 16 voters the opportunity to review the petition. 17 And file challenges for a consecutive ten day period as required by statute. 18 Thank 19 you. 20 CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you Mr. Bianco. 21 I think Mr. Sandler, did you want to present your

argument?

MS. STROUD: And Mr. Sandler, give us your name, and address for the record.

MR. SANDLER: Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman, and thank you Ms. Stroud. Joseph Sandler, address 1090 Vermont Avenue, Suite 750, Washington D.C., 20005. I think that the facts of this matter were laid out in Ms. Stroud's email that was attached as an exhibit to the motion to intervene. The board completely complied with the statute.

Posted the petition, not merely for ten days, but for 11 days, because the tenth day was a Sunday, Sunday, March 6th. Mr. Bagwell waited until the tenth day, on a Sunday, showed up at 8:15 a.m., waited ten minutes, didn't come back, didn't bother to check back, and didn't show up Monday when the petition continued to be posted for an 11th day.

It turned out the board's staff were there by a quarter to 9:00 on a Sunday morning, and there's just no issue here, potential dispute about whether the board complied with the

statute. Mr. Bagwell is clearly not entitled to another ten day period to review the petition to the extent of his issue, that he wants to intervene to assert is that he was deprived of an opportunity to review the petition.

And it should be posted for another ten days, that's not nearly meritless, it's frivolous, it's not an issue the board should entertain, and he should not be permitted to intervene. Mr. Bagwell should not be permitted to intervene for that purpose. There's no indication that anyone else who wanted to review lacked an opportunity to do so.

And in fact it was the challenger, Ms. Graham, and her counsel had availed themselves of the opportunity to review during the ten day period, and filed a challenge. So, for those reasons, we don't believe this is an appropriate situation for intervention. He doesn't have any legitimate interest that isn't represented by the challenger, and it's just -- it would be a waste of time for the parties, and the board. Thank

you.

CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you Mr.

Sandler. And also I think counsel for the challenger, Valerie Graham may want to speak briefly, I think I see Mr. Kline here.

MR. KLINE: Yes, I am here. We certainly support the motion that's been filed to the extent that individuals, registered voters have been deprived of their right to access (audio interference) we think that the Board of Elections has an obligation to comply with the law, which means requiring access during the ten day period.

I think what's telling here is not the half an hour, or whatever the delay was in getting there. As I understand it, according to Mr. Bianco's argument is that they also left a message pursuant to the instructions on the website, and never heard anything back. And again, maybe this was the last day, but I think that as Mr. Bianco has asserted, there may be others out there.

I saw an email which seemed to suggest that the Board of Elections believed that it had no obligation to make the petitions available over the weekend, despite the statute, which clearly says a consecutive ten day period including weekends, and holidays. So, whether anyone was there in the previous weekend, the previous Sunday, the previous Saturday, I don't know.

But it seems pretty clear that there was no ability for anyone making reasonable efforts on that Sunday to access, and we would certainly concur, and support the motion to allow an additional ten day period. The other part is there's no harm here, because this is not on a fast track. The hearing on the challenge is set for June 1st.

I'm kind of surprised by Mr. Sandler, in that we've tangled before, and he should support the board getting it right. Because the last time the board didn't get it right in a case that I was involved in, the board was reversed.

So, it seems that the best course of action is to bend over backwards, and make sure that everyone has the opportunity to examine the petitions, participate in the proceedings.

And as the chair has repeatedly said, which I respect, to get it right. And that means not only getting it right in terms of counting, but also means getting it right in terms of process. Thank you.

CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you Mr. Kline.
Mr. Sandler, since he brought you up, you want
one minute for rebuttal? If you keep it brief.

If we can unmute Joe Sandler.

MR. SANDLER: Okay. Yeah, just to say again, that there was just no -- no one was deprived of an opportunity here, it was up for ten days. He could have come back on Sunday, and -- or he could have come back on Monday, and availed himself of the opportunity. The idea that this should be reopened for another is completely not in accordance with the language of the statute, and we would certainly oppose it,

it's not a legitimate position. Thank you.

CHAIR THOMPSON: All right, thank you so much counsel. I think we'll take it under advisement, and may go into executive session at the conclusion of this meeting to discuss amongst ourselves, and then probably we'll issue a written ruling on the motion to intervene. We wanted to address this today, because it obviously affects the scope of the existing challenge by Ms. Graham regarding Ward 2.

So, we'll get this issue promptly, so everybody knows what the lay of the land is going forward before we have a special meeting on the existing challenge to the Ward 2 votes. Okay, let me pass it back to General Counsel Stroud.

MS. STROUD: Okay, thank you. The next item on my agenda is rule making to Title

Three of the D.C. Municipal Regulations. The first rule making is a final rule making. It is rule making to chapters 5, 7, 10, 14, 15, and 99 of Title Three, the elections, and ethics chapter for title of the DCMR. A notice of emergency,

and proposed rule making with respect to this rule making was published in the D.C. Register on March 11th, 2022.

We received no written comments to the proposed rules during the public comment period, and no substantive changes have been made to the regulations as proposed. These regulations were to conform the regulations to existing statutes, and to conduct generally some housekeeping measures in terms of having the regulations comport with our actual processes, and procedures.

and so what I'll do is I'll layout each of the rule makings, and then ask for the board's approval that the regulations, or the amendments to the regulations be sent to the office of the D.C. Register so they can be published, and take effect as appropriate. So, that first one was the notice of final rule making, which was put up for an emergency, and proposed rule making form on March 11th.

And the second rule making is an

emergency, and proposed rule making to again reflect more accurately the board's current election, and particularly post election practices, and procedures. They take away some - I guess vestiges of old equipment, or references to some old equipment that we used to use.

We used to use direct recording electronic equipment, and so this takes away references to that equipment, which we no longer use. It specifies -- it erases some conflicts that existed in the regulations in terms of when particular ballots would be counted. It clarifies regulations that pertain to recount procedures.

It reflects the fact that we will no longer be using -- we've updated our processes with respect to how we process curbside ballots. We have a new, and updated process by which we will administer the curbside voting process. It clarifies when hearings will be held to determine the validity of special ballots that are cast.

And certain other items that reflect how our processes will be in light of changes that happened in 2020 due to the public health emergency brought on by COVID-19, and just clarifies our rules with respect to the items that I discussed. And so that's the emergency, and proposed rule making which we are requesting be submitted to the D.C. Register in time so that they will be applicable for the upcoming primary election, and the entire election cycle.

And then the final rule making is emergency, and proposed rule making submitted by the Office of Campaign Finance, and I will have either Cecily, Director Collier-Montgomery, or general counsel for the Office of Campaign Finance, William Sanford address.

MR. SANFORD: Good morning Mr. Chair, and our distinguished board members. My name is William Sanford, general counsel for the Office of Campaign Finance. The proposed emergency rule making that we have submitted would amend chapter 30 of the District of Columbia Municipal

Regulations, and place it in conformance with the amendment to the Campaign Finance Reform and Conflict of Interest Public Disclosure Amendment Act.

Specifically D.C. Official Code
section 1-1163.12A. Provisions would require
political action committees to establish noncontribution accounts for the purpose of making
independent expenditures. These accounts are
required to be segregated from all other accounts
of the years for contributions to candidates,
political committees, political action
committees, and political parties.

I respectfully submit these provisions with hopes that the board will approve them.

MS. STROUD: Thank you Mr. Sanford.

So, we submit these amendments to Title Three.

Upon the board's approval, they'll be submitted

to the D.C. Register, and they will be published

in the D.C. Register on Friday, May 13th, at

which time for the emergency proposed rule

making, they will become effective. But we will

1 take final rule making action on those in due 2 course, after they are published in the D.C. Register. 3 4 CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you so much. 5 So moved that we approve all of the rule making 6 that you all have both carefully explained. 7 MS. STROUD: And so we will submit 8 them to the D.C. Register after the vote, and we 9 will post the rule making on our website for comment, and if any voters want to pick up 10 11 copies, or hard copies, they are free to do so in 12 our offices. CHAIR THOMPSON: Just for the record 13 14 15 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Second. 16 CHAIR THOMPSON: Second, all in favor? 17 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye. 18 CHAIR THOMPSON: We're all good, all 19 right. 20 MS. STROUD: And the last item on my 21 agenda is litigation status. The first item on 22 my agenda is Long V. D.C. Board of Elections.

This matter was filed in D.C. superior court in 2021, it is a civil complaint seeking 10000 dollars in damages. Mr. Long claims negligence, and unjust enrichment. He's a former poll worker, and he alleges that the board issued him a check without informing him not to deposit it.

Then had payment of the check stopped, causing him to have a negative balance, and a return check fee. There was an initial hearing in this matter on August 9th, and the matter has been continued to June 17th, 2022 to accommodate action that the plaintiff needs to take in this matter.

The next item is Henderson versus

Board of Elections. The petitioner filed a

recall petition of Sydelle Moore Advisory

Neighborhood Commissioner for Single Member

District 5D05. The petition was rejected due to
an insufficient number of signatures. On January

25th, the D.C. Court of Appeals issued an order

directing the board to file the designation of

record by May 23rd, 2022.

The next item is Public Interest Legal Foundation versus Monica Evans in her official capacity as the executive director of the Board of Elections. This was filed in U.S. district court for the District of Columbia under the National Voter Registration Act. It alleges that the board is out of compliance with the NVRA's public records provision.

The Office of the Attorney General filed a motion to dismiss on behalf of the board on February 3rd. The plaintiff filed a response on February 17th, the Office of the Attorney General responded on March 17th, 22', and we are awaiting next steps in this matter. The fourth item is McDuffie versus the D.C. Board of Elections.

This matter was an appeal following a D.C. Court of Appeals from a board order issued on April 18th upholding a qualifications base challenge filed by Bruce V. Spiva against Mr. McDuffie, candidate for nomination for the Office of the Attorney General in the June 21st

democratic primary election. The board upheld the challenge based upon its finding that Mr.

McDuffie did not meet the qualifications necessary to hold the Office of Attorney General.

The appeal was filed on April 21st.

Mr. Spiva intervened on April 22nd. Between

April 25th, and 26th, the matter was fully

briefed in accordance with a court order that was

issued on April 22nd. On April 27th, a three

member panel of the court heard oral argument in

the matter. On April 28th, the court granted the

board's order for summary affirmance.

On that same date Mr. McDuffie filed a petition for a rehearing en banc, and a motion to stay the court's order. On April 29th, the board, and the intervener filed responses to the petition, and on April 30th, the court issued an order denying the petition for rehearing en banc, and denied the motion for the stay as moot.

The fifth item -- the fifth matter is

Candon versus D.C. Board of Elections. This

matter was an appeal filed in the D.C. Court of

Appeals from a board order issued on April 22nd upholding a challenge filed by Denise Reed to the nominating petition submitted by Marieva Candon in support of her effort to appear as a candidate for nomination for the Office of National Committeewoman to the Democratic State Committee for D.C. in the June 21st democratic primary election.

The board upheld the challenge on the grounds that the petition did not contain the requisite number of signatures for ballot access.

Ms. Candon filed the appeal on April 25th. On April 26th, the court issued an order directing Ms. Candon to file a statement outlining her argument that the board erred in rejecting her nominating petition.

And she was instructed that statement by 4:00 p.m. on the 26th. Ms. Candon did not meet that deadline. Consequently, the court issued an order on April 27th dismissing her appeal. On that same date, Ms. Candon filed a motion to reinstate the matter. On April 28th,

the court denied that motion. The final matter is Jenkins versus D.C. Board of Elections.

This matter was a consolidated appeal filed in the D.C. Court of Appeals from two board orders issued on April 22nd upholding challenges filed by Lisa Gore, and James Harnett to the nominating petition submitted by Liniqua

Dominique Jenkins in support of her effort to appear as a candidate for nomination for the Office of At-Large Member of the Council of the District of Columbia in the June 21st primary election.

The board upheld the challenge on the grounds that the petition did not contain the requisite number of signatures for ballot access.

Ms. Jenkins filed the appeal on April 27th. On April 27th, the board filed a motion to dismiss the appeal as untimely filed. On April 28th, the court granted the board's motion to dismiss. And that concludes the litigation status, and my report.

CHAIR THOMPSON: All right, thank you

Terri Stroud, and your entire legal team, including Christine Pembroke for the incredible stretch of really hard work over the course of not only the six litigations you just reviewed, but also ten challenges which we went to hearing on, and that each required written orders in pretty short order.

I've worked in large law firms for over 30 years, and lots of prestigious friends, and I don't think those firms, they don't have anything on BOE's legal staff. You guys are brilliant, and excellent, and when the pressure's on, as it has been in the last couple weeks, you've really risen to the occasion, and tackled a lot of briefing, and hard work in short order.

Including a lot of evenings, and weekends. So, a public thank you to the legal team at the BOE.

MS. STROUD: Thank you Mr. Chair, and they're here to hear it as well, so.

CHAIR THOMPSON: Good. All right. I

guess onward with the campaign finance report from Ms. Collier-Montgomery.

MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes, good morning. For my report today, I will highlight several of the items that are in the full report of the OCF activity for the month of April, and the full report will be published at our website www.ocf.dc.gov before the close of business today. The full report is quite lengthy, and it's 20 pages in total, and that's why I will highlight a few of the items.

First, the Office of Campaign Finance will conduct debates in the contested races for the office of mayor on May 16th, 2022 from 7:00 p.m., to 8:30 p.m. The attorney general on May 17th, 2022 from 7:00 p.m., to 8:30 p.m. The Council Chairman on May 18th, 2022 from 7:00 p.m., to 8:30 p.m. And the At-Large member of the Council on May 19th, 2022 from 7:00 p.m., to 8:30 p.m.

These offices are scheduled for election during the June 21st, 2022 primary

election. All candidates certified to participate in the fair elections program who are in contested city wide elections must participate in the debate. Any candidates of the traditional campaign finance program who have qualified for ballot access will be invited to participate.

Where there is no other FEP
participating candidate, or willing nonparticipating candidate, the mandatory debate
requirement is waived. The OCF will update
information at the OCF website, again
www.ocf.dc.gov as it becomes available concerning
the scheduled dates, times, participants, and the
registration process for the public to attend
virtually, and participate in the debates.

In the interest of continuing to ensure the safety of our residents, the OCF sponsored debates will be conducted using a virtual platform, and streamed live online at www.dcdebates.com. Recordings of the debates will remain online for viewing after the debates through the remainder of the calendar year.

Also during April the OCF participated in five community events throughout the city at which time the OCF was able to disseminate information on our traditional, as well as on our fair elections programs. I would also point out that on April the 7th, I did present testimony on the fiscal year 2023 budget requests of the Office of Campaign Finance of 7473090 dollars before the committee on the judiciary, and public safety of the Council of the District of Columbia.

The testimony is available at the Council's website. In the fair elections program, during the month of April briefly, as of this date during the 2022 election cycle, the total sum of 8594293 dollars, and 68 cents has been authorized for disburement from the fair elections fund to the 33 candidates who are currently certified in the program to participate in the June 21st, 2022 primary election, and the November the 8th, 2022 general election.

During the month of April, the OCF

certified ten new candidates into the fair elections program for the 2022 election cycle, and authorized 39 disburements of funds to participating candidates. The certified candidates are Benjamin Zoltan Bergmann for Ward 3, the candidate was certified on April the 6th, 2022.

As a participating candidate in the FEP in the June 21st, 2022 primary election for the covered office of counsel for Ward 3. The second is Beau Finley, Beau Finley for Ward 3. The candidate was certified on April the 6th, again as a participating candidate, and the FEP in the June 21st, 2022 primary election for the covered office of member of the Council from Ward 3.

Three, Salah Czapary. Salah Czapary
the candidate was certified on April the 11th as
a participating candidate in the program in the
June 21st primary election for the covered office
of member of the Council from Ward 1. Monte
Corbett Monash, The Friends of Monte Ward 3, the

candidate was certified on April the 11th as a participating candidate in the program in the June 21st primary for the covered office of member of the Council from Ward 3.

Giuseppe Urberto Niosi. The Niosi

2022, the candidate was certified on April the

11th as a participating candidate in the program

in the June 21st, 2022 primary election for the

covered office of At-Large member of the Council.

Eric James Goulet. The Eric Goulet for Ward 3. The candidate was certified on April the 11th in the fair elections program in the June 21st primary election for the covered office of member of the Council from Ward 3.

Elissa Silverman. Elissa for D.C., the candidate was certified on April the 19th as a participating candidate in the program in the November the 8th, 2022 general election for the covered office of At-Large member of the Council.

Ryan Lawrence Jones. Ryan Jones for AG, the candidate was certified on April the 19th as a participating candidate in the fair

elections program in the June 21st primary election for the covered office of attorney general.

Trayon White. The Tray White for Mayor 2022. The candidate was certified on April the 21st as a participating candidate in the program in the June 21st primary election for the covered office of mayor.

And the last one is Graham McLaughlin. Graham for D.C. The candidate was certified on April the 27th, 2022 as a participating candidate in the program in the November the 8th, 2022 general election for the covered office of At-Large Council member.

In our public information, and records management division for the month of April, 2022, briefly there were four filing deadlines. Also there were no new candidates who registered during the month of April with the Office of Campaign Finance, but there were three new committees that registered. The first two are independent expenditure committees.

The Regional Alliance for Small

Business Executives registered on April the 18th.

The D.C. Charter School Action Independent

Expenditure Committee registered on April the

18th. And the new political action committee was
the D.C. Engineers Political Action Committee,

which registered on April the 11th.

Also during the month of April, I
would point out that 19 new candidates, and
treasurers completed the OCF answering conference
presentation. In our report analysis, and audit
division, that is our traditional campaign
finance program, I would point out that the audit
division issued three compliance audits. They
are posted on our website for review.

And the audits are Corren Brown For Mayor, which was issued on April the 8th. Spiva For D.C. AG, which was issued on April the 22nd. Lauren Rogers for Ward 5, which was issued on April the 29th. And that there are seven ongoing audits in our traditional audit program, and that there are 33 ongoing post-election audits which

are in our fair elections program.

And again, that concludes my report, but the full report will be posted at our website before the end of the day. And I would ask Mr. Sanford, who is the OCF general counsel to give the report for the Office of the General Counsel.

MR. SANFORD: Good morning again Mr. Chairman, and distinguished board members. My name is William Sanford, general counsel for the Office of Campaign Finance. During the month of April 2022, the Office of General Counsel received six referrals, completed six informal hearings, and issued six orders which include the following.

Four orders were issued in which a total of 4100 dollars in fines were imposed. And two orders were issued in which no fines were imposed. During the month of April, 2022, the Office of the General Counsel imposed fines against the following respondents. The fine of 1300 dollars was imposed against the Committee to Elect Joint Partisan.

The fine of 1300 dollars was imposed against Partisan for Ward 8. The fine of 1300 dollars was imposed against Carter At-Large. And a fine of 200 dollars was imposed against Paul Trantham, Member At-Large. During the month of April 2022, the Office of the General Counsel collected a total of 6075 dollars in fines, they included the following.

The fine of 1200 dollars was paid by the Capital Stonewall Democrats. An additional fine of 3450 dollars was also paid by the Capital Stonewall Democrats. The fine of 250 dollars was paid by the D.C. Libertarian Party. The fine of 600 dollars was paid by Oye for Representative 22. And the fine of 575 dollars was paid by Elect Chris Egiotec (phonetic).

During the month of April 2022, there were no active investigations, and during the month of April 2022, there were no requests for interpretive opinions. And finally during the month of April 2022, no show cause proceedings were conducted by the Office of the General

This concludes my report, the contents 1 Counsel. 2 of this report will be published at the Office of Campaign Finance website by close of business 3 4 today, May 4th, 2022. 5 CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you so much. MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: (Audio 6 7 interference) Office of Campaign Finance. 8 Okay, unless there's CHAIR THOMPSON: 9 anything else, we'll turn next to public comment, and then I'll make a motion to go into executive 10 11 session to talk about the motion to intervene. 12 Does that sound okay to wrap this up? 13 MS. STROUD: Yes. 14 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay, everybody 15 that's listening, thank you for being here. 16 Please raise your hand if you'd like to make a 17 comment, and I'll just go in the order that hands appear on my own screen. And I see Mr. Charmaine 18 19 Davis, who has his hand raised, I'll call on Mr. Davis first. 20 21 MR. GURLEY: Hello, can you hear me? 22 CHAIR THOMPSON: Sure can.

Okay, good. 1 MR. GURLEY: Calvin 2 Gurley. The computer I'm using is that of Charmaine Davis. 3 4 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay, sorry about 5 that. Please state your name, 6 MS. STROUD: and address for the record Mr. Gurley. 7 8 Calvin Gurley, 612 MR. GURLEY: 9 Underwood Street Northwest, Washington D.C., I sent in two inquiries to your legal 10 11 counsel to try to get some type of response, or 12 conversation, and let me read it for you so we 13 know. The first one is on the subject of 14 inactive voters. And after reviewing your DCMR, there are several issues that are pending for 15 16 your review. 17 However, can you please direct me to 18 the law, or D.C. code on the designated, or the 19 rules of procedures to designate a voter 20 inactive? As in the following, signatures shall 21 not be counted as valid if the signer's voter's

registration is designated as inactive on the

voter's roll.

I have not found in my research any legal writing that gives guidance, instructions, or procedures, or policy on how to designate a voter as inactive on the D.C. voter's roll.

There is a D.C. law requires the D.C. Board of Elections, Karyn Brook's office to annually verify, and update the voter's roll.

And pursue by posted mail, response, and update affirmation of status of the registered voter. However, there is no legal text that makes the update process a final, and determining factor to designate the voter inactive on the voter's role. Please verify my limited knowledge of the D.C. law governing this issue.

While I see that in that particular procedure I indicated, that the Board of Elections, Karyn Brook's office will go out, and send a postcard to registered voters who are deemed not to be participating in the past, I guess two elections, presidential elections. And

with that particular tool that is used, that being that postage card, if there's no response, I believe, and you can correct me.

That it's your initiative to cause that person to be designated as inactive. And my opposition to that is that the voter, the registered voter has approximately two, to three authorizations. But if you just use one of those authorizations to enact that person being inactive, then that's not fair to them, and it's biased, and it's discriminatory.

The registered voter can one, the initial authorization is to vote. Number two, the registered voter is allowed, and authorized to allow, to authorize, or sign a signature petition of any candidate. Number three, the D.C. courts do use your voter's roll as their list of jurors that they pick for jury duty.

Now, I know that mail in card may not be responded, but when a voter does sign a petition of a candidate, that does renew their voter's registration in the eyes of the Board of

Elections, or it should, because they are exercising one of their rights of authorization to vote, to endorse a candidate by their signature.

And if not, then the D.C. courts can also confer to the Board of Elections that this person did show up for jury duty by way of his name being listed on the voter's roll. So, I was just wondering of what decision, or of you taking my opposition to get some discussion on this matter.

MS. STROUD: So, I mean if I understand your question Mr. Gurley, you're saying that you think that the act of signing the petition for an inactive voter should make it so that they are -- you're saying that those signatures should be counted as valid?

MR. GURLEY: No, I'm not, I'm not saying that. I'm saying this. It's that you made -- not you, but Board of Elections are designating who do not vote as being inactive. But there's other authorizations, or rights by

that voter which he is participating in that voter's registration. That voter's registration gives him the authority to vote, and to also sign.

So, those are two I can say that I can quote from the DCMR, those are the two authorities that keep his voting membership active. He may not participate in voting, but he is exercising his right to endorse, or sign a petition. Those two are granted by his voter's registration. By you cancelling out, just using one as an example to designate him inactive, if he doesn't vote, okay.

But he still has the right in that voter's registration that you keep it alive that he can sign a petition. Do you understand what I'm saying? No, you don't.

CHAIR THOMPSON: Well, let me suggest this. Mr. Gurley, thank you so much, it sounds like what you're proposing is something that would broaden democratic participation, so thank you. And I followed you, but it might help if we

1	have another conversation offline, maybe if you
2	send an email, and then we can address, and
3	provide some guidance on the issue you're
4	raising.
5	MR. GURLEY: Okay, did you get my
6	email address? I sent you an email, did you
7	receive that?
8	CHAIR THOMPSON: I'm not sure who you
9	sent it to, but we'll be sure, and address it, I
10	promise.
11	MR. GURLEY: Okay, great.
12	CHAIR THOMPSON: And I'll jump in on
13	it as well.
14	MR. GURLEY: Well, thank you for your
15	time.
16	CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah, thank you. I
17	know you've been involved in the community for a
18	long time, I think we met when I was an ANC
19	commissioner.
20	MR. GURLEY: Yes we did.
21	CHAIR THOMPSON: So, nice to see you
22	here.

MR. GURLEY: Likewise.

CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay, I see a hand raised on Zoom, the name Sandra SS Seegars, if you could unmute her please, and why don't you go ahead ma'am?

MS. SEEGARS: Okay, hello, how are you sir?

CHAIR THOMPSON: Excellent, okay.

MS. SEEGARS: Yeah, I've been along almost as long as Karyn, so she left me. But I have a question about the process you all just had with Holly Muhammad, and Thomas Donohue, and then I have a question about the ten day period to get changes to address. Why did you only allow Holly Muhammad to speak once, and Tom went on, and on? That's the first question.

CHAIR THOMPSON: Just sort of standard procedure is the proposer speaks, then the respondent speaks, whoever it is, and typically there's a rebuttal, especially if there's a personal sort of challenge, or comment made.

It's just a chance for someone to kind of have

the last word to address themselves. The intent being to give everybody their say, that's pretty standard approach.

MS. SEEGARS: Yeah, but you muted her, and she was trying to ask you a question. That wasn't right.

CHAIR THOMPSON: I mean the whole thing was kind of on the precipice of falling into a lot of interruption, and kind of a big, open debate on the record, and I was trying to avoid that. And I think everyone certainly got their points across, and supplemented by the chat. So, we thank everybody for their comment.

MS. SEEGARS: Yeah, but she had a question to ask you, and y'all didn't unmute her. But I mean that's gone now, but she had a question to ask you, but you all did not unmute her again. But my other issue is the -- because I was instrumental in putting in place that if a person is challenged, the signatures are challenged, and the person moved within the ward.

Or within the Single Member District,

they had a period of time to go, and get changes of addresses, and they decided that it be ten days. So, I want to know if it can be changed to ten days from the time the office finds, or the board does the finding report, when they send it out. Instead of from the date the challenge was filed, is that clear?

Okay, so right now, it's ten days from the date the challenge was filed. By the time the board gets back to them, if there's some change in addresses that the board is going to allow, the ten days are almost gone, they might have one day to do so. So, I was wondering if the date could be changed from the day of the filing of the board rather than the day that they filed the actual challenge.

MS. STROUD: Mr. Chair, I can address that. That would require a change through the Council, because the statute provides that you have ten days after the date that the challenge is filed to submit changes of address. And so our process is in accordance with the statute as

1	it currently exists.
2	MS. SEEGARS: You said it's with the
3	Council's office?
4	MS. STROUD: Yes, that's in the
5	statue.
6	MS. SEEGARS: Okay, so they would have
7	to change it?
8	MS. STROUD: They would have to change
9	it.
LO	MS. SEEGARS: Okay, I'll get to them,
L1	thank you.
L <b>2</b>	MS. STROUD: You're welcome Ms.
L3	Seegars.
L <b>4</b>	MS. SEEGARS: All right, good seeing
L5	you Terri.
L6	MS. STROUD: Thank you.
L7	CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you so much
L8	ma'am. Okay, any other hands out there? I'm not
L9	seeing any. I don't see any in the chat. Well,
20	thank you everybody. It's been a good meeting,
21	and I think what we'll do at this point, is I'll
22	make a motion under code section 2-575B sub 13,

I've learned how to recite that. 1 2 That the board go into executive session to deliberate upon the pending motion to 3 intervene in the Valerie Graham challenge to I82. 4 5 Do I have a second? We've got to unmute either -- I think we have to unmute both Karen 6 7 Greenfield, and Mike Gill. When you mute 8 yourself, the IT guy has to unmute you. 9 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yeah, I think there's something in the chat about unmuting 10 11 somebody who I think wanted to speak to public 12 matters. 13 CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you so much. 14 I think -- Dorothy Brizill, that must be for 15 Dorothy Brizill. 16 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yeah. 17 CHAIR THOMPSON: Could you unmute D. 18 Brizill? Thank you so much for pointing that 19 Hello Ms. Brizill. out. 20 MS. BRIZILL: Good afternoon. 21 two issues I wanted to raise with you, if you can 22 hear me.

1	CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah, we can hear
2	you.
3	MS. BRIZILL: Okay, the first issue I
4	had to raise goes to Monica Evans. Can she tell
5	me whether, or not the board has entered into a
6	contract from a communications firm to assist the
7	board in the elections this year? And if so what
8	the name of the firm is?
9	MS. EVANS: We have not.
10	MS. BRIZILL: Do you intend to?
11	MS. EVANS: Not for the primary
12	election, we have senior communications
13	consultant
14	MS. BRIZILL: I can't hear you.
15	MS. EVANS: We do not. We have senior
16	communications individuals on board, and so we
17	are performing all of those duties in house.
18	MS. BRIZILL: What is the name of
19	those senior communications officials?
20	MS. EVANS: It's staff. I can all
21	falling under our PIO.
22	MS. BRIZILL: Current staff, or newly

1	hired staff?
2	MS. EVANS: Staff, and consultants all
3	under the PIO.
4	MS. BRIZILL: So, you've engaged
5	consultants, but you haven't entered into a
6	contract?
7	MS. EVANS: Well, they're temporary
8	workers, so there's no need to enter into a
9	contract.
10	MS. BRIZILL: So, to make sure we're
11	using the same language, you're not entering into
12	a PR contract, but you're using staff, and
13	individuals you refer to as consultants?
14	MS. EVANS: Temporary workers, yes.
15	MS. BRIZILL: Temporary workers.
16	What's the difference between a temporary worker,
17	and a consultant?
18	MS. EVANS: Temporary workers we bring
19	on typically during an election season to help us
20	with our election functions. A consultant, we
21	would typically enter into a contract with an
22	individual.

1	MS. BRIZILL: What's the name of those
2	temporary workers, and, or consultants that are
3	helping you with communications?
4	MS. EVANS: I can provide a list, I
5	don't have the full list in front of me, so I
6	don't want to provide you inaccurate, or
7	incomplete information. But I will be more than
8	happy to share that with you.
9	MS. BRIZILL: And how many people are
10	we talking about?
11	MS. EVANS: Again, I don't want to
12	misspeak, but I will get that information to you.
13	MS. BRIZILL: On the issue of the
14	ballots, am I correct that you indicated in your
15	report today that you're using KNH Mailhouse to
16	do the mailing of the ballots?
17	MS. EVANS: That is correct.
18	MS. BRIZILL: Are they also doing the
19	printing of the ballots?
20	MS. EVANS: That is correct.
21	MS. BRIZILL: Can you tell me what
22	Fort Orange Press in Albany, New York is doing in

terms of printing ballots?

MS. EVANS: We have not engaged the services of any other vendor.

MS. BRIZILL: So, Fort Orange Press is not printing ballots for you for this election year?

MS. EVANS: That is correct.

MS. BRIZILL: Okay. Now, Mr.

Thompson, I had a question, or an issue I wanted to raise with you, and I won't belabor it. As the newest member of the board, I am simply reaching out to you to ask you if you can use your authority to have the PIO officer, and the Board of Elections to do a better job in making information available.

As you are probably aware of, the district has a very specific, and aggressive sunshine law, that says that citizens have the right to request information, and they need not file FOIA to get such information. A clear indication of the problems at the Board of Elections occurred last week when we were (audio

interference) figure what was going on at the Court of Appeals.

And what was going to be its likely outcome. Your PIO officer was not only not forthcoming with information, he was in essence, being very -- I don't know what word to use, I can't figure out a word for it. The bottom line is information such as a simple request, what is the case number, can you provide us with a copy of the filing that the Board of Elections had made at the Court of Appeals?

What is the time line for the case?

He would not provide such information, and instead said go get it elsewhere. That is in essence his response. That is not acceptable for a PIO officer at any time, especially in an election year. And this has been ongoing for some time. So, either something has to be done in terms of a formal complaint being filed with the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability.

Or the Board of Elections needs to

have a sit down conversation with Mr. Nicolas as 1 2 regards to what his job is, and the extent to which he is the public information officer, and 3 needs to make such information available to the 4 5 press, and to citizens alike. Thank you. CHAIR THOMPSON: All right, thank you 6 7 so much Ms. Brizill, I'll think about that, and 8 take it under advisement. Is there anybody else 9 with a hand raised? I don't see any hands raised, and I'll just wait a couple seconds, look 10 at the chat space as well. All right, well thank 11 12 you everybody. I guess I have a pending motion 13 for the board to proceed to executive session, is 14 there a second? 15 MEMBER GILL: Second. 16 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay, all in favor? 17 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye. 18 MEMBER GILL: Aye. 19 CHAIR THOMPSON: And I quess 20 relatedly, I guess a motion to adjourn the public 21 meeting presently. MEMBER GILL: Well, so are we going to 22

1	come back, and give an update on the initiative,
2	or is Terri going to communicate them? I'm
3	ambivalent, just folks that are hanging around
4	wondering if they're going to get some
5	CHAIR THOMPSON: I guess we can come
6	back, yeah.
7	MEMBER GILL: So, let's I guess
8	what do we think time wise?
9	CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah, it's 12:12, I
10	think we need maybe 15 minutes. So, why don't I
11	say we'll go into special session for 10, to 15
12	minutes, and come back on the record.
13	MEMBER GILL: And then adjourn?
14	CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah, I'll say 12:25,
15	and then we'll come back in, announce our ruling,
16	and then adjourn.
17	MEMBER GILL: Works for me.
18	MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yeah.
19	CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay, great, thank
20	you for that. With that, we'll go into executive
21	session, and for those who want to wait around
22	for 12:25, we'll see you in a little bit. For

1	everybody else, thank you so much for joining us
2	today.
3	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
4	went off the record at 12:13 p.m. and resumed at
5	12:46 p.m.)
6	CHAIR THOMPSON: All right, we are
7	back, and I can see that the court reporter is
8	with us. And we've got four other participants
9	still, thank you. I think we'll just wait just a
10	little bit to see if anyone else is going to pop
11	up. I did say we'd be back at about 12:30, and
12	it's a few minutes after that.
13	MS. STROUD: And just a reminder to
14	vote to resume the public meeting.
15	CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay, I'll go ahead,
16	and do it. Let me move to resume the public
17	meeting. Do I have a second?
18	MEMBER GILL: Second.
19	CHAIR THOMPSON: All right, all in
20	favor?
21	MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.
22	MEMBER GILL: Aye.

CHAIR THOMPSON: Aye. Okay, with that, thank you. We've been in executive session discussing the motion to intervene by Mr. Bagwell in the challenge of Valerie Graham. We had a chance to discuss it at length. And at this time I'll make a motion to deny the motion to intervene for two reasons. Number one, because the intervener was, and is adequately represented by the existing challenger, who has very able counsel involved.

And number two, because under the facts as presented, I see no denial of reasonable access. With that, this will be subject to a written order that will expand on those two grounds, and that's the motion.

MEMBER GILL: So, I second the motion.

CHAIR THOMPSON: All right, any

comments from you Mike, or Karyn?

MS. STROUD: I have no comments. We will draft an order that will be submitted, or provided to the parties shortly, and posted on the board's website.

1	CHAIR THOMPSON: We can go ahead, and
2	vote.
3	MEMBER GILL: I think we still need to
4	vote.
5	CHAIR THOMPSON: So, all in favor?
6	MS. STROUD: I was jumping the gun I
7	think.
8	MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.
9	MEMBER GILL: Aye.
10	CHAIR THOMPSON: Three to zero. And
11	with a written order to follow. Okay, before I
12	move to adjourn, any other comments, or issues we
13	need to cover here? All right, it is Wednesday,
14	we're halfway through the week, we're going to
15	get there, and I'm going to test negative for
16	COVID tomorrow I hope. So, with that I move to
17	adjourn.
18	MEMBER GILL: Second.
19	CHAIR THOMPSON: All in favor?
20	MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.
21	MEMBER GILL: Aye.
22	CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you everybody.

1	MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you.
2	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
3	went off the record at 12:49 p.m.)
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LO	
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14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	

A
<b>a.m</b> 1:12 3:2 40:15
ability 14:19 36:16
43:11
<b>able</b> 20:3,11 22:16 26:3
59:3 86:9
above-entitled 85:3
88:2 absolutely 20:9 34:17
accept 19:9
acceptable 82:15
accepted 28:11
accepting 20:15
accepts 19:17
access 35:3,5,8,19,22
36:16,20 38:18 39:3
39:12 42:9,12 43:12
54:11 55:15 58:6
86:13
accommodate 51:11
Accountability 82:21
accounts 49:8,9,10
accurate 28:13
accurately 16:3,9 47:2
act 8:12 49:4 52:6 70:14 action 44:1 49:7,12
50:1 51:12 63:3,5,6
actions 23:12 24:16
active 8:4 65:18 71:8
activity 57:6
actual 46:11 75:16
addition 7:11
additional 7:8 8:4 11:1
43:14 65:10
address 15:17 16:8
28:22 29:13 30:8,9
34:19 40:2,5 45:8
48:16 67:7 72:2,6,9
73:14 74:1 75:17,21
addresses 75:2,11
adequately 86:8
<b>adjourn</b> 83:20 84:13,16 87:12,17
Adjournment 2:19
administer 47:20
adopt 3:21 4:13 13:9,19
15:6 16:15,19 17:8,11
18:8,14
adopted 19:6
adoption 2:4 12:21
13:15,17
adopts 13:22 30:21
advance 3:22
advertisement 10:21
advertising 11:2
advised 32:6
advisement 45:4 83:8
<b>Advisory</b> 12:22 29:17

30:1 51:16 affidavit 30:9 affiliated 9:5 affirmance 53:12 affirmation 68:10 afternoon 77:20 **AG** 61:21 63:18 agencies 8:14,17 23:20 agency 7:8 agenda 3:22 11:4 12:21 33:6 45:17 50:21,22 Agenda/Approval 2:4 aggressive 81:17 aggressively 15:12 ago 4:11 12:11 **agreed** 6:10 agreement 6:19,20 ahead 25:18 29:1,8 73:5 85:15 87:1 **air** 33:2 **Albany** 80:22 **alike** 83:5 alive 71:15 alleges 51:5 52:6 alleging 33:19 Alliance 63:1 allow 25:20 26:7.8 34:14 39:14 43:13 69:15 73:15 75:12 allowed 25:3 69:14 ambivalent 84:3 amend 48:21 amendment 49:2.3 amendments 46:16 49:17 amount 12:13 24:1 38:8 analysis 63:11 **ANC** 21:11 27:14 28:5 30:17 31:7 32:3 72:18 announce 19:4 84:15 annually 68:7 answer 16:16 answering 63:10 anticipated 9:12 anybody 83:8 anybody's 21:18 anyway 3:13 15:10 28:5 apologies 3:9 apologize 29:9 **app** 8:8 appeal 52:17 53:5,22 54:12,21 55:3,16,18 **Appeals** 6:10 51:20 52:18 54:1 55:4 82:2 82:11 appear 33:22 54:4 55:9

appeared 35:9 37:10,11 **appears** 23:16 applicable 48:9 appreciate 11:9 22:10 25:8 34:18 approach 74:3 appropriate 26:17 41:18 46:18 approval 46:15 49:18 approve 4:8 16:14,19 17:3 28:10 49:15 50:5 approved 19:4 approving 19:21 approximately 69:7 **April** 2:5 4:10 7:5,17,17 9:9,10 13:12 22:22 24:18 30:14 52:19 53:5,6,7,9,9,11,15,17 54:1,12,13,20,22 55:5 55:16,17,18 57:6 59:1 59:6,14,22 60:6,12,18 61:1,6,11,16,21 62:5 62:11,16,19 63:2,4,7 63:8,17,18,20 64:11 64:18 65:6,17,19,21 area 22:11 arque 24:15 argument 6:19 39:22 42:17 53:10 54:15 ascertain 4:21 34:5 Ascertainment 2:3 asked 21:13 35:20 asking 20:19 21:22 26:17 assert 41:4 asserted 42:21 **assist** 78:6 assistance 24:12,17 assistant 1:20 11:11 29:11 At- 62:13 At-Large 55:10 57:18 61:9,19 65:3,5 atmosphere 21:21 attached 40:8 attack 26:8 attacked 26:4,13 attacking 26:20 attempted 23:18 35:5 35:10,17 38:15 attempting 36:20 **attend** 58:14 attending 21:11 attorney 6:2 52:9,12,22 53:4 57:15 62:2 attorneys 23:18 audio 14:1 17:8 30:4 33:1 42:10 66:6 81:22 audit 63:11,13,21 audits 63:14,16,21,22 **August** 51:10 authorities 71:7 authority 71:3 81:13 authorization 69:13 70:2 authorizations 69:8,9 70:22 authorize 69:15 **authorized** 59:17 60:3 69:14 available 31:1 43:3 58:12 59:12 81:15 83:4 availed 41:15 44:19 Avenue 40:5 avoid 74:11 awaiting 52:14 **aware** 81:16 **Aye** 4:5,6,17,18 29:5,6 29:7 50:17 83:17,18 85:21,22 86:1 87:8,9 87:20,21 В

back 22:4 34:21 40:16 40:16 42:19 44:17,18 45:15 75:10 84:1,6,12 84:15 85:7.11 background 13:3 backing 25:21 backwards 44:2 **Bagwell** 33:7,9 34:20 36:16 37:17 40:13 41:1,10 86:3 **balance** 6:6 51:8 **ballot** 9:4,8,9,11,16 10:2 33:22 54:11 55:15 58:6 ballots 7:22 9:13,14 10:3,5 47:13,18,22 80:14,16,19 81:1,5 banc 53:14,18 base 52:19 based 24:4 53:2 **basic** 35:4 **basis** 32:8 battleground 27:15 Beau 60:11,11 **began** 10:8 beginning 30:20 behalf 7:7 34:1 52:10 belabor 81:10 believe 11:22 23:9 25:1 41:18 69:3 believed 43:2 bend 44:2

66:18

appearance 23:16

Benjamin 60:5 campaign 1:19 2:17 86:17 87:1,5,10,19,22 49:5 67:18 76:22 **chairman** 11:16 40:4 Bergmann 60:5 48:13,15,20 49:2 57:1 collect 19:19 **best** 11:9 44:1 57:12 58:5 59:8 62:20 57:17 64:8 collected 65:7 **better** 81:14 63:12 64:10 66:3,7 **challenge** 32:14,16,16 collection 13:7 Bianco 33:7,11 34:1,5,7 cancelling 71:11 33:8,12,14,15 36:12 **Collier-Montgomery** 34:13,17,19 39:9,20 candidate 37:20 52:21 36:17 38:20,22 41:17 1:18 48:14 57:2,3 42:21 54:4 55:9 58:8,9 60:6 43:16 45:10,14 52:20 66:6 Bianco's 42:17 60:8,12,13,18,19 61:1 53:2 54:2,9 55:13 Columbia 1:2,11 24:7 biased 23:12 69:11 73:21 75:6,9,16,20 61:2,6,7,11,16,17,21 48:22 52:5 55:11 **big** 74:9 61:22 62:5,6,10,11 77:4 86:4 59:11 challenged 74:20,21 **bit** 12:7 84:22 85:10 69:16,21 70:3 come 35:10 38:9,9 black 24:4,8,12 candidates 49:11 58:1 challenger 41:14,21 40:15 44:17,18 84:1,5 blocked 21:11 58:4 59:18 60:1,4,5 42:4 86:9 84:12,15 board's 17:6 31:2 32:7 62:18 63:9 **challenges** 9:2 37:20 comment 28:20 46:5 39:17 55:5 56:6 40:19 46:15 47:2 Candon 2:15 53:21 50:10 66:9,17 73:21 49:18 53:12 55:19 54:3,12,14,18,21 chance 4:12 73:22 86:5 74:13 86:22 capacity 52:3 **change** 17:14,16 28:12 comments 11:17 25:10 **BOE** 10:6 35:7,12 36:4 Capital 65:10,11 75:11,18 76:7,8 28:16 46:4 86:18,19 card 69:2,19 36:10 37:5,21 56:19 **changed** 75:3,14 87:12 **changes** 7:19 46:6 48:2 commissioner 13:1 **BOE's** 37:1,6 56:12 cards 7:21 38:18 **bona** 30:10 carefully 50:6 73:14 75:1,21 27:14 28:5 29:17 30:1 **bother** 40:16 carry 19:19 **chapter** 45:21 48:21 30:3,12 31:21 51:17 bottom 82:7 Carter 65:3 chapters 45:20 72:19 **bounds** 23:10 case 6:2,4,9 19:17 character 25:11 committee 54:6 59:9 **bow** 24:9 23:11 24:22 37:4 **Charmaine** 66:18 67:3 63:4,5,6 64:21 **boxes** 10:2 43:21 82:9.12 Charter 63:3 committees 49:7.12.13 **brief** 44:12 cases 6:5 23:15 **chat** 5:11 20:19 74:13 62:21.22 briefed 34:21 53:8 cast 47:22 76:19 77:10 83:11 Committeewoman 54:6 briefing 56:16 cause 65:21 69:4 check 32:6 40:16 51:6,7 communicate 84:2 briefly 42:5 59:14 62:17 causing 51:8 51:9 communications 10:14 brilliant 56:13 Cecily 1:18 48:14 **choice** 15:6 22:3 78:6,12,16,19 80:3 **bring** 79:18 **cell** 8:9 **choose** 17:11 community 59:2 72:17 **Brizill** 77:14,15,18,19 center 10:4 **Chris** 65:16 **compare** 36:4 38:18 77:20 78:3,10,14,18 centers 9:18,18,21 Christine 56:3 complainant 13:8 78:22 79:4,10,15 80:1 cents 59:16 Christopher 2:10 complaint 24:3,11 51:2 80:9,13,18,21 81:4,8 certain 48:1 circulate 30:18 82:19 83:7 certainly 25:10 27:12 circulation 18:9 complete 8:9 18:22 42:7 43:13 44:22 broaden 71:21 circumstances 25:4 **completed** 63:10 64:12 **Brook's** 68:7,19 74:11 **citizen** 37:13 completely 40:9 44:21 **Brooks** 11:5,7 **certified** 58:1 59:19 citizens 37:18,22 39:15 compliance 52:7 63:14 brought 44:11 48:4 60:1,4,6,12,18 61:1,6 81:18 83:5 complied 40:10,22 **Brown** 63:16 61:11,16,21 62:5,10 city 58:3 59:2 comply 42:11 **Bruce** 52:20 chair 1:12,14 3:3,5,19 civil 51:2 comport 46:11 claims 27:4 51:3 budget 59:7 4:4,7,16,19,20,22 5:6 computed 31:10 **building** 24:11 35:10 5:10,16 6:12 12:5 **clap** 5:7 computer 8:10 67:2 clarification 11:21 bullet 17:17,18 28:13 14:3,6 18:3 19:3,7 concerning 58:12 **bullet's** 18:3 20:4,9,13,17,22 22:13 clarifies 47:14,21 48:5 **concerns** 20:1,3 business 24:14 38:11 22:18 25:7 27:6 28:16 clear 6:18 43:10 75:7 concludes 11:13 55:20 38:12 57:8 63:2 66:3 29:1,5,8 32:10,22 81:20 64:2 66:1 conclusion 45:5 39:8,20 42:2 44:5,10 clearly 20:18 41:1 43:5 C 45:2 48:17 50:4,13,16 **client** 34:2 35:13 **concur** 43:13 calendar 58:22 50:18 55:22 56:20,22 clients 8:14 conduct 23:17 46:9 call 2:2 14:2,20 23:1 close 38:20 57:8 66:3 66:5,8,14,22 67:4 57:13 71:18 72:8,12,16,21 closed 9:21 35:11 **conducted** 7:6,8,12 24:18 66:19 36:10,12 37:1 38:5 9:10 21:12 58:18 called 26:15 35:13 73:2,8,17 74:7 75:17 calling 26:14 76:17 77:13,17 78:1 closely 6:18 65:22 calls 19:8 21:16 co-conspirator 24:20 conducting 35:9 83:6,16,19 84:5,9,14 Calvin 67:1,8 84:19 85:6,15,19 86:1 **code** 13:3 30:16 31:6 confer 70:6

conference 63:10 conflict 23:13 49:3 conflicts 47:11 conform 46:8 conformance 49:1 congested 3:10 connectivity 33:1 **consecutive** 36:2 39:17 43:5 Consequently 54:19 consider 12:18 consolidated 55:3 constant 39:6 constituents 24:21 consultant 78:13 79:17 79:20 **consultants** 79:2,5,13 80:2 contacted 35:16 contain 33:21 54:10 55:14 contained 30:4 contains 10:20 32:13 content 11:1 contents 2:1 66:1 contested 57:13 58:3 context 38:22 continue 12:2 continued 24:13 40:17 51:11 continuing 58:16 **contract** 78:6 79:6,9,12 79:21 contribution 49:8 contributions 49:11 convened 1:11 conversation 67:12 72:1 83:1 copies 50:11,11 copy 36:8 82:9 Corbett 60:22 core 35:3 correct 6:15 16:5 17:19 69:3 80:14,17,20 81:7 corrected 37:21 correctly 16:6,9 **Corren** 63:16 **Corrente** 1:20 11:12 28:21 29:10,11 Council 55:10 57:17,19 59:10 60:15,21 61:4,9 61:14,19 62:14 75:19 Council's 59:13 76:3 counsel 1:18,19 23:14 28:17 33:7 34:4,9,20 35:16 38:17 41:15 42:3 45:3,15 48:15,19 60:10 64:5,6,9,11,19

65:6 66:1 67:11 86:10 counsel's 2:8 12:17 count 13:13 30:6,16 31:13 counted 47:13 67:21 70:17 counting 44:7 couple 6:14 12:17 36:15 56:14 83:10 course 12:2,18 18:10 37:8 44:1 50:2 56:4 court 4:21 5:1,3,10,14 6:2,10,17 51:1,20 52:5,18 53:8,10,11,17 53:22 54:13,19 55:1,4 55:19 82:2,11 85:7 court's 53:15 courts 69:17 70:5 cover 87:13 **covered** 60:10,15,20 61:3,9,13,19 62:2,8 62:13 **COVID** 3:8 87:16 **COVID-19** 48:4 creates 21:21 cries 24:16 curbside 47:18,20

current 47:2 78:22

**Czapary** 60:17,17

**currently** 7:14 59:19

cycle 48:10 59:15 60:2

D

D 77:17 **D.C** 2:10,12,14,15,16 12:12 13:3 15:21 27:16 30:16 31:6 37:13,18 40:6 45:18 46:2,17 48:8 49:5,19 49:20 50:2,8,22 51:1 51:20 52:15,18 53:21 53:22 54:7 55:2,4 61:15 62:10 63:3,6,18 65:13 67:9,18 68:5,6 68:6,15 69:17 70:5 damages 51:3 date 8:11,16 10:11 29:15 30:20 53:13 54:21 59:15 75:6,9,14 75:20 dated 29:15 dates 58:13 **Davis** 66:19,20 67:3 day 8:3 9:18 10:5 28:1 35:6,15 36:1,2,7,10 36:11,22 38:12 39:18 40:12,14,18 41:2,16

42:13.20 43:5.14 64:4 73:13 75:13,14,15 days 6:14 28:3 30:18 31:14 40:12,12 41:7 44:17 75:3,4,8,12,20 DCMR 45:22 67:14 71:6 deadline 54:19 deadlines 62:17 debate 25:13 58:4.9 74:10 debates 57:13 58:15,18 58:20,21 decide 6:7 decided 11:7 75:2 decision 70:9 dedicated 24:5 **deemed** 68:21 **deems** 17:9 defend 22:8 definitely 11:20 degree 12:3 26:6 delay 42:15 delays 38:13 deliberate 77:3 demands 24:9 democratic 53:1 54:6.7 71:21 **Democrats** 65:10,12 **denial** 86:12 denied 35:8,19 36:6,16 53:19 55:1 Denise 54:2 Denlinger 5:7,14 deny 86:6 denying 53:18 deposit 10:3 51:6 **deprived** 38:3,4 41:4 42:9 44:16 designate 67:19 68:4 68:13 71:12 designated 67:18,22 69:5 designating 70:21 designation 51:21 desktop 8:10 despite 43:4 determinations 9:2 determine 47:21 determined 31:18

determining 68:13

developing 11:1

difference 79:16

direct 47:8 67:17

director 1:17 5:18

48:14 52:3 **Director's** 2:7

directing 51:21 54:13

different 22:5

disburement 59:17 disburements 60:3 Disclosure 49:3 discontinued 7:16 discretion 17:6 discriminatory 69:11 discuss 45:5 86:5 discussed 48:6 discussing 22:6 86:3 discussion 70:10 dismiss 25:6 52:10 55:17,19 dismissing 54:20 dispute 40:21 disseminate 59:3 distinguished 48:18 64:8 distributed 3:22 4:11 distributing 22:2 district 1:2,11 8:18 13:2 23:19 24:7 29:18,21 30:2 32:21 48:22 51:18 52:4,5 55:11 59:10 74:22 81:17 division 7:6,8,12 11:13 62:16 63:12.14 document 22:1 documents 9:8 doing 80:18,22 dollars 51:3 59:8,16 64:16,21 65:1,3,4,7,9 65:11,12,14,15 Dominique 55:8 **Donohue** 13:10,15,21 14:2 15:14,16,19,20 16:12,21 17:2,12 18:5 18:10,17,19 19:2,5,11 19:17 20:2,7,10,14,20 21:6 23:4,18 24:19 25:9,16,19 27:8,11,17 28:8,11 29:20 31:2,4 73:12 **Donohue's** 30:13 door 21:18 doors 26:17

Donohue's 30:13 door 21:18 doors 26:17 Dorothy 77:14,15 downtown 3:7 draft 86:20 drop 10:2 due 24:12 25:3 48:3 50:1 51:18 dully 32:1 duly 29:20 duties 21:12 78:17 duty 23:15 69:18 70:7

earlier 17:13

early 9:17,19 10:4 facts 35:4 40:6 86:12 ensure 58:17 57:12 62:21 66:20 edit 14:13,17,19 15:3 enter 79:8,21 **failed** 23:20 67:13 73:16 78:3 entered 78:5 79:5 15:13 20:5 fair 20:8,13 26:12 58:2 fiscal 59:7 entering 79:11 59:5,13,17 60:1 61:12 five 12:11 59:2 editing 14:21 edition 10:20 entertain 41:9 61:22 64:1 69:10 flaw 22:6 entire 48:10 56:2 **EDT** 1:12 falling 74:8 78:21 flawed 22:4,11 **education** 7:4,6,11 entitled 41:1 far 8:22 focus 7:15 **effect** 46:18 equal 6:7 fast 43:16 **FOIA** 21:13 81:20 effective 11:8 49:22 equipment 47:5,6,9,10 favor 4:4,16 23:16,20 folks 6:6 21:17 22:1 effort 38:17 54:4 55:8 erases 47:11 23:22 29:5 50:16 26:14 84:3 **efforts** 43:12 83:16 85:20 87:5,19 follow 87:11 **Eric** 61:10,10 followed 36:9,13 71:22 **Egiotec** 65:16 erred 54:15 favorable 39:2 eight 27:15 error 17:16 February 52:11,12 following 36:7 52:17 either 14:17 15:3 20:5 especially 73:20 82:16 fee 51:9 64:14,20 65:8 67:20 21:7 48:14 77:5 82:18 essence 82:5,15 feel 3:9 26:2 forget 27:18 form 13:6,15,20 15:5 **Elect** 64:22 65:16 essentially 38:2 **felt** 6:15,17 23:8 **elected** 14:14 24:5 26:2 establish 49:7 female 24:5 16:2,3,10,15,19 17:11 ethics 45:21 82:20 **FEP** 58:7 60:9,13 30:4,11 32:5 18:8,15 19:5,16 30:21 election 7:13 8:3,5,20 Evans 1:17 2:13 7:1,3 fide 30:10 31:1 46:21 fifth 53:20,20 formal 82:19 8:22 9:18 10:2,5,7,7 52:2 78:4,9,11,15,20 formally 13:8 30:21 10:10,11,12,19 28:3,4 79:2,7,14,18 80:4,11 figure 82:1,7 47:3,3 48:10,10 53:1 80:17,20 81:2,7 **figures** 31:19 **former** 51:4 54:8 55:12 57:22 58:1 evenings 56:17 file 14:10,15 30:19 31:4 formulate 36:17 59:15,20,21 60:2,9,14 event 31:3 32:16 39:17 51:21 54:14 Fort 80:22 81:4 60:20 61:8,13,18 62:2 events 7:7,9,9,14 59:2 81:20 forth 19:19 22:5 27:18 62:7.13 78:12 79:19 **everybody** 3:4 45:12 filed 13:11.12 15:2.2 forthcomina 82:5 79:20 81:5 82:17 66:14 74:2.13 76:20 26:1 29:21 30:12 forward 20:15 25:3 **elections** 1:4,11,13,16 83:12 85:1 87:22 31:20 33:6,13 34:2,3 45:13 2:11,12,14,15,16 3:6 exactly 27:19 38:20 34:16,22 38:1,12 found 32:15 68:2 11:7 12:4 22:2 23:3,9 examine 44:3 41:17 42:7 51:1,15 **Foundation** 2:13 52:2 23:14 24:1.17.20 25:5 **example** 71:12 52:4,10,11,20 53:5,13 four 9:5 62:17 64:15 26:7 42:11 43:2 45:21 exceed 13:13 14:11 53:16,22 54:2,12,21 85:8 50:22 51:15 52:4,16 30:6.15 55:4,6,16,17,18 75:7 fourth 52:14 53:21 55:2 58:2,3 excellent 56:13 73:8 75:9,16,21 82:19 **frame** 32:19 59:5,13,18 60:2 61:12 **executive** 2:7 5:17 45:4 filing 14:10 62:17 75:15 frank 20:16 62:1 64:1 68:7,19,22 52:3 66:10 77:2 83:13 82:10 free 50:11 84:20 86:2 68:22 70:1,6,20 78:7 **filings** 35:1 Friday 9:9 30:14 49:20 Executives 63:2 **final** 9:13 11:3 45:19 friends 56:10 60:22 81:14,22 82:10,22 elector 30:10 **exercising** 70:2 71:9 46:19 48:11 50:1 55:1 frivolous 41:8 **electors** 31:9,12,13 exhibit 40:8 68:12 front 80:5 **electronic** 36:8 47:9 existed 47:12 finalized 9:11 **frozen** 18:2 existing 45:9,14 46:8 Elissa 61:15,15 **finally** 65:20 full 10:20 57:5,7,9 64:3 email 30:8 40:8 43:1 86:9 finance 1:19 2:17 48:13 80:5 72:2.6.6 exists 76:1 48:16.20 49:2 57:1.12 fully 53:7 **Emails** 39:6 **expand** 86:14 58:5 59:8 62:20 63:13 fun 6:13 emergency 45:22 46:20 expect 24:1 64:10 66:3,7 functionality 8:8 expenditure 62:22 63:4 finding 53:2 75:5 functions 79:20 47:1 48:4,6,12,20 49:21 expenditures 49:9 finds 75:4 fund 59:18 employee 38:7 fine 3:9 4:12 18:5 19:2 funds 60:3 experience 36:19 en 53:14,18 20:14 64:20 65:1,2,4 explained 50:6 G **enact** 69:9 express 20:3 65:9,11,12,13,15 gain 23:20 encouraging 7:22 extent 41:3 42:8 83:2 fines 64:16,17,19 65:7 endorse 70:3 71:9 eyes 69:22 Finley 60:11,11 gaining 23:22 enforce 6:11 firm 78:6,8 **Gary** 1:12,14 3:5 11:15 F engaged 79:4 81:2 **firms** 56:9,11 general 1:18,19 2:8 6:3 fabulous 5:16 engagement 7:12 first 3:20 10:15 12:12 12:17 23:14 28:4,17 Engineers 63:6 fact 36:9 41:14 47:16 12:21 15:14 17:22 35:16 38:16 45:15 enrichment 51:4 **factor** 68:13 45:19 46:19 50:21 48:15,19 52:9,13,22

53:4 57:15 59:21 **happy** 80:8 included 30:7 65:8 intervening 39:4 intervention 41:19 61:18 62:3,13 64:5,6 Harassing 24:8 including 43:6 56:3,17 harassment 24:4,13 64:9,11,19 65:6,22 incomplete 80:7 intimidation 24:13 introduce 3:14 generally 46:9 hard 50:11 56:4,16 incorporated 19:16 getting 17:20 42:16 harm 43:15 28:12 investigations 65:18 invited 58:6 43:20 44:7,8 Harnett 55:6 incorporates 19:10 **Gill** 1:15 3:18,18 4:3,6 **he'll** 19:18 incredible 12:13 25:20 **involved** 14:20 15:13 43:22 72:17 86:10 4:15,18 5:22 11:15 health 48:3 56:3 28:15 29:7 77:7 83:15 hear 3:4 15:14,15 17:9 independent 49:9 irresponsible 25:20 19:22 22:14,17 28:18 62:22 63:3 83:18,22 84:7,13,17 27:2 34:16 56:21 66:21 indicated 5:15 8:21 85:18,22 86:16 87:3,9 issue 13:14 14:20 15:5 87:18,21 77:22 78:1,14 19:5 32:11 35:17 17:15 28:7 33:4 37:20 heard 27:1 42:19 53:10 68:18 80:14 40:21 41:3,8 45:6,11 Giuseppe 61:5 68:16 72:3 74:18 78:3 give 20:18 40:1 64:5 hearing 6:18 20:15 indication 41:12 81:21 individual 33:10 79:22 74:2 84:1 43:16 51:9 56:6 80:13 81:9 issued 9:3 31:14 51:5 given 16:22 39:12 hearings 47:21 64:13 individuals 42:8 78:16 gives 27:10 68:3 71:3 held 7:10 8:22 9:9 79:13 51:20 52:18 53:9,17 informal 64:12 giving 8:7 14:11 26:22 47:21 54:1,13,20 55:5 63:14 hello 66:21 73:6 77:19 **information** 8:2 16:3,4 **glad** 3:10 63:17,18,19 64:13,15 16:8 37:21 39:4,13 **goal** 10:9 39:6 help 71:22 79:19 64:17 **Gore** 55:6 helping 80:3 58:11 59:4 62:15 80:7 issues 12:18 21:10 31:3 Goulet 61:10,10 Henderson 2:12 51:14 80:12 81:15,19,20 33:2 38:21 67:15 governing 68:15 Hi 3:16 82:5,8,13 83:3,4 77:21 87:12 informed 35:12 **government** 1:1 23:19 highest 12:3 item 12:21 33:5 45:17 highlight 57:4,11 informing 51:6 50:20.21 51:14 52:1 82:20 **Graham** 33:13 41:15 Hill 10:20 initial 51:9 69:13 52:15 53:20 42:4 45:10 62:9.10 hired 79:1 initially 33:14 39:1 items 48:1,5 57:5,11 77:4 86:4 hold 24:21 25:8 53:4 **initiative** 32:15 33:9,12 granted 36:2 53:11 holiday 9:22 33:17,20 69:4 84:1 55:19 71:10 holidays 43:6 initiator 15:5 Jacqueline 5:7.13 greatest 24:1 Holly 12:22 16:21 29:16 inquiries 67:10 **James** 33:6 55:6 61:10 greatly 23:10 29:22 73:12.15 inquiring 13:19 39:7 January 32:3 51:19 **HOLMAN** 1:17 **inquiry** 16:14 Greenfield 1:15 3:16,17 **Jason** 2:10 home 3:6 33:2 4:5,17 5:4,20 29:3,6 instructed 54:17 **Jenkins** 2:16 55:2,8,16 50:15,17 77:7,9,16 hope 12:6 87:16 **instructions** 42:18 68:3 **job** 21:9,12,14 27:5 83:17 84:18 85:21 hopefully 3:4 21:4 instrumental 74:19 81:14 83:2 **Joe** 26:11 44:13 87:8,20 88:1 **hopes** 49:15 insufficient 51:19 grounds 54:10 55:14 integrity 7:17 11:22 hour 42:15 John 33:9 34:20 86:15 hours 35:7 37:6,9 38:11 12:3 24:2 joining 85:1 **quard** 35:12 house 78:17 intellectually 6:15 Joint 64:22 guess 6:3 12:16 47:5 households 10:17 **intend** 78:10 Jones 61:20,20 57:1 68:22 83:12,19 intent 13:10 31:21 74:1 housekeeping 46:9 **Joseph** 34:9 40:4 83:20 84:5,7 **intention** 29:16,22 judiciary 59:9 quidance 68:3 72:3 interest 2:13 23:13 **July** 31:5 **guide** 10:22 **182** 77:4 41:20 49:3 52:1 58:16 jump 12:6 72:12 interference 14:1 17:9 gun 87:6 idea 11:18 44:19 jumping 87:6 **Gurley** 66:21 67:1,2,7,8 imagine 21:20 30:4 42:10 66:7 82:1 **June** 7:22 8:19,22 9:6 67:8 70:13,18 71:19 interim 11:11 9:14,16,20,20,21 10:1 impacted 37:17,18 72:5,11,14,20 73:1 impartiality 25:2 interpretive 65:20 10:21 43:17 51:11 interrupt 25:15 52:22 54:7 55:11 important 21:7 Н interruption 74:9 57:22 59:20 60:9,14 importantly 36:19 half 29:13 42:15 **imposed** 64:16,18,19 intervene 33:6,8,11 60:20 61:3,8,13 62:1 34:2,3,15 35:2 36:13 halfway 87:14 64:21 65:1,3,4 62:7 inaccurate 80:6 38:13 40:9 41:4,10,11 Juneteenth 9:22 hand 5:5,8 66:16,19 45:7 66:11 77:4 86:3 inactive 8:5 67:14,20 73:2 83:9 jurors 69:18 hands 66:17 76:18 83:9 67:22 68:5,14 69:5,10 86:7 jury 69:18 70:7 70:15,21 71:12 intervened 53:6 hanging 84:3 happened 48:3 include 31:8,22 64:13 intervener 53:16 86:8

Karen 11:4,7,18 12:6 77:6 Karyn 1:15 3:15,16 5:19 68:7,19 73:10 86:18 keep 44:12 71:7,15 Kline 42:5,6 44:10 knew 12:7 KNH 9:7,11 80:15 knocking 26:16 knowledge 68:15 known 30:2 knows 45:12

#### L

lack 25:2 lacked 41:13 laid 40:7 land 45:12 language 6:16 14:22 44:21 79:11 laptop 8:10 large 39:15 56:9 62:14 late 3:7 38:8 latest 10:19 31:12 **Lauren** 63:19 law 42:12 56:9 67:18 68:6.15 81:18 Lawrence 61:20 lay 45:12 **lavout** 46:13 learned 77:1 leave 22:9 **left** 35:14 42:17 73:10 legal 2:13 23:7 52:1 56:2,12,18 67:10 68:3 68:11 legitimate 41:20 45:1 length 86:5 lengthy 57:9 let's 15:13 22:14 84:7 level 26:2 Libertarian 65:13 light 48:2 likes 6:4 likewise 14:14 37:18 73:1 **limit** 30:6,16 limitations 13:13 limited 17:7 68:15 line 17:18 82:7,12 Liniqua 55:7 **Lisa** 55:6 list 69:18 80:4,5 listed 9:19 70:8 listening 66:15 **litigation** 2:9 50:21 55:20 litigations 56:5

little 3:9 12:7 33:1 84:22 85:10 live 26:15 58:19 locations 9:19 locked 35:11 long 2:10 12:9 50:22 51:3 72:18 73:10 longer 12:1 26:3 47:10 47:17 look 4:12 27:14 36:3 83:10 looking 16:5 lost 17:20 lot 12:14 22:5 56:16,17 74:9 lots 56:10 lottery 9:9 low 35:20

### Μ

ma'am 73:5 76:18

mail 7:21 9:4,16 10:2,18 68:9 69:19 mailed 7:20 9:8 mailer 10:15 **Mailhouse** 9:7,12 80:15 mailing 9:13,14 80:16 **major** 9:5 making 43:11 45:17,19 45:19.20 46:1.2.20.21 46:22 47:1 48:7,11,12 48:21 49:8,22 50:1,5 50:9 81:14 makings 46:14 man 26:15 management 62:16 mandatory 58:9 manner 27:21 March 10:8,16 13:11 29:19 36:10 40:13 46:3,21 52:13 Marieva 54:3 Marissa 1:20 11:11 28:21 29:11 materialized 39:5 matter 34:20 35:2 40:7 51:1,10,10,13 52:14 52:17 53:7,11,20,22 54:22 55:1,3 70:11 85:3 88:2 matters 2:6,18 5:18 21:15 77:12 mayor 57:14 62:5,8 63:17 McDuffie 2:14 52:15,21 53:3,13 McLaughlin 62:9 mean 5:22 21:14 26:19

70:12 74:7.16 meaning 18:19 32:12 35:22 means 42:12 44:6,8 meant 5:8 measure 13:6 32:5,11 32:17,20 33:9,12 measures 46:10 meet 23:4 53:3 54:19 meeting 1:6 2:5 4:9 45:5,13 76:20 83:21 85:14,17 meetings 21:11 member 1:15,15 3:16 3:18,18 4:3,5,6,15,17 4:18 5:4,20,22 11:15 13:1 28:15 29:3,6,7 29:18,21 30:2 32:21 50:15,17 51:17 53:10 55:10 57:18 60:15,21 61:4,9,14,19 62:14 65:5 74:22 77:9,16 81:11 83:15,17,18,22 84:7,13,17,18 85:18 85:21,22 86:16 87:3,8 87:9.18.20.21 88:1 members 1:13 3:14.17 28:17 48:18 64:8 membership 71:7 memorandum 29:14 mentioned 27:9 merely 40:11 merges 28:6 **merit** 24:3 meritless 41:7 message 35:14 42:18 met 6:1 72:18 Mike 1:15 3:18 5:19 77:7 86:18 minds 27:8 minute 21:1,3 22:14 44:12 minutes 2:4 4:9 40:15 84:10,12 85:12 misspeak 80:12 mobile 8:8 Monash 60:22 Monday 40:17 44:18 Monica 1:17 2:13 7:1 11:17 52:2 78:4 Monte 60:21,22 month 7:5 12:15 57:6 59:14,22 62:16,19 63:8 64:10,18 65:5,17 65:19,21

morning 3:4 7:4 12:20 29:10 40:20 48:17 57:4 64:7 motion 3:21 4:8,13 27:13 28:10,14 33:6,8 33:11 34:2,3,15 35:5 36:13 38:13 40:9 42:7 43:13 45:7 52:10 53:14,19 54:22 55:1 55:17,19 66:10,11 76:22 77:3 83:12,20 86:3,6,6,15,16 move 19:22 25:3,12 27:11 33:3 85:16 87:12,16 moved 8:4 50:5 74:21 moving 8:19 20:15 39:6 Muhammad 12:22 15:15 17:10 19:12 20:1 21:3 22:14,16,19 22:20,22 23:3 25:8,14 27:12 29:17,22 30:3 30:12 31:21 73:12,15 Municipal 45:18 48:22 **Muslim** 24:5 mute 11:16 25:14 27:9 77:7 muted 14:4 74:4

#### Ν

name 3:5 15:17 16:5 28:22 29:10 30:7 33:10 34:19 40:2 48:18 64:9 67:6 70:8 73:3 78:8,18 80:1 National 8:12 52:6 54:5 **nature** 23:13 nearly 11:6 41:7 necessary 53:4 need 27:19 79:8 81:19 84:10 87:3,13 needs 22:12 51:12 82:22 83:4 negative 26:5 51:8 87:15 negligence 51:3 neighbor's 26:16 Neighborhood 13:1 29:17 30:1 51:17 neighbors 21:19,22 26:19 neutral 23:15 never 6:4 42:19 nevertheless 28:8 new 7:15,18 32:8 47:19 60:1 62:18,20 63:5,9 80:22 newest 81:11

monthly 32:8

**Moore** 51:16

moot 53:19

newly 78:22 nice 72:21 Nicolas 83:1 Niosi 61:5,5 nominating 54:3,16 55:7 nomination 52:21 54:5 55:9 non-49:7 58:8 normally 5:1 Northwest 67:9 **note** 37:19 notice 1:12 13:10 29:16 29:22 30:2,3 31:20 37:14 45:22 46:19 November 32:18 59:21 61:18 62:12 number 27:20 28:2 30:8 31:11 32:2,13 33:9,12 51:19 54:11 55:15 69:13,16 82:9 86:7,11 **NVRA** 8:13 **NVRA's** 52:7

### 0

**O'Leary** 34:4 object 21:2 **objections** 18:11,17 **objects** 19:11,13 **obligation** 42:11 43:3 observance 9:21 obtain 15:7 **obvious** 36:15 obviously 45:9 occasion 56:15 occur 9:14 occurred 81:22 **OCF** 57:6 58:10,11,17 59:1,3,22 63:10 64:5 offer 36:7 offering 8:15 office 1:18 24:21 31:2 32:7 37:1,15 38:5,7 38:16 46:17 48:13,15 48:19 52:9,12,21 53:4 54:5 55:10 57:12,14 59:8 60:10,15,20 61:3 61:9,13,19 62:2,8,13 62:19 64:6,10,11,19 65:6,22 66:2,7 68:7 68:19 75:4 76:3 officer 30:4,11 81:13 82:4,16 83:3 offices 50:12 57:21 official 13:3 14:14 24:5 26:3 30:16 31:6,13 32:5 49:5 52:2

**old** 47:5,6 omicron 3:8 once 3:20 14:16 18:22 73:15 ongoing 63:20,22 82:17 online 8:6,6 10:13 58:19.21 onward 12:16 57:1 open 10:3 21:5 37:2,15 74:10 operate 12:2 24:14 operating 37:8 operation 35:7 operations 11:12 opinions 65:20 opportunity 8:15 13:21 16:16,22 18:22 20:11 20:12,18,21 34:18 38:3,4 39:16 41:5,13 41:16 44:3,16,19 **oppose** 27:13 44:22 **opposition** 34:3 69:6 70:10 option 18:20 oral 6:19 53:10 **Orange** 80:22 81:4 order 2:2 51:20 52:18 53:8,12,15,18 54:1,13 54:20 56:8,16 66:17 86:14.20 87:11 orders 9:3 55:5 56:7 64:13,15,17 original 13:5,15 30:21 outcome 82:4 outlining 54:14 outreach 7:5,6,7 outset 14:7 overall 38:22 oversee 11:12 overstepped 23:10 owner 24:11 **Oye** 65:14

offline 72:1

# Р P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

# **p.m** 31:5 54:18 57:15 57:15,16,16,18,18,19 57:20 85:4,5 88:3 page 10:20 pages 57:10 paid 65:9,11,13,14,15 panel 53:10 part 43:14 participants 58:13 85:8 participate 44:4 58:2,3 58:6,15 59:19 71:8

participated 59:1 participating 58:8,9 60:4,8,13,19 61:2,7 61:17,22 62:6,11 68:21 71:1 participation 71:21 particular 31:15 37:6 37:15 47:13 68:17 69.1 particularly 47:3 parties 9:5 41:22 49:13 86:21 Partisan 64:22 65:2 **Party** 65:13 pass 45:15 pattern 24:9 **Paul** 65:4 payment 51:7 Pembroke 56:3 pending 32:14 67:15 77:3 83:12 people 6:7 14:19 15:12 17:20 22:5 36:22 80:9 percent 31:8,10 performing 78:17 period 35:7,18 36:2,3 36:11.12.22 38:20 39:18 41:2,17 42:13 43:5,14 46:5 73:13 **permitted** 41:9,10 person 9:17 10:14 69:5 69:9 70:7 74:20,21 person's 14:13 personable 21:16 personal 27:5 73:21 personally 26:4,6,8,21 pertain 47:14 petition 12:22 13:4,5,9 13:15,18,20,22 14:10 15:5,7 16:1,3,10,15 17:3,22 18:14 19:5,9 19:18,18,21 22:9 25:6 26:1,11 27:4,18 28:10 30:19,21 31:1,3,4,7 31:16,20 32:12,15 33:16,20 35:6,18 36:1 36:4,8 37:13 38:19 39:16 40:11,17 41:2,5 51:16,18 53:14,17,18 54:3,10,16 55:7,14 69:16,21 70:15 71:10 71:16 petitioner 23:5 51:15 petitioner's 24:16 petitions 6:5 9:1 37:7 37:20,22 43:3 44:3

phonetic 65:16 pick 31:2 50:10 69:18 **PIO** 78:21 79:3 81:13 82:4,16 place 18:4 25:4 49:1 74:19 plaintiff 51:12 52:11 plan 9:16 10:18 platform 58:19 pleadings 34:22 **please** 3:15 7:1 66:16 67:6,17 68:14 73:4 pleased 6:9 pleasure 11:20 point 11:21 27:16 29:2 36:12 59:5 63:9,13 76:21 pointing 77:18 **points** 74:12 policy 68:4 political 49:7,12,12,13 63:5,6 **poll** 51:4 pop 85:10 **portal** 8:7,12 10:13 **position** 12:10 34:14 35:2 45:1 positive 3:12 post 47:3 50:9 post-election 63:22 postage 69:2 Postal 10:6 postcard 10:15 68:20 postcards 10:16,19 posted 4:1 37:6 40:11 40:18 41:6 63:15 64:3 68:9 86:21 **posts** 39:6 potential 40:21 PR 79:12 practices 47:4 precipice 74:8 prepare 9:8 19:14 prepared 13:14,14,20 15:7 16:10 19:9 prepares 13:5 preparing 7:21 presence 4:21 5:15 present 1:13,16 14:2 34:6,9 39:21 59:6 presentation 12:19 63:11 presented 21:10 86:12 presently 83:21 presidential 68:22 presiding 1:12 press 80:22 81:4 83:5 pressure's 56:13

**phone** 8:10 24:18

officials 24:10 78:19

prestigious 56:10 33:21 34:4.9 73:18 81:10 regarding 8:19 10:21 raised 5:8 66:19 73:3 pretty 6:18 12:10 43:10 proposer's 30:7 45:10 regards 32:2 83:2 56:8 74:2 proposing 71:20 83:9,10 **previous** 43:7,8,8 **Prout** 15:20 raises 36:21 Regional 63:1 provide 8:14 36:8 39:3 previously 8:21 raising 72:4 register 8:15 46:2,17 primary 7:22 8:3,19,21 39:11 72:3 80:4,6 **Randy** 5:9 48:8 49:19,20 50:3,8 9:6 10:2,11,19,21 82:9,13 reached 6:15 8:18 registered 7:18 8:11 12:14 48:9 53:1 54:7 **provided** 11:10 16:4,6 35:15 38:10 9:4 12:11 29:20 30:10 31:9,11,13 32:1,2 55:11 57:22 59:20 16:11 37:5 38:19 reaching 10:16 81:12 read 4:12 21:22 29:14 33:16,18 36:5 42:8 60:9,14,20 61:3,8,13 86.21 62:1,7 78:11 provides 13:5 75:19 34:22 67:12 62:18,21 63:2,4,7 **print** 11:2 providing 7:11 37:21 reading 21:19 68:11,20 69:7,12,14 printer 10:22 provision 52:8 reads 15:9 29:19 registering 8:8 printing 80:19 81:1,5 provisions 49:6,14 **Ready** 10:14 registrar 1:20 11:7,11 public 2:13,18 4:1 46:5 reason 16:7 **prior** 31:14 29:12 48:3 49:3 52:1,8 reasonable 43:11 86:12 **registration** 7:14,16,19 privilege 23:19 probably 28:3 45:6 56:18 58:14 59:9 reasons 14:12 21:1 7:21 8:2,6,7,12,13,16 81:16 62:15 66:9 77:11 83:3 30:13 36:15 37:4 8:17 31:19 52:6 58:14 problematic 36:14 83:20 85:14,16 41:18 86:7 67:22 69:22 71:2,2,11 37:12 rebuttal 25:17 44:12 publicly 12:7 71:15 problems 81:21 **published** 31:19 32:9 73:20 registrations 7:15 procedure 68:18 73:18 46:2,18 49:19 50:2 recall 12:22 13:4,6,10 regular 1:6 2:5 4:9 procedures 46:12 47:4 57:7 66:2 13:17 14:10,12 16:7 26:11 38:11 47:15 67:19 68:4 publishing 22:2 23:7 25:1 27:12 28:20 regulations 45:18 46:7 purpose 13:7,16 17:2.8 proceed 7:1 15:6 28:9 29:16,22 30:5,11,13 46:7,8,10,15,16 47:12 83:13 35:8.14 37:16 41:11 30:17,18,21 31:4,7,16 47:14 49:1 proceeding 13:17 49:8 31:21 32:5,6,11 51:16 rehearing 53:14,18 16:18 17:7 purposes 18:9 receive 9:15 72:7 reinstate 54:22 pursuant 1:12 13:3 received 9:1 13:9 23:1 reiterate 6:3 proceedings 44:4 30:16 31:6 42:18 24:10 39:2 46:4 64:12 rejected 51:18 process 8:9 14:13,17 **pursue** 68:9 recite 77:1 rejecting 54:15 14:21 15:3 19:1,8,14 put 11:3 20:8 26:10 **recognize** 11:4 21:2 related 21:10,14 27:5 19:20 20:5 27:17 46:20 recognizing 11:18 relatedly 83:20 record 15:18 18:14 20:8 28:20 38:14 44:9 **puts** 26:18 relation 26:10 47:18,19,20 58:14 putting 74:19 25:13 28:22 40:2 relevant 36:4 68:12 73:11 75:22 50:13 51:22 67:7 remain 23:15 58:21 Q remainder 28:20 58:22 processed 7:18 74:10 84:12 85:4 88:3 **processes** 46:11 47:17 qualifications 52:19 recorded 5:2 reminder 85:13 48:2 53:3 recording 47:8 reminding 5:1 processing 7:14 qualified 31:9 58:5 Recordings 58:20 removing 24:20 producing 7:16 quarter 40:20 records 36:5,17,20 52:8 renew 69:21 question 16:18 18:7 62:15 reopen 10:1 productively 38:15 professional 23:17 36:21 70:13 73:11,13 **recount** 47:14 reopened 44:20 program 11:22 58:2,5 73:16 74:5,15,17 81:9 recruit 10:9 repeatedly 44:5 59:14,19 60:2,19 61:2 questions 11:17 16:17 recruiting 10:7 report 2:7,8,17 7:2 61:7,12,17 62:1,7,12 recruitment 7:7,13 11:13 12:17 55:21 quickly 12:6 63:13,21 64:1 quite 20:16 57:9 **Reed** 54:2 57:1,4,5,7,9 63:11 programs 59:5 reelection 28:5,7 64:2,3,6 66:1,2 75:5 quorum 2:3 3:20 **promise** 72:10 refer 79:13 80:15 **quote** 71:6 referenced 14:8 promptly 45:11 reporter 4:21 5:2,3,10 R proofing 9:10 **references** 47:6,10 5:14 85:7 proper 17:9 races 57:13 referrals 64:12 reports 7:16 32:8 **proponent** 13:6,19 reflect 47:2 48:1 racist 21:16,17 26:14 represent 26:3 reflected 16:9 proposed 14:12,21 26:16 representation 23:8 46:1,5,7,21 47:1 48:7 reflects 16:4 47:16 **radio** 11:2 representative 26:13 48:12,20 49:21 Rag 10:20 **Reform** 49:2 28:19 65:14 proposer 19:9,17 30:9 refuse 24:8 represented 33:10 raise 5:5,19 38:21 30:17,20 32:4 33:19 regard 28:9 41:20 86:8 66:16 77:21 78:4

request 17:14 23:8 25:5 rises 26:2 sent 9:11 46:16 67:10 soon 12:8 35:2,3 36:6 81:19 risk 26:18 72:6.9 sorry 37:10 38:5 67:4 82:8 **Rogers** 63:19 **serious** 23:13 26:18 **sort** 15:1 73:17,21 requested 39:13 serve 29:11 **role** 68:14 **sought** 30:11 requesting 22:9 23:4 roll 68:1,5,8 69:17 70:8 **service** 10:6 11:10 sound 66:12 rule 6:13 45:17,19,19 **services** 7:12 8:16 sounded 23:7 48:7 sounds 71:19 requests 21:13 59:7 45:20 46:1,2,14,19,21 11:13 28:19 32:7 65:19 46:22 47:1 48:7,11,12 38:17 81:3 southeast 15:20 21:18 require 49:6 75:18 48:20 49:21 50:1,5,9 serving 24:6 29:13 rules 6:11 23:17 46:5 session 45:4 66:11 **space** 83:11 required 31:22 35:20 39:18 49:10 56:7 48:5 67:19 77:3 83:13 84:11,21 spacing 17:15 requirement 31:17 ruling 6:16,21 45:7 86:2 speak 16:22 18:22 84:15 set 10:14 43:16 20:11,16,18,19 21:3 58:10 requires 36:3 68:6 Ryan 34:4 61:20,20 **sets** 14:9 25:17 27:8 42:4 73:15 seven 63:20 77:11 requiring 42:12 requisite 27:20 32:13 S **share** 80:8 speaking 22:21 23:2 54:11 55:15 s 17:21 **sheet** 18:15 speaks 73:18,19 research 68:2 safe 27:21 **short** 56:8.16 **special** 45:13 47:22 residence 30:8 safety 26:19 58:17 **shortly** 86:21 84:11 resident 26:11 59:10 **show** 40:17 65:21 70:7 specific 81:17 residents 58:17 **Salah** 60:17,17 **showed** 38:8 40:14 Specifically 49:5 resolved 22:12 sign 69:15,20 71:4,9,16 **Sandler** 34:10.11.16 specified 30:3 respect 34:15 35:14 39:21 40:1,3,5 42:3 **signature** 6:5 13:7 specifies 47:11 31:17 38:18 69:15 38:7 44:6 46:1 47:18 Spiva 52:20 53:6 63:17 43:18 44:11,13,14 70:4 48:5 **Sandra** 73:3 **spoke** 17:13 respectfully 25:5 49:14 Sanford 1:19 48:16,17 signatures 15:8 19:20 sponsored 58:18 respond 21:13 25:11 48:19 49:16 64:5,7,9 26:17 27:19,20 28:2 **SS** 73:3 responded 52:13 69:20 31:8,15,22 32:14 staff 1:16 23:10 40:19 **Saturday** 9:10 43:8 respondent 73:19 33:15,18,21 51:19 56:12 78:20,22 79:1,2 **saw** 43:1 respondents 64:20 saving 23:6 26:22 54:11 55:15 67:20 79:12 responding 27:3 70:14,16,19,19 71:17 70:17 74:20 stages 3:8 response 13:4,11 14:15 says 15:4 17:18,21 22:3 signer's 67:21 **standard** 73:17 74:3 15:2,11 21:8,15 23:6 26:1 43:5 81:18 signing 70:14 **start** 20:6 24:18 30:12,15 37:5 scheduled 10:22 57:21 **signs** 25:2 **started** 10:16 38:6,10 39:1,7.9 58:13 Silverman 61:15 starting 3:15 52:11 67:11 68:9 69:2 **Schmoe** 26:11 similarly 35:21 37:17 state 13:2 15:17 28:21 **School** 63:3 82:15 39:15 34:14 54:6 67:6 responses 53:16 **scope** 45:9 **simple** 82:8 **stated** 18:11 result 18:1 screen 66:18 **simply** 34:22 81:11 **statement** 14:11,13,17 Simultaneous 22:21 resume 85:14,16 season 12:14 79:19 15:2,11 16:6 19:12,13 resumed 85:4 second 4:2,3,7,14,15 23.2 20:6 25:8 27:11 30:5 Single 13:1 29:18,21 retire 11:8 17:18,21,22 28:15 30:13 54:14,17 retirement 11:8 36:18 46:22 50:15,16 30:1 32:21 51:17 statements 14:18 15:13 74:22 19:10.15 28:11 retiring 12:8 60:11 77:5 83:14.15 **return** 51:9 85:17,18 86:16 87:18 sink 21:17 statistical 32:8 returned 10:5 28:2 seconds 25:10,16 **sir** 73:7 **statue** 76:5 reversed 43:22 83:10 sit 26:7 39:11 83:1 status 2:9 8:5 39:7 review 8:1 13:22 16:11 section 49:6 76:22 situated 35:21 37:18 50:21 55:20 68:10 35:7,9,17,18 36:1,1,2 security 35:12 39:15 statute 6:16 14:8 15:4,9 19:8 27:10,12 36:3 situation 37:16 41:19 36:11,17,20 37:2,7,13 **Seegars** 73:3,6,9 74:4 six 56:5 64:12,12,13 37:22 38:3 39:16 41:2 39:18 40:10 41:1 43:4 74:14 76:2,6,10,13,14 41:5,12,16 63:15 seeing 76:14,19 **Small** 63:1 44:22 75:19,22 **SMD** 29:21 30:10 31:9 67:16 seeking 24:12 51:2 statutes 46:8 reviewed 18:15 56:5 31:12 32:1,3,17 statutory 13:2 segregated 49:10 reviewing 67:14 send 68:20 72:2 75:5 software 11:22 **stay** 53:15,19 **Richard** 33:7 34:19 senior 24:10 78:12,15 sole 13:16 17:8 **steps** 52:14 rights 70:2,22 78:19 somebody 14:9 77:11 **Stonewall** 65:10,12 risen 56:15 seniors 7:9 something's 33:2 stopped 51:7

Unit 15:20 streamed 58:19 talk 66:11 84:9,14,19 85:6,15,19 Street 15:20 29:13 67:9 talking 80:10 86:1,17 87:1,5,10,19 **unjust** 51:4 **streets** 19:19 tangled 43:19 87:22 **unmute** 5:9 11:16 14:5 three 3:19 10:18 39:4 44:13 73:4 74:15,17 stretch 56:4 targeted 7:9 22:7 **Stroud** 1:18 4:20 5:9,13 team 12:15 56:2,19 45:18,21 49:17 53:9 77:5,6,8,17 12:20 14:5,8 15:16,22 telephone 30:8 60:17 62:20 63:14 unmuted 25:18 16:13 17:1,5 18:2,7 television 11:2 69:7,16 87:10 **unmuting** 14:6 77:10 18:12,18,21 19:3 tell 21:1 78:4 80:21 timely 13:12 29:21 unsettled 23:8 22:20 23:1 28:18 29:9 untimely 55:18 telling 37:4 42:14 30:12 32:10 33:5 34:8,12,13 **temporary** 79:7,14,15 times 37:22 58:13 upcoming 48:9 **update** 8:1,19 58:10 36:7 40:1,4 45:15,16 79:16,18 80:2 title 45:17,21,22 49:17 49:16 50:7,20 56:2,20 ten 31:8,10 35:6 36:1,2 today 31:3 39:11 45:8 68:8,10,12 84:1 66:13 67:6 70:12 36:22 39:18 40:12,15 57:4,9 66:4 80:15 updated 47:17,19 75:17 76:4,8,12,16 41:2,7,16 42:12 43:5 85:2 upheld 53:1 54:9 55:13 85:13 86:19 87:6 43:14 44:17 56:6 60:1 today's 29:15 **upholding** 52:19 54:2 **Stroud's** 12:19 23:12 Tom 23:4 24:19 73:15 73:13 75:2,4,8,12,20 55:5 40:7 tenth 40:12,14 tomorrow 38:9 87:16 Urberto 61:5 terms 44:7,8 46:10 stuck 15:1 tool 69:1 use 7:17 23:18 38:15 sub 76:22 47:12 81:1 82:19 top 27:7 47:7,8,11 69:8,17 total 7:20 9:1 10:18 81:12 82:6 subject 29:16 32:6 Terri 1:18 12:18 23:1 67:13 86:13 56:2 76:15 84:2 31:11 32:2 57:10 submission 31:15 terrible 21:19 59:16 64:16 65:7 **submit** 49:14,17 50:7 test 87:15 toughest 27:15 **v** 2:10,12,13,14,15,16 75:21 **testimony** 59:6,12 track 43:16 50:22 52:20 submitted 32:13 33:16 testing 3:12 traditional 58:4 59:4 Valerie 33:13 42:4 77:4 33:20 48:8.12.21 text 68:12 63:12.21 86:4 49:18 54:3 55:7 86:20 thank 4:22 7:3 11:14 trailed 18:13 valid 31:8 33:21 67:21 substantive 46:6 22:13,19 25:7 27:6,9 train 10:9 70:17 subvariant 3:8 32:22 34:12,17 39:18 trained 8:16 10:11 validity 47:22 **succeed** 23:22 39:20 40:3,4 41:22 training 10:8,13,14 vendor 81:3 successful 32:12 42:2 44:9.10 45:1.2 Trantham 65:5 verify 68:8,14 **suggest** 43:1 71:18 45:16 49:16 50:4 **Tray** 62:4 Vermont 40:5 **Suite** 29:13 40:5 55:22 56:1,18,20 66:5 Trayon 62:4 version 3:8 **sum** 35:1 59:16 66:15 71:19,21 72:14 treasurers 63:10 versus 51:14 52:2,15 **summary** 53:12 72:16 74:13 76:11.16 tried 35:22 53:21 55:2 **Sunday** 40:13,13,14,20 76:17,20 77:13,18 tries 24:14 vestiges 47:5 43:8,12 44:17 83:5,6,11 84:19 85:1 true 21:20 37:8 Video-Teleconference 85:9 86:2 87:22 88:1 sunshine 81:18 try 67:11 1:11 superior 51:1 thanks 11:17 trying 74:5,10 viewing 58:21 supplement 10:13 things 6:6 21:8,17,19 Tuesday 31:5 violation 23:17 supplemented 74:12 25:21 turn 5:17 15:14 66:9 virtual 58:19 third 17:17 turned 36:22 40:19 **support** 25:22 30:5 virtually 58:15 **Thomas** 13:10 15:19 31:20 35:4 42:7 43:13 **two** 3:14 11:17,21 21:4 visit 35:15 43:20 54:4 55:8 22:15 24:4 55:4 62:21 29:20 73:12 voiceless 24:6 supporters 24:15 **Thompson** 1:12,14 3:3 64:17 67:10 68:22 vote 6:1 8:9,15 9:17,17 3:5,19 4:4,7,16,19,22 69:7,13 71:5,6,10 supportive 33:17 9:18,20 10:4,15 12:11 supposed 37:2 5:6,10,16 6:12 12:5 77:21 86:7,11,14 19:22 29:2,4 50:8 supposedly 35:6 14:3,6 18:3 19:7 20:2 type 5:11 67:11 69:13 70:3,21 71:3,13 surprised 12:9 43:18 20:4,9,13,17,22 22:13 typically 73:19 79:19,21 85:14 87:2,4 survive 32:15 22:18 25:7 27:6 28:16 voted 12:12 U **Sydelle** 51:16 29:1,5,8 32:22 39:8 voter 7:4,5,13,15,15,20 39:20 42:2 44:10 45:2 **U.S** 10:6 52:4 system 22:4,11 8:1,6,7,12,13,15,17 50:4,13,16,18 55:22 ultimately 28:6 9:4 10:22 11:12 22:7 Т 56:22 66:5,8,14,22 unanimously 6:20 26:1 28:19 29:20 32:7 38:17,18 52:6 67:19 **tablet** 8:10 67:4 71:18 72:8,12,16 unconscionable 23:21 tackled 56:15 72:21 73:2,8,17 74:7 understand 19:11 22:4 68:5,11,13 69:6,7,12 taken 25:4 42:16 70:13 71:16 69:14,20 70:15 71:1 76:17 77:13,17 78:1 takes 47:9 81:9 83:6,16,19 84:5 Underwood 67:9 voter's 67:21 68:1,5,8

withdrawn 18:1 **1015** 29:13 **215** 31:22 68:14 69:17.22 70:8 71:2,2,10,15 woman 24:12 **1090** 40:5 21st 8:22 10:1 52:22 voters 1:21 7:18 8:1,4 **women** 24:8 **10th** 9:14,20 36:11 53:5 54:7 55:11 57:22 wondering 70:9 75:13 8:11 10:3 27:22 29:12 **11** 40:12 59:20 60:9,14,20 61:3 32:1,2,17,21 33:16,18 84:4 **114** 28:1,3 61:8,13 62:1,6,7 35:21 36:5 39:16 42:8 word 13:13 30:6,16 **11th** 40:18 46:3,21 **22** 7:8 65:15 50:10 67:14 68:20 74:1 82:6,7 60:18 61:1,7,12 63:7 **22'** 52:13 votes 45:14 worded 15:11 **12** 2:8 **2200** 15:20 voting 9:20 10:4 47:20 12:12 84:9 **22nd** 10:8 13:11 29:19 words 14:11.16 71:7,8 work 11:20 12:13,14 **12:13** 85:4 53:6,9 54:1 55:5 39:3 56:4,16 **12:25** 84:14,22 63:18 W **23** 9:1 worked 38:16 56:9 **12:30** 85:11 worker 7:13 10:7 51:5 12:46 85:5 23rd 51:22 wait 83:10 84:21 85:9 waited 40:14,15 79:16 12:49 88:3 **250** 65:12 **2500** 10:10 waived 58:10 workers 10:7,10,12,12 1200 65:9 wanted 18:13 41:12 25th 51:20 53:7 54:12 79:8,14,15,18 80:2 **13** 8:17 24:6 76:22 45:8 77:11,21 81:9 working 9:7 39:10 **1300** 64:21 65:1,2 **26** 7:6 works 19:14 27:17 **2610** 7:20 wanting 25:17 13th 49:20 **14** 45:20 26th 53:7 54:13,18 wants 15:6 41:3 84:17 wow 12:6 ward 26:15 45:10,14 **1435** 10:11 **27th** 10:3 53:9 54:20 60:5,10,11,15,21,22 wrap 39:8 66:12 **15** 45:20 84:10,11 55:16,17 62:11 writing 68:3 28th 53:11 54:22 55:18 61:4,11,14 63:19 65:2 **16** 8:17,18 written 45:7 46:4 56:7 **16th** 9:13,16 57:14 29th 9:9 53:15 63:20 74.21 Wards 7:10 33:18 86:14 87:11 **17E** 13:4 wrong 18:4 17th 51:11 52:12,13 **Washington** 15:21 40:6 wrote 21:2 29:15 67:9 57:16 **3** 2:2,3 60:6,10,11,16,22 wasn't 74:6 www.dcdebates.com **18th** 52:19 57:17 63:2.5 61:4.11.14 waste 41:21 58:20 **19** 63:9 **30** 9:10 25:9,16 31:14 www.ocf.dc.gov 57:8 **1910** 7:18 watched 6:17 48:22 56:10 wav 6:13 15:9 17:19 58:12 **19th** 9:20 57:19 61:16 30th 32:3 53:17 18:6 19:14 27:17 70:7 61:21 **33** 59:18 63:22 Χ website 9:19 37:7,8 **1st** 7:17 11:8 12:9 13:12 **3450** 65:11 30:14 43:17 42:19 50:9 57:7 58:11 **39** 60:3 Υ 59:13 63:15 64:3 66:3 **3933** 8:11 2 86:22 year 4:11 58:22 59:7 3rd 52:11 Wednesday 1:8 2:5 78:7 81:6 82:17 **2** 33:18 45:10,14 4 4:10 87:13 years 11:6,10,19 12:11 **2-575B** 76:22 week 10:17 38:2 81:22 24:4,6 27:15 49:11 **20** 57:10 4 1:9 2:5 87:14 56:10 **200** 14:11,15 30:6,15 4:00 54:18 weekdays 37:10 York 80:22 65:4 40 9:17 11:6,19 weekend 37:7 38:1,1 **2000** 10:10 4100 64:16 Ζ **20005** 40:6 4th 29:15 66:4 43:4,7 weekends 37:9,11,14 zero 87:10 **2002** 31:6 43:6 56:18 **20020** 15:21 67:10 **Zoltan** 60:5 weeks 39:5 56:14 **2020** 48:3 Zoom 5:3 73:3 **5** 2:6 33:19 45:20 63:19 **welcome** 76:12 **2021** 51:2 5:00 31:5 0 went 10:15 56:6 73:15 **2022** 1:9 2:5 8:22 29:19 **51** 2:9,11,12 85:4 88:3 30:14 32:3 46:3 51:11 **52** 2:13,14 1 whatsoever 17:15 51:22 57:14,16,17,19 54 2:15 28:1,3 white 26:15 62:4,4 57:22 59:15,20,21 **1-** 13:3 31:6 **55** 2:16 60:2,7,9,14 61:6,8,18 wide 58:3 **1-1001.17G** 30:17 **57** 2:17 William 1:19 48:16,19 62:5,11,12,16 64:11 **1-1163.12A** 49:6 **575** 65:15 64:9 64:18 65:6,17,19,21 **5D05** 51:18 10 45:20 84:11 willing 39:3 58:8 66:4 5th 31:6 **10:34** 1:12 3:2 window 8:3 28:1 **2023** 59:7 **10000** 51:2 6 wise 84:8 **20th** 9:21 **1001.1** 13:4 wish 3:6 11:9 **21** 7:9 1001.17E1 14:9 6 2:5,7 **wishing** 37:13 2145 32:4 **1001.17H3** 31:7 **60** 30:18

<b>600</b> 65:14 <b>6075</b> 65:7 <b>612</b> 67:8 <b>68</b> 59:16 <b>6th</b> 4:10 40:13 60:6,12		
7 77:10 33:19 45:20 7:00 57:14,16,17,19 700 7:18 7473090 59:8 750 29:14 40:5		
77 2:18 7th 36:11 59:6 8 8 7:10 26:15 33:19 65:2 8:15 40:15		
8:30 57:15,16,18,20 82 14:20 33:9,12,17,20 8594293 59:16 88 2:19 8A01 13:2 29:21 30:2 32:1,3 8th 22:22 24:19 59:21		
61:18 62:12 63:17 9 9:00 40:20 90 8:2 9:18 99 45:20 9th 11:1 51:10		

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In the matter of: Regular Board Meeting

Before: DC BOE

Date: 05-04-22

Place: teleconference

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Court Reporter

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