

GOVERNMENT
OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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BOARD OF ELECTIONS

+ + + + +

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

+ + + + +

THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

+ + + + +

The District of Columbia Board of Elections convened Regular Board Meeting in Suite 750, 1015 Half Street, SE, Washington, D.C., 20003, pursuant to notice at 10:30 a.m., Michael Bennett, Chair, presiding.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEMBERS PRESENT:

MICHAEL BENNETT, Chair
MIKE GILL, Member

BOARD OF ELECTIONS STAFF PRESENT:

ALICE P. MILLER, Executive Director
TERRI D. STROUD, General Counsel

CECILY COLLIER-MONTGOMERY, Director,
Office of Campaign Finance

ALICE P. MILLER, Executive Director

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Adjourn. 89

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

2 (10:47 a.m.)

3 CHAIR BENNETT: Good morning. Good
4 morning. Can you hear me okay, Court Reporter?

5 COURT REPORTER: Yes.

6 CHAIR BENNETT: Good morning. Let me
7 do this. We are going to open up at 10:48. And
8 so let me call the meeting to order.

9 My name is Michael Bennett, Chair of
10 D.C. Board of Elections. To my far right is Ms.
11 Cecily Montgomery. Oh, to my far left. She
12 changed seats on me. Cecily got me confused.
13 Far left, Cecily Montgomery, Director of Office
14 of Campaign Finance. To my immediately left is
15 Ms. Alice Miller, Executive Director, Board of
16 Elections. To my immediate right is Terri
17 Stroud, General Counsel, Board of Elections. And
18 to her right is Mr. Michael Gill, Board Member.

19 So the meeting has been called to
20 order. We do have a quorum. We unfortunately
21 are short one member. The Board is normally
22 three people. But in order to have a quorum to

1 conduct business, we have to have two. And so
2 myself and Michael Gill will move forward and
3 conduct business accordingly.

4 So then I need to adopt the agenda.
5 Can I get a -- why don't we adopt the agenda and
6 the previous at the same time. Is that okay,
7 Mr. Gill?

8 MEMBER GILL: So I move to adopt the
9 agenda for September 5th and the meeting meetings
10 from August 7th.

11 CHAIR BENNETT: Great. So that is
12 properly moved and I second. So it is unanimous.
13 And this is the meeting minutes from the August
14 7th meeting, and the transcript is available for
15 you. Any Board matters, Mr. Gill?

16 MEMBER GILL: Well, I think we're
17 going to reserve some time at the end of the
18 meeting for some further Board matters. But I
19 have none right now.

20 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. I have none
21 relative to the conduct at the current time.
22 Yes, and we will reserve time at the end to cover

1 any particular Board matter.

2 I do have one thing, and I want to --
3 well, I know we're going to have a report from
4 the Office of Campaign Finance. But I also want
5 to request Mr. Gill and I to kind of walk through
6 and ask questions as we need to relative to the
7 report on the Fair Elections Program. It's
8 relatively new and things are going incredibly
9 well. So I want to make sure that we get as much
10 information on that on the record to that program
11 as we possibly can.

12 So anyway, pushing additional Board
13 matters to a later point in the meeting. It's
14 now time to identify any public matters. We're
15 now going to -- if there are any public matters,
16 we are now going to address those at this point.
17 But we'd like to identify any of those public
18 matters that we may be able to address through
19 staff during the presentation of the other
20 reports.

21 So with that, I think we have one
22 person on the line, Mr. Sindram. Is that

1 correct?

2 MR. SINDRAM: Yes sir.

3 CHAIR BENNETT: Are there any matters
4 that you want to identify at this point that you
5 would like for us to address at a later point in
6 the meeting?

7 MR. SINDRAM: Possibly, and that when
8 you have a third member of the Board is absent,
9 would that be a point to get a handle, an updated
10 status if you will, on what's happening with
11 that?

12 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. We'll give you
13 as much as we know on that. Any other members of
14 the public have any --

15 MR. SINDRAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Thank you. Is
17 there any other members of the public have
18 anything they'd like to identify for us to
19 address later on? Hearing none, I'll move on to
20 the Office of Campaign Finance Report.

21 Ms. Montgomery?

22 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes,

1 good morning. The first thing I would like to
2 report is with respect to the community outreach
3 efforts of the agency during the month of August.

4 During the month of August in our
5 educational program on Saturday, August the 10th,
6 2019, the Office of Campaign Finance attended the
7 National Capitol Collaborative Back to School
8 festival which was held at John Burroughs
9 Education Campus at 1820 Monroe Street,
10 Northeast.

11 On Wednesday, August the 14th, 2019,
12 the agency again participated in the Metropolitan
13 Police Department's Beat the Street community
14 outreach finale event which was held at Bellevue
15 at 115 Atlantic Street, Southwest.

16 In the Fair Elections Program Division
17 during the month of August, we had three new
18 candidates and committees who registered thinking
19 to participate in the program.

20 On Monday, August the 5th, 2019, the
21 eighth candidate registered in the program, and
22 that registration was with respect to the

1 committee to elect Janeese Lewis George.

2 On Tuesday, August the 13th, 2019, the
3 ninth candidate registered in the program, Kelvin
4 Brown from D.C. Council Ward 7.

5 On Wednesday, August the 14th, 2019,
6 the tenth candidate registered, Rosenberg 2020.

7 July the 31st was the first filing
8 date for the candidates who were registered in
9 the Fair Elections Program. And we had two
10 requested extensions. Basically, the candidates
11 were Jordan Grossman who filed his report
12 electronically on July the 31st, 2019.

13 I would like to also mention as I
14 provide you with the names of the candidates who
15 registered to participate in the election in Ward
16 2 that the threshold requirement for those
17 candidates are that they must obtain 150
18 contributions from -- qualified small-dollar
19 contributions from District residents who are
20 individuals. And also the 150 contributions must
21 total in the aggregate 5,000 dollars or more.

22 So again, on July the 31st, Jordan

1 Grossman for Ward 2 submitted his report of
2 receipts and expenditures which states or
3 reported 427 qualified small-dollar contributions
4 which total to \$7,501.02.

5 Kishan for D.C. 2020 reported -- filed
6 his report on July 31st, 2019. The report
7 contained 270 contributions from District
8 residents who are individuals. The contributions
9 totaled 8,943 dollars.

10 Patrick Kennedy for Ward 2 filed on
11 July 31st. He submitted the contributions or
12 reported the contributions of 211 qualified
13 small-dollar contributions from District
14 residents who are individuals. And those
15 contributions totaled 8,515 dollars.

16 John Fanning for Ward 2 submitted also
17 on July 31st. His report contained a reported
18 155 contributions from District residents who are
19 individuals. And they totaled 6,165 dollars.

20 Green for Ward 7 also filed on July
21 the 31st. The report reported or stated the
22 contribution -- the qualified small-dollar

1 contributions of 57 contributions from District
2 residents who are individuals. They totaled in
3 the aggregate 1,906 dollars.

4 Dale for D.C., and this is an at-large
5 candidate, and his report was also submitted on
6 July the 31st, 2019. The threshold requirements
7 for the at-large candidates differ from those of
8 the ward candidates. And the threshold
9 requirement is that he must obtain 250 qualified
10 small-dollar contributions from residents of the
11 District of Columbia who are individuals. And
12 those contributions must total a minimum of
13 12,000 dollars.

14 His report reported or stated that
15 contributions received from 26 residents of the
16 District of Columbia who are individuals and
17 those contributions totaled in the aggregate
18 1,400 dollars.

19 Once the reports are received in the
20 Office of Campaign Finance, the first step in the
21 process requires that the agency verify that the
22 contributions stated on the financial reports are

1 in fact contributions which were received from
2 qualifying residents of the District of Columbia
3 who are individuals that the amounts do not
4 exceed the contribution limit. And also that the
5 contributions are also accompanied by the signed
6 affidavit of the contributor.

7 And so the verification process
8 commenced on Thursday, August the 1st, 2019. And
9 the process ended on Wednesday, August the 14th,
10 2019. As a result of the verification process,
11 the Fair Elections Program Division determined on
12 August the 14th, 2019 that three candidates did
13 in fact meet the threshold requirements.

14 I also should point out that they
15 submitted the required affidavit which was signed
16 by the treasurer and the candidate, verifying
17 that they would, in fact, continue to comply with
18 the requirements of the Fair Elections Act. And
19 those candidates who were certified by the Office
20 of Campaign Finance as participating candidates
21 into the Fair Elections Program were Jordan
22 Grossman for Ward 2, Kishan for D.C. 2020, and

1 Patrick Kennedy for Ward 2.

2 As a result of the certification of
3 the candidates into the Fair Elections Program,
4 they candidates were determined to be entitled
5 under the Fair Elections Act to the issuance of
6 base payments as well as matching payments.

7 The base payment was authorized based
8 on the fact that the three candidates are
9 competing in a contested election. So they were
10 entitled to half of the base payment amount which
11 is, in total, 40,000 and the half is 20,000. And
12 assuming that the candidates qualify for ballot
13 access, at that time, they would be entitled to
14 the other half of the base payment.

15 So with respect to the payments which
16 were authorized or directed by the Office of
17 Campaign Finance on August the 15th, the
18 following payments were, in fact, issued by the
19 Office of the Chief Financial Officer on August
20 the 20th, 2019.

21 CHAIR BENNETT: Could I stop you for
22 a second? My apology. Can you go back to the

1 base payment portion?

2 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes.

3 CHAIR BENNETT: And so for instance,
4 if someone ends up not -- or if this is part of
5 valid access, if they end up collecting more,
6 then the amount of base payment that they're due,
7 does that increase? I guess, how does that work?

8 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Okay.
9 So with respect to the base payment, the base
10 payment is only authorized by the statute where
11 there is a contested election.

12 CHAIR BENNETT: Right.

13 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: All
14 right. And the amount of the base payment varies
15 depending on the covered office involved. So
16 with the ward council members, the total amount
17 of the base payment is 40,000, 20,000, the
18 candidate would be entitled to add certification.
19 The candidate would not be entitled to the
20 remaining 20,000 or the other half of the base
21 amount until the candidate qualifies for valid
22 access.

1 CHAIR BENNETT: So the base payment is
2 not going to go up or down based on the amount
3 contributions that they have?

4 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: No.

5 CHAIR BENNETT: So the base payment is
6 not a matching funds -- are not a part of that
7 matching funds amount?

8 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: No, it's
9 not.

10 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. So if you get
11 -- so once they get the base payment and then
12 they have additional contributions that do
13 qualify for matching funds, will they be able to
14 get the base payment and the matching funds --

15 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes.

16 CHAIR BENNETT: -- prior to valid
17 access?

18 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes.

19 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay.

20 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Okay.

21 So once you're certified into the program, if you
22 are competing in a contested election, you're

1 entitled to one-half of the base payment if you
2 have not, at that time, qualified for valid
3 access and you are also entitled to have the
4 qualified small-dollar contributions that you
5 have obtained from residents of the District of
6 Columbia who are individuals matched for the
7 payment of public funds. And those matching
8 payments are paid five-to-one.

9 Okay. So with respect to Patrick
10 Kennedy, Patrick Kennedy from Ward 2, the
11 matching fund amount that the candidate was
12 authorized to received and paid was 42,570
13 dollars. Also Patrick Kennedy was entitled to a
14 payment of a base amount and that amount was
15 20,000 dollars.

16 Jordan Grossman, Jordan Grossman for
17 Ward 2 was entitled to, again, the payment of
18 matching funds. Payment was issued on August the
19 20th, 2019. The amount of the payment was
20 \$87,930.10. Jordan Grossman was also entitled to
21 the payment of a base amount of 20,000. Again,
22 this is a contested election.

1 With Kishan Putta, Kishan Putta for
2 D.C. 2020, the matching payment fund that was
3 authorized was 44,715 dollars. For Kishan Putta,
4 because he is also a candidate in the Ward 2
5 race, he was entitled to a base amount payment of
6 20,000 dollars. And that again was authorized or
7 paid out on August the 20th, 2019.

8 The total payout amount at this point
9 is 235,215 dollars. And so it is clear, at this
10 point, these candidates still can collect -- I'm
11 sorry, can still continue to collect
12 contributions from District residents who are
13 individuals that would qualify for a match up to
14 the cap for the particular election. So
15 throughout --

16 CHAIR BENNETT: Up to the cap relative
17 to the contribution, right? So if the cap -- so
18 to give us an example. So if someone was running
19 for office in Ward 1. And so what's the cap of
20 the individual contribution that they can receive
21 and still get small donors to qualify?

22 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Okay.

1 The cap to the matching funds -- and I believe
2 that the Fair Elections Program Division staff
3 are here. But I believe it's a little over 200-
4 and-some thousand is the cap for the candidates -
5 -

6 (Simultaneous speaking.)

7 CHAIR BENNETT: I don't know if you're
8 talking about the -- I'm okay with staff
9 answering. But I'm actually talking about the
10 amount of the individual. So if I'm an
11 individual in Ward 1 -- obviously I couldn't, but
12 someone is an individual in Ward 1 and they want
13 to give to a candidate who's using public funds
14 in the Fair Elections Program, the max amount
15 that individual can get it is -- is it 200
16 dollars?

17 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes,
18 cannot exceed. That is the contribution limit.

19 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. That's what I
20 was after. Okay, great. And then the match from
21 the program is eight times that 200 dollars?

22 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Five

1 times.

2 CHAIR BENNETT: Five times that 200
3 dollars? Okay. Thank you.

4 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Okay.
5 All right. Also during the month of August with
6 respect --

7 CHAIR BENNETT: I'm sorry. Hold on a
8 second. Mr. --

9 MR. SANFORD: The amount -- the
10 contribution amount --

11 CHAIR BENNETT: Let's identify Mr.
12 SanFord. In fact, why don't you just state --
13 (Simultaneous speaking.)

14 MR. SANFORD: Good morning, William
15 SanFord. The contribution amounts for --

16 CHAIR BENNETT: Can you put your mic
17 on?

18 MR. SANFORD: -- candidates in a Board
19 race under the Fair Elections Program is 50
20 dollars.

21 (Simultaneous speaking.)

22 CHAIR BENNETT: Yeah, I'm not trying

1 to -- just stay there, Mr. SanFord. I'm not
2 trying to stump you nor is this a quiz. I'm just
3 trying to get certain things on the record.

4 MEMBER GILL: Can I ask a few
5 questions or do you want to wait until the end?

6 (Simultaneous speaking.)

7 CHAIR BENNETT: Yeah, if you don't
8 mind.

9 (Simultaneous speaking.)

10 MEMBER GILL: I just want to make some
11 observations. So I have a question on -- so you
12 mentioned in your report. You haven't got to it
13 yet, but somebody was deemed ineligible. So I'd
14 be curious as to why. But just some
15 observations. These are candidates, but they're
16 not on the ballot yet.

17 MR. SANFORD: That's correct.

18 MEMBER GILL: So definitionally,
19 they're candidates to be candidates, I guess.
20 And I'm just observing. You don't have to
21 answer, Bill or Cecily. The funds that have been
22 allocated don't require them to get on the

1 ballot. They may not get on the ballot and they
2 don't have to give the funds back which then
3 leads to sort of what we seem to be doing is
4 subsidizing the get on the ballot process as
5 opposed to the policy dissemination part of a
6 campaign.

7 So I think when you think about trying
8 to bring access for candidates to the ballot, I
9 think what we can think about is we want to bring
10 ideas and contrasting ideas to the marketplace.
11 But the way it's set up -- and this is the way
12 it's set up and I'm not making -- I just want to
13 make sure folks are aware that what we seem to be
14 doing is subsidizing the signature process, which
15 I've always thought the signature process is very
16 problematic.

17 We are required to decipher for some
18 of these ANC races between one and two signatures
19 as to whether somebody does or does not qualify
20 for that. And I think we do a good job and we're
21 honest and certainly neutral arbitrators. But
22 none of us are signature experts, and it seems

1 strange that that's what ballot access comes down
2 to.

3 We've also had problems with third-
4 party vendors who are hired to go get signatures.
5 There doesn't seem to be a -- there seems to be
6 professionals who have businesses that they hang
7 out shingles on us. But they don't seem to always
8 be that good or that professional. We've had
9 cases where entire sheets have been copied out of
10 telephone books and things like that.

11 My view is that the signature bar that
12 is currently on the statute is very high. And
13 rather than subsidize signature gathering, why
14 don't we lower the signature bar and subsidize
15 policy summation? That's my observation of this.

16 And so you guys are implementing the
17 statute and you're implementing the regulations.
18 And so there's nothing that I think the campaign
19 finance office is doing wrong. I think you're
20 absolutely doing the correct thing. But I'm just
21 sort of concerned that when people think about
22 public access to the ballot and sort of helping

1 the underfunded candidates.

2 If it turns out that most of this
3 money is spent on signature gathering, it seems
4 like we should lower the bar on signatures if we
5 want to get people access. And my fear is that
6 we're going to create a cottage industry of
7 signature gatherers. What's that get us? I'd
8 rather lower the bar and get more candidates on
9 the ballot and then we can spend the money with
10 the competition of ideas.

11 So I keep looking Bill and he's just
12 like, I just work here, right?

13 (Laughter.)

14 MEMBER GILL: So I just wanted to make
15 those observations. And then a question, though.
16 This, the funding here, the candidates qualify
17 because it is a contested election.

18 MR. SANFORD: That's correct.

19 MEMBER GILL: And it's contested
20 because there's more than one candidate who's
21 applying.

22 MR. SANFORD: That's correct.

1 MEMBER GILL: So if two of these three
2 can't get the signatures for whatever reason,
3 then we have one person on the ballot at the end
4 of the day. And if nobody else runs in that
5 race, do they still get funds? What goes on
6 there? Is it still a contested election if
7 there's only one person on the ballot?

8 MR. SANFORD: No. The funds are only
9 available as long as the election is a contested
10 election. If it stands as a non-contested
11 election, the funds will not be -- are not
12 available. But if it likely becomes a contested
13 election, the funds become available. It works
14 the same way in reverse. If it's no longer
15 contested, the funds are no longer available.

16 MEMBER GILL: So again, it should be
17 going out of the gate, once you meet the ballot
18 access, you may think, I want to start
19 disseminating my policy ideas and for a budget
20 for that. But you may not actually have money
21 for that if the other candidates that were
22 gathering signatures don't end up on the ballot.

1 CHAIR BENNETT: Well, essentially, the
2 only way you know that is -- the only way that
3 you could determine that it's not a contested
4 election prior to ballot access is by the number
5 of people who raise their hand and say that they
6 want to run for office. But in fact, they may
7 never get ballot access and you can end up with
8 one person running for office. And anyway, it's
9 interesting.

10 MEMBER GILL: Just observations.

11 CHAIR BENNETT: That's interesting.

12 DIRECTOR MILLER: Can I ask a
13 question? I just have a question. What would
14 happen in the event of a write-in candidate?
15 Even though they wouldn't have ballot access,
16 there could still be a write-in process where a
17 candidate would still be going through the whole
18 election by write-in and possibly win. We've had
19 that happen before.

20 MR. SANFORD: The Fair Elections
21 Program does not address write-in candidates
22 exactly.

1 DIRECTOR MILLER: So would it still be
2 considered a contested election is what I'm
3 talking about.

4 MR. SANFORD: There's no access to the
5 ballot except on election day where they are
6 written in on election day as opposed to seeking
7 access to the ballot prior to the date of the
8 election.

9 MEMBER GILL: But somebody who decides
10 to run a write-in campaign would have to file
11 with the campaign office of their election
12 activities or no?

13 DIRECTOR MILLER: No, not until after.

14 MS. STROUD: They could do it before,
15 but the deadline with respect to the primary
16 election is, I think, the day after. I think the
17 general election, it's three days after. So at
18 that point, you might not have to count those
19 depending on whether or not the number of write-
20 in votes would be enough to elect a candidate.

21 (Simultaneous speaking.)

22 MEMBER GILL: You could raise -- bust

1 through the rules in terms of your write-in
2 political action committee. You wouldn't
3 register. You just start spending money and
4 raising money and advertising that you're a
5 write-in candidate. You're successful and three
6 days later you have to file everything you raised
7 essentially. But you don't lose the seat if
8 everything in the files that you did it wrong. I
9 mean, you face fines. You face penalties, but
10 you don't actually lose the seat.

11 I'm talking out loud, but I'm creating
12 -- somebody reading the minutes is going to say,
13 oh, there's my way to get through all of this.
14 And so --

15 (Simultaneous speaking.)

16 MEMBER GILL: And just I'm concerned
17 that we've had situations where people come with
18 rather obscure situations. And we then are kind
19 of left with there's no clear right or wrong
20 answer. And then that's why the Board gets paid
21 to do.

22 (Laughter.)

1 MEMBER GILL: Well, I'll leave you
2 alone.

3 CHAIR BENNETT: But that's an
4 interesting point, though. And I go back just to
5 emphasize is that your premise that to get more
6 ideas in the public domain with regard to more
7 candidates could potentially be addressed by
8 simply lowering the bar for ballot access versus
9 paying people to be -- or paying to allow people
10 to reach the bar and get ballot access. So
11 that's a --

12 MEMBER GILL: Yeah, I've always
13 thought this idea of hiring a third-party vendor
14 to generate signatures blows through the entire
15 purpose of signatures which is you're supposed to
16 have a wellspring of support that you generate on
17 your own through volunteers and good ideas and
18 such like, and that's where the signatures come
19 from.

20 And that's sort of showing the Board
21 of Elections and the electorate that I have the
22 support, I have these volunteers, I went out and

1 got all these signatures. And every one of these
2 signatures is somebody who really supports me
3 being on the ballot.

4 But it is such a high bar that people,
5 I think most of the candidates that are
6 incumbents pay third party to get there and just
7 how you solicit that. Like, what does that say
8 other than incumbents have the ability to pay
9 these third parties and others don't.

10 Well, now others do through this
11 program. But what do we get? Are we going to
12 raise the bar again? I mean, I'd rather just see
13 us lower it and the money spent on the election
14 part of this rather than the access part of this.

15 CHAIR BENNETT: As a private citizen,
16 that's what you prefer?

17 MEMBER GILL: As my private citizen
18 views, implement the statute access to the limit.

19 MEMBER GILL: Anyway, this is the
20 discussion, Ms. Montgomery. You can now
21 continue. My apologies.

22 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: All

1 right. So if Bill would just stay there for a
2 few seconds. I just want to again to just
3 clarify on the record that the contribution limit
4 for the ward is 50 dollars and that the -- again,
5 that the minimum threshold requirements are that
6 you obtain 150 qualified small-dollar
7 contributions from District residents who are
8 individuals and that that amount must total 5,000
9 dollars in the aggregate in order for you to be
10 certified into the Fair Elections Program.

11 And the other thing that I would point
12 out again would be that the candidates who
13 compete in contested elections who are certified
14 are entitled to the base amount payment as well
15 as to the matching fund payment but that all
16 candidates who participate in the Fair Elections
17 Program are entitled to matching payments. So
18 therefore, if you have a candidate who is not in
19 a contested race, they are still entitled to
20 matching fund payments.

21 And the last thing I would say is that
22 under the Fair Elections Act, it does

1 specifically require that candidates must comply
2 with the Board's requirements with respect to the
3 nominating petition process as well as with
4 respect to the submission of the declaration of
5 candidacy form. So the program is not available
6 to write-in candidates. You have to go through
7 the nominating petition process.

8 Okay. And did you want to add
9 anything? Okay. All right. Next with respect
10 to the remaining candidates who filed reports on
11 July the 31st, 2019 under the program. On August
12 the 14th, 2019, following the verification
13 process, the Fair Elections Program Division sent
14 or issued a denial of certification decision and
15 notice of ineligibility for certification of
16 deficiencies to John Fanning for Ward 2.

17 John Fanning for Ward 2 was also
18 seeking with the July 31st, 2019 submission to
19 request certification into the program. But he
20 did not meet the threshold requirements and also
21 he did not submit an affidavit of the treasurer
22 and the candidate.

1 We also, the Fair Elections Program
2 Division, issued status reports for candidates
3 who filed the July 31, 2019 report. But they
4 were not seeking certification at that time. So
5 status reports were issued on August the 14th,
6 2019 to Daniel Hernandez for Ward 2 and to Green
7 for Ward 7 and on August the 28th, 2019 to Dale
8 for D.C.

9 And basically, the purpose of the
10 status reports was to inform the candidates as to
11 just where they stood with respect to compliance
12 with the threshold requirements.

13 On Thursday, August the 29th, 2019,
14 the Fair Elections Program Division met with the
15 planning committee and that meeting was held at
16 our offices.

17 And our Public Information and Records
18 Management Division for the month of August,
19 there were several financial reports which were
20 filed. And even though the recorded dated was
21 July the 31st and I believe at the last Board
22 meeting, I indicated what those numbers were. At

1 that time, I was not able to report the number of
2 referrals which were being made to the office of
3 the General Counsel because those numbers had not
4 be determined.

5 So July 31st was the filing deadline
6 for the report of receipts and expenditures from
7 our principle campaign committee and our
8 political action committees. We had 132 required
9 filers, 110 timely filers. We had one extension
10 which was requested and granted. We had 22
11 failures to file and those failures to file were
12 referred to the Office of the General Counsel for
13 enforcement.

14 Again, with our Fair Elections
15 Program, with our principal campaign committee,
16 we had seven required filers and seven timely
17 filed. There were no referrals to the Office of
18 the General Counsel.

19 With our independent expenditure
20 committees for the July 31st filing, we had four
21 required filers, three timely filed, and we had
22 one failure to file. And that failure to file

1 was referred to the Office of the General
2 Counsel.

3 With our inaugural committee, the
4 inaugural committee, we had one. And basically
5 that was a timely filing. No referral to the
6 Office of the General Counsel.

7 With the initiative referendum
8 committees with respect to the July 31st report,
9 there were seven required filers, three timely
10 filed, and four referrals were made to the Office
11 of the General Counsel.

12 With our recall committees with
13 respect to the July 31st report, we had three
14 required filers and three timely filed.

15 With new candidates and committees for
16 the month of August 2019, we had Robert White,
17 Friends of Robert White, city council at large
18 registered on August the 1st, 2019.

19 Kelvin Brown, Kelvin Brown for D.C.
20 Council, Ward 7, registered as a candidate in
21 Fair Elections Program. And he registered on
22 August the 2nd, 2019.

1 Janeese L. George, Committee to Elect
2 Janeese Lewis George, City Council, Ward 4. And
3 also Ms. George registered as a candidate in the
4 Fair Elections Program, and that registration
5 occurred on August the 5th.

6 Robert Lee (phonetic), Candidate for
7 Mayor, registered on August the 20th, 2019.

8 We held three entrance conferences
9 during the month of August. The first one was on
10 August the 5th, 2019 with one participant,
11 Barbara Celeste Summers, Candidate, Mayor.

12 August the 14th, 2019, there were
13 eight participants. Anthony Lorenzo Green,
14 Candidate, Green for Ward 7. Ajoke Williams,
15 Treasurer, Green for Ward 7. Mitchell Tropin,
16 Treasurer, SEIU, Local 500 PAC. Clayton
17 Rosenberg for Ward 7, Candidate, Rosenberg 2020.
18 Nathaniel H. Moone, Treasurer, Rosenberg 2020.

19 Kelvin Earl Brown, Candidate,
20 Treasurer, Kelvin Brown for D.C. Council Ward 7.
21 Janeese Lewis George, Candidate, Committee to
22 Elect Janeese Lewis George. Latifa Lyles,

1 Treasurer, Committee to Elect Janeese Lewis
2 George.

3 And on August the 28th, 2019, there
4 was one participant and that was Arrus Von Grill
5 (phonetic), Treasurer, Friends of Robert White.

6 And in total, there were 27 referrals
7 to the Office of the General Counsel with respect
8 again to the failure to file the July 31st report
9 of receipts and expenditures. And the names of
10 those candidates and committees will be listed in
11 our stats which will be posted at our website at
12 the end of the day.

13 In our record -- I'm sorry. In our
14 Audit Division during the month of August, the
15 reports analysis in the Audit Division conducted
16 119 desk reviews of our political action
17 committees as well as our constituent service,
18 our principle campaign committee, the inaugural
19 committee as well as an exploratory committee and
20 independent expenditure committee.

21 We have ongoing audits in the Audit
22 Branch. We have at this time two ongoing full

1 field audits. The first is Committee to Elect
2 Zachary Parker 2018. That was initiated on March
3 the 5th, 2019. And that audit is of a candidate
4 who is newly elected to an office for the State
5 Board of Education.

6 The second is Emily for Education
7 which was initiated on March the 4th, 2019. And
8 again, that is a candidate newly elected to an
9 office of the State Board of Education.

10 We also have ongoing periodic random
11 audits. The first is Reelect Brandon Todd 2020.
12 That was initiated on September the 4th, 2019.
13 That is a principle campaign committee, and it is
14 specifically the July 31st, 2019 filing.

15 The second is Gertrude Stein,
16 political action committee. The records are due
17 on September the 12th, 2019. That is the
18 political action committee and the random audit
19 is being conducted of the July 31st, 2019 filing.

20 The third is the D.C. Democratic State
21 Committee. The records again are due on
22 September the 10th. This is a political action

1 committee and the audit is being conducted of the
2 July 31st, 2019 filing.

3 We issued three audits during the
4 month of August. The first was the D.C. Young
5 Democrats political action committee. It was
6 issued on August the 15th, 2019. That is again a
7 PAC. And the audit was conducted of the July
8 31st, 2019 filing. And that was a compliance
9 audit.

10 The second is the D.C. First Political
11 Action Committee. It was issued on August the
12 14th, 2019. Again, this is a PAC, and the audit
13 was conducted of the July 31st, 2019 filing. And
14 this was determined to be a compliance audit as
15 well.

16 The last is the D.C. Proud 2019
17 Inaugural Committee. It was issued on August the
18 30th, 2019. That was a full field audit of an
19 inaugural committee. And the committee was found
20 to be in compliance with the campaign finance
21 laws of the District of Columbia.

22 All three of the final audits are

1 available at our website for review by the
2 public. And I would ask Mr. SanFord to give the
3 report of the Office of the General Council.

4 CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you. Mr.
5 SanFord?

6 MR. SANFORD: Good morning again, Mr.
7 Chairman and distinguished Board Member Gill.
8 William SanFord for the Office of Campaign
9 Finance, Office of the General Counsel.

10 During the month of August 2019, the
11 Office of the General Counsel received 27
12 referrals from the Public Information and Records
13 Management Division and received two referrals
14 from the Reports Analysis and Audit Division.

15 During the month of August 2019, the
16 Office of the General Counsel conducted two
17 informal hearings and issued seven orders which
18 include the following. Three orders were issued
19 for failure to timely file reports in which no
20 fines were imposed.

21 Two orders were issued for failure to
22 timely file ANC's summary financial reports in

1 which no fines were imposed. The previous three
2 orders were issued for failure to timely file the
3 500 dollar exemption confirmations. And finally,
4 two orders were issued granting motions or
5 reconsiderations in which no fines were imposed.

6 During the month of August 2019, the
7 Office of the General Counsel did not impose any
8 fines. However, we collected 300 dollars in
9 fines from the following respondents. A fine of
10 50 dollars was collected from the Economic
11 Protection Party, and a fine of 250 dollars was
12 collected from Ambrose Lane Jr., at-large
13 candidate in the 2019 election.

14 During the month of August 2019, the
15 Office of the General Counsel did not have any
16 open investigations.

17 During the month of August 2019, we
18 received one request for an interpretive opinion.
19 The requestor was Jordan Grossman. The request
20 was received on August 6th, 2019 and the issue in
21 the request was clarification on the amount that
22 immediate family members are permitted to donate

1 to candidates who are registered in the Fair
2 Elections Program.

3 There had been some confusion as to
4 whether or not immediate family members were
5 permitted to donate 2,500 dollars each or 2,500
6 dollars in the aggregate. And after our review
7 of the law, we issued an opinion explaining that
8 the amount -- total amount that immediate family
9 members may contribute to candidates who are
10 certified in the Fair Elections Program is 2,500
11 dollars in the aggregate. That means all family
12 members combined. And that opinion was issued on
13 August 12th, 2019. It is available at the Office
14 of Campaign Finance's website.

15 And finally, during the month of
16 August 2019, there were no show-cause proceedings
17 conducted by the Office of the General Counsel.
18 And that should conclude my report.

19 CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you, Mr.
20 SanFord. Ms. Montgomery, anything to add?

21 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: The only
22 thing that I would add, I just would note again

1 that with the Fair Elections Program that one of
2 the things that is distinguished from the
3 traditional program is that in the Fair Elections
4 Programs, candidates can contribute no more than
5 5,000 dollars to their campaigns whereas in a
6 traditional program, candidates can give
7 unlimited amounts of money to their campaign.

8 And what I would note is that we
9 expect that the Campaign Finance Reform Act will
10 become effective. Certain provisions of it will
11 become effective at the end of this month. A
12 projected date is September the 24th, 2019.

13 And what will change with the
14 traditional program is that the traditional
15 program, once the law becomes effective,
16 candidates will no longer be able to -- if they
17 decide to loan their campaigns unlimited amounts
18 of money, they will only be able to reimburse
19 themselves up to 25,000 dollars when the campaign
20 has come to a close.

21 CHAIR BENNETT: Well, that's a big
22 change.

1 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: And
2 that's one of many changes. But I just thought I
3 would let that one out.

4 CHAIR BENNETT: With that particular
5 -- with the -- it's campaign reform, right?
6 That's the name of it, Campaign Reform Act?

7 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes.

8 CHAIR BENNETT: Well, I'm assuming
9 that we'll need to issue another set of
10 regulations or modified regs to accommodate those
11 new requirements?

12 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes.

13 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. So is that
14 something we'll deal with in November or October
15 you think?

16 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Well,
17 actually --

18 CHAIR BENNETT: I'm okay either way.

19 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yeah.
20 Again, the projected law date is September --

21 CHAIR BENNETT: September --

22 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: -- the

1 24th at this point. So I would hope that we
2 would be in a position to present proposed
3 rulemaking to the Board for the October meeting.

4 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay, okay. I'm just
5 trying to anticipate. Just to note, one, do you
6 have any question, Mr. Gill, any additional
7 comments?

8 MEMBER GILL: No additional comments.

9 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. The report,
10 particularly around Fair Elections Program, was
11 extensive. And my guess, slash, desire would be
12 for us to be relatively detailed particularly
13 through the election, this election seasons since
14 it's a brand-new program and has really
15 significant impact on the election process and
16 cycle in the District of Columbia over the next
17 year. And certainly through this cycle, we ought
18 to be very detailed in the reporting around the
19 Fair Elections Program.

20 And since you have no questions, Mr.
21 Gill, I will go onto the next item. That's the
22 report of the Board of Elections. One more thing

1 about the Office of Campaign Finance.

2 One thing to note as well is the
3 implementation -- if you didn't talk about it. I
4 didn't hear it, the implementation of the
5 electronic filing system for the Fair Elections
6 Program. Did you talk about that at all?

7 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: No, I
8 didn't.

9 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Can you just
10 give another --

11 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yeah.
12 What I would indicate --

13 CHAIR BENNETT: Because that's a big
14 deal. I mean, that's really -- a man gave lots
15 of compliments to your office, to you, and to Mr.
16 Jackson and the entire staff to get that on
17 board. That's a really big deal. And I think
18 we'll end up driving the efficiency and the
19 ability to report properly on that program as
20 much as anything, if not all. So if you can give
21 just a short comment on the implementation of
22 that system.

1 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes. I
2 think during my report, it did indicate that the
3 first filing deadline for the candidates in the
4 Fair Elections Program was July the 31st, 2019.
5 And all other candidates were able to
6 electronically file their reports on that day.

7 The completion of the electronic
8 filing system for the Fair Elections Program
9 occurred during the month of July. And prior to
10 the filing deadline on July the 25th, the
11 candidates were invited in for a demonstration of
12 the electronic filing system. And the system
13 officially launched for the public on July the
14 26th, 2019.

15 The development of the system also
16 included administrative modules which have
17 assisted the Fair Elections Program Division with
18 respect to the verification of the reports of
19 receipts and expenditures which were filed. And
20 also the Fair Elections electronic filing system
21 also provides for real-time images of the reports
22 which are filed to be displayed at the OCF

1 website for public view.

2 We are hoping that at the beginning of
3 the fiscal year, we will pursue the development
4 of search features for our Fair Elections Program
5 as well at the website. But we were successful
6 in terms of the launch of the electronic filing
7 system which was extremely important to the
8 success of this program.

9 CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you. Mr.
10 Jackson, do you have anything to add? Other than
11 that, I just thank you and Ms. Montgomery and
12 really your entire staff with regarding getting
13 that on board. It looks like your new IT person
14 actually did live up to his billing coming in.

15 MR. JACKSON: Yes, I just want to give
16 praise to all of my staff and --

17 CHAIR BENNETT: Can you hear him okay,
18 court reporter? No, he can't hear. I don't mean
19 to prolong this, but I think this is really
20 important for us to --

21 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: As Mr.
22 Jackson approaches, one thing I would like to

1 point out too is that the Audit Division of the
2 Fair -- the Audit Branch or the audit component
3 of the Fair Elections Program Division also
4 successfully completed the verification of the
5 reports which were filed within ten business
6 days. And they also were able to -- even though
7 they had five additional days, to direct the
8 Office of the Chief Financial Officer to issue
9 the payments. We were able to do that the day
10 after the certification occurred. So I would
11 also just like to --

12 CHAIR BENNETT: Yeah, thank you.
13 You're right. Those are really tight timelines.
14 We were able to get them extended a bit from the
15 original legislation. But still incredibly tight
16 and you're right. So --

17 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yeah.

18 CHAIR BENNETT: -- that particular
19 program staff all over and particularly the audit
20 staff, I agree. Just did a yeoman's job -- a
21 yeoperson's job getting through all of that. So
22 would you add anything, Mr. Jackson?

1 MR. JACKSON: Just to bring back on
2 that email. It's just that my staff has really
3 stepped up. They spent some long hours in trying
4 to make sure that --

5 CHAIR BENNETT: Can you hear? Court
6 reporter, can you hear him okay?

7 MR. JACKSON: They spent some long
8 hours trying to make sure that everything was
9 done in the proper amount of time and
10 efficiently. So I cannot sit here and take the
11 credit myself. I got to give it to my staff.
12 They have stepped up and did everything that I've
13 asked them to do.

14 We've had a lot of help from the
15 management staff of the office. The director has
16 always been there. The General Counsel has been
17 an intricate part. And just even the HR person
18 having us staffing up to this point that we can
19 be 100 percent has been outstanding.

20 So I just got to give them the praise
21 because they do everything that I ask them to do
22 and they do it in a timely manner. And we would

1 not be successful without them.

2 CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you. And you
3 guys are making us look really good, so thank
4 you.

5 MR. JACKSON: Yeah, thank you.

6 CHAIR BENNETT: All right. I think --
7 and your report, Ms. Montgomery. Thank you, Mr.
8 Jackson. Ms. Miller, I promise not to stop you
9 again. Well, maybe, break that promise.

10 DIRECTOR MILLER: Good morning. Let
11 me just get started by saying that we are
12 continuing with our coworker -- continued
13 coworker training. And as you know, we started
14 doing this as a new initiative this year, an
15 election year.

16 So in June, trained captains and
17 special ballot clerks what I would say is in
18 phase one. We finished that through the month
19 June, did that through the month of June. We
20 gave them a break in July. We brought them back
21 through the month of August. And we are
22 finishing up training with them.

1 For this month, a lot of the same
2 captains and the special ballot clerks, we wanted
3 to give special attention to in terms of focusing
4 on things that they can be focused on so that
5 when we get ready for the election cycle next
6 year, they've had a little bit of an introduction
7 and some directed focus on things that were
8 issues through the election last year.

9 But to date, we have trained 97
10 captains, 136 special ballot clerks. For the
11 month of August, we have two additional classes
12 which are scheduled for Saturday. That'll be one
13 special ballot clerk class and a captain's class.
14 There are 27 individuals scheduled for both
15 classes.

16 So that will be the end of it this
17 weekend. And hopefully that will give them a
18 head's up and a little bit of more comfort level
19 when we start the election year next year in
20 which they will again go through the federal
21 training again.

22 So after we finish with special ballot

1 clerks and the captains, we realize we have a
2 couple more months left in the year. So we're
3 going to bring in our check-in clerks which don't
4 have the same level of complexity which respect
5 to processing in the election precincts. But
6 we're going to target 500 clerk to bring them in
7 and start getting them initially trained this
8 year as well.

9 I want to talk a little bit about
10 outreach, and I want to commend our outreach team
11 which consists primarily of two full-time staff
12 members which is managed by Monica Evans. They
13 have coordinated and attended 26 events during
14 the month of August.

15 Obviously we've had to improve a lot
16 members of the staff additions which is also
17 commendable. But in saying that, we've had 26
18 events in 31 days. They've actually been -- to
19 the month. And they've actually been out
20 basically every day of the month.

21 On Saturday, August 24th, we've
22 staffed four different events at all different

1 locations. The general purposes of these events
2 is to identify and register eligible voters,
3 provide information to our returning citizens and
4 incarcerated eligible voters and to reach out to
5 high school students for voter registration.

6 At many of these events, we're able to
7 have our voting equipment so they're able to use
8 the equipment different mode and have an
9 opportunity to see how it works.

10 So I do think that's commendable and
11 I want to thank them for continuing to do that.
12 And that's literally day, night, weekends,
13 evenings, and everything combined with that.

14 For the website, as you know, we did
15 a survey in the month of July. In response to
16 that survey, we're following up with some of the
17 suggestions that we go from those individuals who
18 responded to the survey. Developing a new FAQ
19 section for returning citizens, incarcerated
20 folks, and students.

21 The section will appear under the
22 voters tab. It will be the information for these

1 groups of District voters regarding their rights
2 and eligibility for registration in the District
3 of Columbia.

4 Also we're continuing to work with
5 BEGA to ensure that our website is in compliance
6 with the rules from the government. As I
7 mentioned in the August 4th meeting, BEGA
8 provided us with assurance that the website is in
9 compliance as it exists. However, they did have
10 a few suggestions to make it even better which
11 was generally related to accessibility.

12 Those suggestion, we've incorporated
13 and included things such as moving the text and
14 buttons on the home page slide show to the area
15 above the picture instead of on top of the
16 picture making it more easily visible to those
17 with visual challenges.

18 Also we further updated alternate
19 texts describing photos of the site. And we're
20 in the process of updating our future so as to
21 maximize the accessibility of the website. And
22 for that, I do want to point out and thank Rachel

1 Cole for working closely with BEGA's director on
2 the Open Government Act to continue website
3 compliance in all areas.

4 And one last thing. The General
5 Counsel and I met with the director and senior
6 staff for the Department of Motor Vehicles to
7 make certain that all of our automatic
8 registration records are being accurately
9 processed by the implementation of our new voter
10 registration system.

11 The director and his staff were happy
12 to assure us that they'll work with us, and we
13 will continue to migrate to the new voter
14 registration system so that once it's fully
15 implemented, all D.C. registered voters will be
16 uploaded on the new system and the records will
17 be automatically updated.

18 CHAIR BENNETT: So that was an area
19 that folks that were kind of following this.
20 They were concerned about it in terms of that.
21 So that meeting addressed the concern in that
22 area?

1 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes.

2 CHAIR BENNETT: We probably need to
3 have another session at some point --

4 DIRECTOR MILLER: We -- the staff --

5 CHAIR BENNETT: -- and walk through
6 all the risk areas again.

7 DIRECTOR MILLER: With the consultants
8 you mean?

9 CHAIR BENNETT: Yeah.

10 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes, we will.

11 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay.

12 DIRECTOR MILLER: Absolutely.

13 CHAIR BENNETT: Probably near the end
14 of September. Well, we can have it before the
15 next board meeting.

16 DIRECTOR MILLER: Okay.

17 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Any questions,
18 Mr. Gill?

19 MEMBER GILL: No questions.

20 CHAIR BENNETT: All move onto the next
21 item on the agenda. Oh, let me go back. I'm
22 sorry. Ms. Miller, I have a question for you and

1 that's with regards to the implementation of the
2 new system. Can you lay out the schedule again
3 real quick, just the schedule in terms of when
4 we're going to bring it online and all that? I
5 don't need exact dates.

6 DIRECTOR MILLER: As of now, they've
7 asked for a two-week extension. It was scheduled
8 for the middle of October. We're looking at the
9 end of October.

10 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay.

11 DIRECTOR MILLER: My concern is that
12 with a possibility of a recall election, some of
13 that might have to be pushed back as well. So
14 we're kind of working on time and it's kind of
15 day-to-day.

16 Honestly, we need to get it up as soon
17 as possible, but I would rather have it done
18 slowly and accurately and correctly as opposed to
19 sticking to a deadline that was written out that
20 may not give us all the testing that we need done
21 to make sure on that side of the fence, that it's
22 all accurate and it's well.

1 So we're proceeding with a timeline
2 pushed two weeks back to the end of October. But
3 it may go longer than that.

4 CHAIR BENNETT: But we still plan on
5 running dual systems anyway?

6 DIRECTOR MILLER: That's what we want
7 to do. And we had a conversation with DMV about
8 that during our meeting. And it turns out that
9 they had no problem. A lot of that is going to
10 be on our side to be able to function and operate
11 with both vendors. So we have to make sure we do
12 that.

13 Let me just state one more thing. I
14 did mention Rachel with respect to the
15 accessibility. I also mentioned that Trey
16 Jenkins (phonetic) also was very supportive of
17 that process as well.

18 CHAIR BENNETT: Outstanding. Thanks
19 to you both. I appreciate that. Anything else,
20 Ms. Miller?

21 DIRECTOR MILLER: That's it.

22 CHAIR BENNETT: Do you have anything

1 on those, Mr. Gill?

2 MEMBER GILL: No, nothing more.

3 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. General
4 Counsel, Ms. Terri Shroud?

5 MS. STROUD: Good morning, everyone.
6 Before I move into the Office of the General
7 Counsel's report, I wanted to welcome Ms.
8 Victoria Gray to the Office of the General
9 Counsel and the Board. Victoria Gray is here
10 with us pursuant to an externship at the
11 Georgetown University Law Center where she's a
12 3L, third-year law student. She did her
13 undergraduate studies at Howard, and we are happy
14 to have her. She'll be with us through the year.

15 CHAIR BENNETT: Oh, great. Welcome,
16 and thank you for taking the time from your
17 studies to be here and be a part of the
18 organization. Hopefully, all the things that
19 happen and that you are a part of supports your
20 study process and that you'll consider us as you
21 leave Georgetown and embark upon your
22 professional life. So thank you and welcome. I

1 look forward to working with you. Okay.

2 MS. STROUD: Okay. So the first item
3 on my agenda is litigation status. The first
4 case is William V. Hunt v. the Board. This
5 matter is a complaint that was filed in the U.S.
6 District Court for D.C. in October of 2018 and it
7 involves a request that the Board count the
8 write-in votes casted in the mayoral contest that
9 was held in the November 2018 general election.

10 The Board had a filed to dismiss back
11 in April of this year. Mr. Hunt filed an
12 opposition to the Board's motion to dismiss in
13 August of this year after requesting several
14 extensions. The Board filed a reply to that
15 opposition on August 27 and we are waiting the
16 court's decisions in that matter.

17 The second case is James Butler v. the
18 Board. This is an action, a writ of mandamus in
19 the D.C. Superior Court to compel the Board to
20 accept the D.C. term limits campaign initiative
21 as a proper subject. The Board received a
22 scheduling order and dispositive motions, actual

1 motions for summary judgment will be filed on
2 November 21st by both parties.

3 The third case is Graham v. the Board,
4 and this matter involves the Board's appeal of a
5 permanent injunction that was entered by the D.C.
6 Superior Court on December 12th prohibiting the
7 Board from taking any action on Referendum 8.

8 There were some mishaps with respect
9 to the e-filing system in the D.C. Court of
10 Appeals. Due to that, the opposing party did not
11 receive filings that the Board and the intervener
12 had filed earlier. And they have requested a
13 motion for extension of time to file a reply to
14 the Board's joint brief. And we are now awaiting
15 their brief.

16 The next two matters are Philip
17 Hammond v. the Board and Robin Marlin v. the
18 Board. And these cases -- these matters share
19 procedural history. They were both filed with
20 the D.C. Court of Appeals on July 19th appealing
21 from the Board's orders upholding resolutions
22 issued by ANC 7B which found no vacancies in

1 Single Member District 7B04 and 7B05 on the basis
2 that the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners in
3 those SMDs did not meet the residency
4 qualifications necessary to serve as ANC
5 commissioners and those respective SMDs.

6 On July 28th, in both matters, the
7 D.C. Court of Appeals ordered the petitioners to
8 show cause why their petition should not be
9 dismissed for untimeliness. Both petitioners
10 filed responses on August 13th, and OGC is
11 preparing a response that will be filed this
12 week.

13 And that concludes the litigation
14 status portion of my report. The next item on
15 the General Counsel's agenda is petitions for
16 enforcement of Office of Campaign Finance orders.
17 And I will ask a senior staff attorney, Rudolph
18 McGann, to present these eight matters which all
19 involve late or nonfilings of reports of receipts
20 and expenditures that were due to be filed with
21 the Office of Campaign Finance.

22 MR. MCGANN: Thank you. Good morning,

1 Board Members, Rudolph McGann. The first matter
2 before you is Justin Green At-Large, Docket No.
3 17C-027. The amount of the fine is 1,650 dollars
4 for failure to file receipts and expenditures
5 that were due October 10th of 2017.

6 Mr. Green was notified of this hearing
7 by mail on August 30th. He failed to appear at
8 two scheduled Board hearings -- pre-hearing
9 conferences, excuse me, scheduled for July 11th
10 and August 9th of this year. And the respondent
11 did not show today. As far as I know, Mr. Green
12 is not present today. The second matter is again
13 Mr. Green.

14 MS. STROUD: And you didn't receive
15 any mail back?

16 MR. MCGANN: No, we didn't receive any
17 mail back from Mr. Green.

18 The second matter is the Docket No.
19 18C-002. Again, it's Mr. Green, Green At-Large.
20 And this fine is in the amount of 1,400 dollars
21 and it's for failure to file receipts and
22 expenditures that were due January 31st, 2018.

1 Again, Mr. Green was served with notice of this
2 hearing on Friday, August 30th. He's not in
3 attendance, and he did not attend the pre-hearing
4 conferences scheduled on July 11th and August
5 9th.

6 The third matter is 18C-003, Toliver
7 for Ward 4. Mr. Dwayne Toliver is the
8 respondent. The amount of the fine is 2,150
9 dollars for failure to file receipts and
10 expenditures report that was due February 16th,
11 2018. Mr. Toliver was notified of this hearing
12 on -- excuse me, on August 30th of this year and
13 he is not in attendance and the mail has not been
14 returned from him.

15 The next matter is 18C-005, Committee
16 to Elect Khalid Pitts. Mr. Khalid Pitts is the
17 respondent. The fine amount is 2,150 dollars for
18 failure to file a receipt and expenditures report
19 on February 16, 2018. Mr. Pitts was informed of
20 this hearing on August 30th and he is not in
21 attendance today. And no mail has been returned
22 from Mr. Pitts.

1 Next matter is 18C-007, Patterson for
2 Ward 8. Mr. Jacque Patterson is the respondent.
3 The amount of the fine 2,150 dollars for failure
4 to file a receipts and expenditures report on
5 February 16th, 2018. Mr. Patterson was also
6 informed of this hearing on February -- excuse
7 me, on August 30th, 2019. And he is not in
8 attendance and no mail has been returned from Mr.
9 Patterson.

10 The next matter is again Mr. Justin
11 Green At-Large, Docket No. 18C-018. The failure
12 -- the amount of the fine is 1,000 dollars for
13 failure to file a receipts and expenditures
14 report that was due on May 10th of 2018. Mr.
15 Green was informed of this hearing on August
16 30th, 2019. He is not in attendance.

17 Next matter is Manley Collins for
18 Treasurer, the MC Foundation, Docket No. 18C-021.
19 Mr. Manley Collins is the respondent. Mr.
20 Collins' fine is in the amount of 500 dollars for
21 this matter for failure to timely file his
22 receipt of -- his report of receipts and

1 expenditures.

2 Mr. Manley is now in compliance with
3 respect to this matter. He did file, albeit
4 late. He eventually filed on June 23rd, 2018.
5 He did attend a pre-hearing conference held on
6 July 11th and -- excuse me, on July 17th. And he
7 noted for the record he didn't have the money to
8 pay for the fine and he was apologetic. And we
9 came up with a payment plan of about 5 dollars a
10 month as an offer, but that wasn't accepted.

11 The next matter is again Mr. Manley
12 Collins. His fine --

13 CHAIR BENNETT: So you're still, I
14 guess, negotiating with him about the payment
15 plan or --

16 MR. MCGANN: At the time, yes. During
17 the pre-hearing conference and what's transpired
18 since, we tried to come to an agreement. But the
19 fine payment terms weren't acceptable to the
20 Office of Campaign Finance. He has another fine
21 also. So it would've been roughly 1,500 dollars
22 paying 5 dollars a month.

1 CHAIR BENNETT: Yeah, that'd be a long
2 time.

3 MR. MCGANN: A long time. So the next
4 matter and the final matter is Docket No. 18P-
5 001. Again, the MC Foundation and Collins is the
6 respondent. He did -- the fine amount, excuse
7 me, is 1,050 dollars for failure to timely file
8 his January 31st report of receipts and
9 expenditures. He did file on February 22nd, so
10 he is within compliance. And at this point in
11 time, he's not able to pay that fine.

12 And those are the eight items I have
13 before the Board.

14 CHAIR BENNETT: If I may, those who
15 just received notice of this hearing, they could
16 appear and we just provided notice on August
17 30th. I appreciate the fact that there has been
18 several days, but it's still less than a week.

19 If something comes up, I would
20 encourage the Office of the General Counsel to be
21 flexible relative to giving folks an opportunity
22 to be heard if they so choose. So obviously

1 following the law and the regs in that regard.
2 But where they're expecting and it's been less
3 than a week's notice for this hearing, it'd be
4 great to be taking advantage of that flexibility.

5 MR. MCGANN: The Office of the General
6 Counsel being in the process of generating orders
7 for these matters and in that interim period, if
8 one of the respondents does respond, happy to
9 work with them in trying to reach a settlement.

10 MS. STROUD: And taking that into
11 account, we would like to have a motion to
12 proceed with these under D.C. Superior Court
13 barring the opportunity to work with individuals
14 who have notice of this hearing or those who
15 might not have found that to be timely enough.

16 These individuals also had the
17 opportunity, I would note for the record, to
18 attend two pre-hearing conferences. I noticed
19 one where that was not the case where they had
20 the opportunity for one and they attended that
21 pre-hearing conference. But for the most part,
22 these individuals were apprised of two pre-

1 hearing conferences and did not attend those and
2 were at that time given notice of this Board
3 meeting. So I think it was a little bit more
4 than a week's notice.

5 MR. MCGANN: Correct. In fact, Mr.
6 Manley Collins was the only one that attended
7 one. So he wasn't invited to a second pre-
8 hearing because he attended the first one. Every
9 other respondent was invited to two pre-hearing
10 conferences.

11 CHAIR BENNETT: Yeah. I mean, I
12 suspect that the notice was sufficient and nobody
13 is going to come and say, hey, I didn't get a
14 chance to try to work this out. But just in
15 case, and that's really the point. Can I get a
16 motion, Mr. Gill? Did you have any questions?

17 MEMBER GILL: No questions, but I
18 agree. I know that you can't have payment plans
19 that extend into years and such. But at the same
20 time, I think we should always try to put out
21 best efforts to help those pay. No questions,
22 and so motion to accept the report.

1 MS. STROUD: And to proceed it to the
2 D.C. Superior Court for judgment for these
3 matters to the extent that we cannot work with
4 the individuals with respect to resolving these
5 matters.

6 MEMBER GILL: Motion to proceed.

7 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. So properly
8 moved and I second. And so therefore it's
9 unanimous. Thank you.

10 MS. STROUD: And that concludes my
11 report.

12 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay, great. Any
13 questions for Ms. Stroud, Mr. Gill, on the
14 report?

15 MEMBER GILL: No questions.

16 CHAIR BENNETT: I think we have
17 additional items from Ms. Miller.

18 DIRECTOR MILLER: Item, just one.

19 CHAIR BENNETT: Item, okay.

20 DIRECTOR MILLER: I saved the best for
21 last. I neglected to recognize our new hire, and
22 that would be Francine Dease. She's sitting in

1 the back behind Mr. McGann which part of our
2 problem. I couldn't see her. She is our new HR
3 specialist. She just started with us on Tuesday.
4 She comes from the D.C. HR -- Human Resources
5 Department upstairs. And we are so blessed and
6 fortunate to have her.

7 She comes with all the tools needed to
8 get all of our employees processed, things
9 regarding HR matters done. And we will be ready
10 to go as we move into this election year with her
11 assistance. So I'm really excited as are the
12 staff to have her on board.

13 I only neglected to mention her
14 because I saved the best for last. And I tell my
15 staff I can't see them when they sit in the back.
16 And you noticed, Ms. Goldberg has been moved up
17 front. They have a tendency to want to hide and
18 I can't see who they are. So I suppose your
19 staff who takes the front row.

20 (Laughter.)

21 CHAIR BENNETT: So next time, we'll
22 have all front row seats.

1 DIRECTOR MILLER: Yes, only.

2 CHAIR BENNETT: Welcome and thank you
3 for joining us. We are absolutely positive that
4 you're going to have a great experience. And I'm
5 also positive that the challenges and
6 opportunities that are presented around here will
7 certainly enrich your life professionally and
8 otherwise. So thanks so much and welcome. I
9 look forward to working with you going forward.

10 Mr. Gill, did you have anything you
11 wanted -- I didn't give you a chance. I'm sorry.
12 I forgot.

13 MEMBER GILL: Nothing further.
14 Welcome to the team. I think you're going to
15 enjoy it. Great team to join.

16 CHAIR BENNETT: Well, I think the next
17 thing is public matters. And if there is any
18 public matters, I'm not sure if Mr. Sindram is
19 still on the line. If you are --

20 MR. SINDRAM: I'm still here.

21 CHAIR BENNETT: -- I appreciate your
22 patience. Did you want to offer any public

1 matters? Of course, please introduce yourself so
2 the court reporter can get that on the record.

3 MR. SINDRAM: Michael Sindram,
4 disabled veteran, served our country more than
5 most. Item No. 1, for the --

6 (Simultaneous speaking.)

7 CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Sindram, can you
8 give -- Mr. Sindram, can give your address, sir?

9 MR. SINDRAM: Absolutely. Michael
10 Sindram, disabled veteran, served our country
11 more than most, 6645 Georgia Avenue, Northwest,
12 Washington D.C., Ward 4.

13 CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you.

14 MR. SINDRAM: You're welcome. Item
15 No. 1, good to have an elephant in the room, Mr.
16 Gill. Competition is good. In your words, the
17 lower the signature bar. What exactly do you
18 mean by that?

19 MEMBER GILL: It was just an
20 observation. I have to be careful about not
21 putting a view out there. But it's just an
22 observation on the public funding that has gone

1 out so far and what it's going to accomplish.

2 MR. SINDRAM: I appreciate that. But
3 what I'd like if you could expand and explain
4 exactly what you mean lower the signature bar and
5 talk to what that entails.

6 MEMBER GILL: You're going to get me
7 in trouble because the signature bar is in the
8 statute and I don't have an opinion if it's in
9 the statute. So I don't have an opinion on the
10 signature bar other than I expressed my viewpoint
11 that the signature process is difficult for the
12 Board of Elections in the current sort of digital
13 era.

14 I don't think people's signature
15 remains constant the way it used to when we were
16 writing checks all the time and our signature was
17 sort of our bond. It just seems like an
18 antiquated identification piece. And I've said
19 that I think that over time it's going to
20 continue to cause problems for the Board and the
21 staff.

22 And my view is that we have a very

1 high bar for the number of signatures that are
2 required to get on the ballot. And to the extent
3 that that bar was put in place to show
4 groundswell support for a candidate, then part of
5 the process should be going out and getting
6 groundswell support.

7 But it seems -- I was just observed
8 that many candidates hire third parties to go out
9 and gather signatures on their behalf. And that
10 seems to circumvent the sort of purpose for a
11 signature tally showing genuine support as
12 opposed to just who's got better organizational
13 capabilities to gather the signatures.

14 So I don't have a view. The
15 regulations are not set by us. I mean, the
16 statute is not set by us. We just implement the
17 statute to our regulations. So these are just
18 observations. That's nothing more.

19 MR. SINDRAM: Well, I appreciate that.
20 What I'm getting at is that you have some on
21 point suggestions. And I understand it's etched
22 in stone. But again, the law is not etched in

1 stone but in ink which is susceptible to change
2 as you know very well. So I was just thinking if
3 you had some ideas, suggestions, whatnot maybe to
4 improve. And maybe not speaking from an official
5 capacity but wearing your hat as a private
6 citizen.

7 CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. -- if I could step
8 in. Mr. Sindram, and I'm not trying to keep Mr.
9 Gill from speaking. But just maybe I can provide
10 a little more clarity. I think the primary
11 point, and we can certainly -- like, when the
12 council ask us to testify before them, like, on
13 these matters, we are certainly able to give them
14 our opinions and we have. And the statute has
15 been changed accordingly to make it more
16 operational.

17 But I think the primary point is that
18 with the statute, it is actually paying for
19 people to meet the relatively stringent
20 requirements or paying people to go out and maybe
21 pay people to meet the various stringent
22 requirements to get ballot access. And maybe an

1 alternative to spending money for that is to make
2 ballot access less complex and less stringent
3 which would also meet the intent, I think, of the
4 Fair Elections Program to get more ideas out
5 there in the public domain for people to vote.

6 So is that helpful, Mr. Sindram?

7 MR. SINDRAM: Yes, thank you for that
8 clarification --

9 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay.

10 MR. SINDRAM: -- Mr. Chair. Item 2,
11 the vacancy board. I brought this up initially.
12 What's the latest on filling that position on the
13 Board?

14 CHAIR BENNETT: Yeah, the last status
15 that we have, Mr. Sindram, is the mayor nominated
16 a person by the name of Karen Greenfield. Karen
17 Greenfield went through a hearing. It was the
18 committee that is chaired Councilman Allen. And
19 we have not heard as to whether or not the
20 committee voted to get Ms. Greenfield out of
21 committee and to the council for a vote. So that
22 is still in a pending status as far as we know.

1 MR. SINDRAM: If I understand
2 correctly, there was a council hearing for the
3 public.

4 CHAIR BENNETT: Yes, there was a
5 council hearing. Gosh, that was in July, for a
6 confirmation hearing that Councilman Allen's
7 committee had for Ms. Karen Greenfield who was
8 nominated by the mayor. But to our knowledge, at
9 least to my knowledge anyway, and I think that's
10 the case for everybody here today, there has not
11 been a committee vote on Ms. Greenfield that will
12 take her to the full council. Yeah, they're not
13 in session now, so that's the current status of
14 that. So we are one person short.

15 MR. SINDRAM: Yeah, I missed that
16 hearing. We know full well summertime is very
17 busy. Folks are scarce, vacation and whatnot.
18 So maybe things will pick up. It'll be approved.

19 CHAIR BENNETT: And it'll go back on
20 the 16th of September Ms. Miller just informed
21 me. So that'd be great. If you want to call
22 your councilman and see if they can get that on

1 the agenda, then we would certainly appreciate
2 having a third person.

3 MR. SINDRAM: Okay, sure. Ms.
4 Montgomery, the Fair Election Program. My
5 question is, is there a gradient amount for
6 various offices? So in other words, is it a set
7 amount for, say, a ward councilmember versus an
8 at-large councilmember versus the mayor? Or
9 again is there gradients of amounts?

10 CHAIR BENNETT: Are there different
11 amounts that are available under the Fair
12 Election Program and pending on the office that
13 the person is seeking? The answer is yes. But
14 you may want to go further.

15 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Okay.
16 Basically in terms of the --

17 MR. SINDRAM: I can't hear you, Ms.
18 Montgomery.

19 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Okay.

20 CHAIR BENNETT: I think your mic is
21 not on.

22 DIRECTOR COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Okay.

1 In terms of the amounts that are available for
2 payout, okay, the amounts vary dependent upon the
3 covered office which is sought. For example,
4 with the base amount payments, those amounts vary
5 again depending upon the office which is sought.
6 For the base amount payment, for the ward
7 councilmember, the amount is 40,000.

8 And then you have a cap on the amount
9 of matching fund payments that can be made. And
10 basically according to the Act, under the Act,
11 the way that we figure out or compute the
12 matching funds is based on 110 percent of the
13 expenditures of the winning candidates from the
14 past prior two election cycles for that office
15 with respect to the ward candidates.

16 And so in this particular instance,
17 for this particular election cycle, I believe
18 that the cap for the matching funds for ward
19 candidates is a little over 200-and-some
20 thousand, if that helps.

21 MR. SINDRAM: Yes, thank you for that
22 clarification. And then last but not least, Mr.

1 Chairman, looking at an article that appeared in
2 the Washington Examiner on August 6th, it's a
3 cybersecurity and voting machines run on old
4 operating systems. Microsoft will stop
5 supporting Windows 7 ten months before the next
6 election.

7 As the presidential election nears,
8 lawmakers and security experts are raising
9 questions about the security of electronic voting
10 machines used in many parts of the country. The
11 latest concerns focus on devices running Windows
12 7 and other older operating systems.

13 The Associated Press reports that the
14 vast majority of the nation's 10,000 election
15 jurisdictions use Windows 7 or older operating
16 systems to create ballots, program voting
17 machines, tally votes, and report counts.

18 Microsoft plans to stop supporting
19 Windows 7 on January 14th, ten months before the
20 2020 election. Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon sent a
21 letter on July 12th to the U.S. Election
22 Assistance Commission, asking if electronic

1 voting machines will be updated before November.

2 In addition to the widespread use of
3 Windows 7, Wyden noted that during the 2018
4 election, voting machines in Georgia ran Windows
5 2000, which Microsoft stopped supporting in 2010.
6 In addition, until 2015, Virginia used wifi-
7 connected electronic voting machines that last
8 received a security update in 2005 and used
9 "abcde" as the administrator password.

10 Given ongoing attempts of Russian
11 hackers to target U.S. elections, out-of-date
12 software on voting machines as a serious concern,
13 Wyden wrote. The use of old software, lays out
14 the red carpet for foreign hackers, he claimed.
15 Now more than ever, the American people expect
16 that the government is taking the necessary steps
17 to secure our elections from foreign attacks.

18 Election security legislation is
19 stalled in the Senate, where Wyden is the sponsor
20 of a bill that would give the Department of
21 Homeland Security the authority to set mandatory
22 security requirements for voting systems.

1 Election Systems and Software, a major
2 electronic voting machine vendor, says it is in
3 the process of updating the operating system on
4 its devices. Its most recent release, scheduled
5 to be available this fall, will incorporate
6 Windows 10, a spokeswoman said. For systems that
7 currently use Windows 7 and ES&S, Microsoft will
8 provide ongoing support for that software until
9 jurisdictions can upgrade to newer versions of
10 Windows.

11 Please keep in mind none of these
12 systems are connected to the internet, reducing
13 potential security issues, she added.

14 Wyden's concerns are legitimate, said
15 Tom DeSot, executive vice president and chief
16 information officer at Digital Defense, a
17 cybersecurity vendor. The senator's worries
18 about old operating systems are, no different
19 than an CIO would pose to potential software
20 vendors for an enterprise.

21 Machines running on end-of-life
22 operating systems are, especially vulnerable, he

1 added. In enterprise environments, additional
2 attention is applied to systems running
3 unsupported software, if no updated alternatives
4 are available in the form of increased access
5 control, segmentation, and monitoring to prevent
6 data compromise.

7 DeSot called on the Election
8 Assistance Commission to set minimum standards
9 for software developers to update their
10 applications to work on modern, supported
11 operating systems. Those who don't should face
12 significant fines, he proposed.

13 Meanwhile, some election security
14 experts say the use of old operating systems is
15 only one concern of many. Electronic voting
16 machines are vulnerable to security risks,
17 claimed Marian Schneider, president of Verified
18 Voting, a group pushing for paper audits of
19 electronic voting machines.

20 Software can present risks, she said.
21 This is a software issues.

22 Electronic voting machines should

1 undergo regular security audits, suggested Jamie
2 Cambell, a security consultant and founder
3 GoBestVPN, which is a site that reviews virtual
4 private networks. Those security audits should
5 be open-sourced so that multiple security experts
6 can review them, he recommended.

7 There are many things that can make
8 electronic voting machines insecure, Cambell
9 added. It's not just the machines or operating
10 systems. It can be the way that the machines
11 store and transmit the data.

12 And again, a quote from Senator Ron
13 Wyden of Oregon. Now more than ever, the
14 American people expect that the government is
15 taking the necessary steps to secure our
16 elections from foreign attacks. Again, this
17 article appears in the Washington Examiner,
18 August 6, 2019, pages 30 to 31.

19 CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Sindram, thank
20 you. Are you done?

21 MR. SINDRAM: I hope I didn't put you
22 to sleep.

1 CHAIR BENNETT: No, no. We're wide
2 awake. First, let me thank you for that.
3 Second, we also received a request for some
4 detail around what we're doing to secure the
5 system from outside attacks from Councilmember
6 Cheh. And we're in the process of writing a
7 detailed response to that, and we will put that
8 on our website.

9 And I won't try to give a detailed
10 response to the questions that you raised from
11 the article. But thank you for that. The first
12 thing, though, is to note -- and I just checked
13 with Ms. Miller and also one of our IT persons
14 here. Our voting machines are not on Windows 7.
15 So that's not the operating system that our
16 voting machines are sitting on. I'm not sure
17 what's happening in other parts of the country,
18 but ours is not.

19 Our ballot itself is created by
20 Windows 7, that operating system. But even that
21 said, one of the things that's really challenging
22 and you and I probably could have a very long

1 conversation about this since that's my prior
2 life.

3 But one of the things that is really
4 challenging. It's important that every
5 institution and certainly the voting community of
6 the elections institutions around the country
7 have to do to make sure their operating systems
8 are up to date. Because whatever security you
9 put on top of those operating systems, if your
10 operating systems are old and they're degradation
11 issues, then those security measures will
12 probably not work.

13 So one of the things we're doing here
14 is to make sure that there is compatibility with
15 the operating systems and the things that we're
16 doing from a security perspective.

17 The other thing that I think is
18 important to note is that as I've said to a lot
19 of folks, these are all closed systems. So when
20 you walk into a precinct to vote, that voting
21 machine is not connected to the internet. So
22 getting into that one machine is pretty

1 difficult. It's not sitting out there.

2 But all that said and it's a really a
3 short response to your comment to that article.
4 But we are doing a more detailed response to
5 Councilmember Cheh. And we will put that on the
6 website. And if, for some reason, you don't have
7 -- and I just got pointed out that all paper
8 ballots, there is an audit trail.

9 But once we get that done, I believe
10 Ms. Jennings probably has your address that we
11 could sent that to you. And if we haven't gotten
12 it to you before the next Board meeting, please
13 bring that to our attention.

14 So there is -- your concerns and your
15 comments on that article are very timely and
16 we've been focused on this for a while. So thank
17 you for that. And I apologize for not being able
18 to give you a more complete answer. But it
19 deserves the kind of research that we're doing to
20 answer Councilmember Cheh. So we'll make that
21 available to you, sir.

22 MR. SINDRAM: That's very helpful, Mr.

1 Chair. And I appreciate your indulgence. To
2 save the best for last, as Ms. Miller would say,
3 for your time. Again, she goes above and beyond
4 the call of duty. We did a calling and it worked
5 today. We got the number. We got the access
6 code. Initially, it failed. But on the second
7 go around was a charm. So it was all systems go
8 which is good.

9 CHAIR BENNETT: Kudos. Thank you and
10 I think we had one other Board matter. But we
11 will delay that to October. We wanted to present
12 to our former Board member, Dionna Lewis, a
13 recognition for her service for three and a half
14 years to this Board. But we will save that for
15 the October meeting.

16 So with that, we will conclude for
17 today. Ms. Gill, did you have anything you
18 wanted to add?

19 MEMBER GILL: No, just going to make
20 a motion to adjourn.

21 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay, thanks.

22 MR. SINDRAM: We need an elephant in

1 the room. We need an elephant in the room, Mr.
2 Gill.

3 CHAIR BENNETT: So your motion is
4 accepted and seconded and the meeting is
5 adjourned. Thank you.

6 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
7 went off the record at 12:23 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

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Date: 09-05-19

Place: Washington, DC

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Neal R Gross

Court Reporter

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