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

BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. MICHAEL BENNETT, Chair
MICHAEL D. GILL, Member
DIONNA MARIA LEWIS, Member

BOARD OF ELECTIONS STAFF PRESENT:

ALICE P. MILLER, Executive Director
KENNETH MCGHIE, General Counsel
CECILY COLLIER-MONTGOMERY, Director,

Office of Campaign Finance

WILLIAM SANFORD, Office of the General Counsel
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2
3 (11:04 a.m.)
4
5 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Good morning.
6 We're going to open up the meeting. We have
7 another Board Member which I need in order to
8 conduct the business officially. There are three
9 items that we need to, need another Board Member
10 to be able to certify, but -- not certify, to
11 approve.
12 So, we're going to go ahead and get
13 started. I'm going to open up the meeting, our
14 November meeting now, and go through the various
15 agenda items. And then come back and retrofit,
16 and do it that way.
17 Okay. So, we're going to start off
18 with Board matters. Can you hear us okay,
19 transcriber?
20 COURT REPORTER: Yes, thank you.
21 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: So, with Board
22 matters, I don't have any Board matters for this
23 meeting. And I'm going to skip over and ask for
24 the campaign finance report, Ms. Montgomery.
MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes. Good morning. The first thing I would like to report on is that during the month of October the Office Campaign Finance conducted site visits to the early voting centers of the, that were established by the Board of Elections.

And also, we conducted site visits at the election precincts on election day. On November the 2nd the Office of Campaign Finance visited at least 12 of the 14 early voting sites. And on November the 6th we visited 98 of the 143 precincts.

Overall the staff reported that there was an elevated presence of voters at the, voter activity at the precincts. They also reported that the disclaimers appeared to be properly placed on the campaign literature. And also that the campaign literature was definitely placed within the, outside of the election marker boundaries.

Also, there appeared to be more than usual presence of campaign workers associated
with the various candidates. We did not observe any infractions of the campaign finance laws. And nor did we receive any complaints related to the campaign literature at the precincts or the early voting centers.

Next I would like to report on the status of the Fair Elections Program. And basically, as I told you previously, the Fair Elections Amendment Act of 2018 became effective on May the 5th, 2018. And the provisions of the Act became effective on November the 7th, 2018.

So, the Office of Campaign Finance has been in the process of trying to develop information on that to be made available to the public, that can be made available to the public, to inform the public of the requirements of the Act, and the fact that the Fair Elections Amendment Act provides for the public financing of campaign operations in the District of Colombia.

So, what we've done, on our home page we've created a slider. And basically the slider
introduces the Fair Elections Program. If the public links to the slider the slider will make available for the review of the public a brochure that we developed on the Fair Elections Program, as well as a PowerPoint presentation on, which provides a summary analysis of the law. And also, a PowerPoint presentation which provides an overview of the Fair Elections Program.

We also met with a planning committee that the Office of Campaign Finance had organized for the purpose of having the public involved in the process, in terms of trying to determine the best way to do outreach to the public, as well as the best way in which to also involve candidates in the process. And to make sure that we provide the appropriate services to candidates who participate in the program as well.

So, we met last night. And approximately eight members of the public who are from various organizations in the District of Columbia appeared. And we discussed where the Office of Campaign Finance is at this point.
And I would like to thank those members of the public. Because they have made various recommendations to us concerning proposals for regulations, as well as proposals for inclusion in our standard operating procedures.

With respect to the business of the office, during the month of October. During the month of October there were several report dates. On October the 1st, 2018 the reports of receipts of expenditures were due in the Constituent Service Program. There are nine required filers. And all nine timely filed their reports, as well as electronically filed their reports.

October the 1st was also the deadline for the filing of the report from the Senator, Representatives, with respect to the statehood funds. There are three required filers. All three filed. And all three also electronically filed their reports.

October the 10th was the deadline for the filing of reports of receipts and
expenditures by principle campaign committees, 
and also political action committees who were 
participating in the 2018 election cycle.

We have 117 required filers. Ninety-five of those required filers timely filed their reports with the Office of Campaign Finance. We had eight late filers.

Also we had 14 who failed to file.

And there were 22 referrals to the Office of the General Counsel for enforcement. 104 of our files electronically filed their reports.

October the 10th was also the deadline for the filing of the reports of receipts and expenditures by our independent expenditure committee. We have five required filers, and four timely files.

And we had one late filer. And that filer was also referred to the Office of the General Counsel for the enforcement process. All five filers timely filed their, I'm sorry, electronically filed their reports.

There was also an eight day pre-
general election report of receipts and
expenditures, which was due on October the 29th.
And that was eight days, again, prior to the
election.

There were 97 required filers.
Seventy-six timely filed. Three, we had three
late filers. Eighteen failed to file. And we
had 21 referrals to the General Counsel. With
respect to the actual filers, all 79
electronically filed their reports.

Also, the independent expenditure
committees were requires to file an eight day
pre-general election report of receipts and
expenditures. There were five required filers.
The report was due on October the
29th. Four timely filed, one late filed. The
late filed was referred to the General Counsel's
Office. And all five electronically filed their
reports.

With respect to the names of the
campaigns who were referred to the General
Counsel's Office, those names are listed in our
report. And our report will be published at our website.

In our Audit Branch, our Audit Branch during the month of October conducted 131 desk reviews. Also in our Audit Branch, our ongoing audits, we have one full field audit, Sheika Reid for Ward 1, which was initiated on August the 29th, 2018.

We have periodic random audits of candidates in the 2018 election with respect to the January 31, 2018 filing. And that would be the Kenyan McDuffie 2018, which was initiated on March the 22nd, 2018.

We have periodic random audits being conducted. Again, the continuing committees in the 2018 election of the June 10th, 2018 filing. Anita Bonds, 2018, was initiated September the 11th, 2018.

We have periodic random audits in the Constituent Service Program of the October the 1st, 2018 filing. Mayor Bowser's Constituent Service Fund, Our Ward 5 Citizens Outreach Fund.
With respect to the audits in the Constituent Service Program, the audit notification letters were issued on October the 22nd. And the records reviewed to the audit staff by November the 4th, 2018.

We issued an audit during the month of October. That was a list of 2018, which was issued on October the 22nd, 2018. And that's available at our website for review.

And the last thing I would like to report is that we did have a new candidate committee that registered during October 2018. And that was Asar Mustafa, Shadow Senator, who registered on October the 11th, 2018.

And that concludes my report. And I would ask Mr. Sanford to give the report of the Office of the General Counsel.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Great. Thank you.

MR. SANFORD: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. My name is William Sanford, General Counsel for the Office of Campaign Finance.

During the month of October 2018 the
Office of the General Counsel received 23 referrals. Twenty-two of the referrals were from the public information in the records management division.

However, three of those referrals were withdrawn before they were scheduled for hearings. The remaining one referral was received from the Reports Analysis and Audit Division.

During the month of October 2018 the Office of the General Counsel completed 17 informal hearings, and issued 17 orders, which included the following.

Six orders regarding failure to timely file reports of receipts and expenditures were issued, which imposed fines that totaled $4,350 dollars. And 11 orders regarding failures to timely file reports of receipts and expenditures in which no fines were imposed were also issued.

During the month of October 2018 the Office of the General Counsel imposed fines against the following respondents. A fine of
$1,850 dollars was imposed against Ambrose Lane, Jr., candidate for Council-at-Large.

A fine of $500 dollars was imposed against University Start Up Incubator Committee. A fine of $500 dollars was imposed against the Committee to Elect Natalie Williams. A fine of $500 dollars was imposed against the Committee to Elect Khalid Pitts, 2014.

A fine of $500 dollars was imposed against Carter at Large, 2014. And a fine of $500 dollars was imposed against Paterson for Ward 8.

During the month of October 2018 the Office of the General Counsel collected a total of $1,700 dollars in fines, which included a fine of $1,500 dollars from Jeffrey Thompson, which is in installment payment. That was part of an agreement that was reached between Mr. Thompson and the Office of the General Counsel in December of 2017.

And a fine of $200 dollars was paid by Sheila Bunn, a candidate for Ward 8 in 2018,
sorry, in 2016 election.

During the month of October 2018 the Office of the General Counsel received one complaint. That complaint was filed by Craig Holman, PhD on October 24th, 2018.

The complaint was filed against the Re-Elect Muriel Bowser Principle Campaign Committee. The alleged infraction was campaign contribution violation. That complaint was dismissed. And the order was issued on October 31st, 2018.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Can you tell me what the basis of that complaint was?

MR. SANFORD: The complaint alleged that the Re-Elect Bowser Principle Campaign Committee had made an excessive in-kind contribution to the Dionne Reeder campaign, by inviting Ms. Reeder to attend as a guest at a get out the vote rally that was being sponsored by the Re-Elect Bowser Campaign.

We found the complaint was not, did not have any merit. And we determined there was
no tangible benefit to Ms. Reeder. And therefore, we dismissed the complaint --

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Thank you.

MR. SANFORD: -- on the 31st of October.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Thank you.

MR. SANFORD: During the month of October 2018 there were no requests for interpretive opinions and no show cause proceedings were conducted. And that should conclude my report.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Thank you, Mr. Sanford. Ms. Montgomery.

MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: That concludes my report.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Great. Thank you.

Let's see. Let me move to General Counsel's report, Mr. McGhie.

MR. MCGHIE: Okay. The first thing I have on my agenda is file a rulemaking to, amendments to Chapter 30, the Campaign Finance Operations Section 3014, which is Constituent
Service Programs.

So, that is an Office of Campaign Finance proposed regulation. I will defer to Ms. Montgomery, Cecily Montgomery to outline what that rulemaking will do.


MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes. The purpose of the amendment is to increase the annual expenditure amendment for the Constituent Service Programs from $40,000 to $60,000 dollars. And basically the amendment will bring the regulation into conformance with the recently, with, in conformance with the recent amendments to the Campaign Finance Act.

MR. MCGHIE: Okay. We may need to table this a little later. So, if I could have a motion to adopt that as final ruling?

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay. All right. If you can table that until we get to the -- once Ms. Lewis comes in we can -- that makes the quorum --
MR. MCGHIE: Okay.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay. Thank you.

MR. MCGHIE: All right. Then the next matter is a litigation status update. Ameer Flippin v. D.C. Board of Elections. Mr. Flippin filed a complaint in Superior Court.

He was a write in candidate. And he wanted his name to appear on the Board's website as a write in candidate. We explained to him that we do not list the write in candidates, only candidates that have obtained ballot access through our process.

In any case, he filed a complaint in Court on August 31st. We filed a motion to dismiss. It was argued on October 5th. And the Court dismissed the complaint on November 1st.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay. Based on the grounds that we had no obligation.

MR. MCGHIE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay. Good.

MR. MCGHIE: Okay. The only other thing that I would like to do at this time if I
may, is that there is a new employee in the
Office of the General Counsel. His last name
escapes me. But his first name is Kevin. So,
and he is, he's a local graduate. He plans on
taking the D.C. Bar. And he is pursuing an LLM
in taxation.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Great. Could I
have your last name, sir?

(Off microphone comment.)

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: All right, Mr.
Kevin Strickland (phonetic), welcome. What law
school did you attend?

(Off microphone comment.)

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: University of North
Carolina-Chapel Hill? Oh, my gosh. Undergrad
same place?

(Off microphone comment.)

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Well, welcome. And
you're pursuing -- that's all right.

MR. MCGHIE: A little louder.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Yes. Just speak a
little louder. So you went to North Carolina-
Chapel Hill Law School, for the record. They have a law school, right? And where are you pursuing your LLM in taxation?

(Off microphone comment.)

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: In Georgetown.

Okay. Well, great. Well, welcome. Thanks for casting your net here, and your life here. And all the best on the D.C. Bar exam. So, I guess that's February 10th.

(Off microphone comment.)

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Great. All the best. We really support your work here, and the great work in the whole area around elections. So, thank you.

MR. MCGHIE: And that concludes my report.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay. We're going to take about a 30 second stop here, and ask Ms. Lewis to come in. And then what I'd like to do is to certify the election, attend to the other three matters that we have, and then let you continue your Executive Director report. Is that
okay? Okay, thank you.
(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 11:24 a.m. and resumed at 11:24 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay. Well, we'll need to start with your report then. Okay? We'll start with the, we'll go with the Executive Director's report.

MS. MILLER: All right. Thank you. So, I want to give just a few facts. As you know, we conducted the November 6th general election a couple of weeks ago. We had 500,511 registered voters of that time. The total ballots cast for the election was 231,700.

The turnout was 46.12 percent of registered voters, as compared to the last light election, which was the 2014 general election for the mayoral general. It was 38.45 percent. So, the totals were up. The turnout was up from those two elections.

For early voting we had 52,512 voters. For this election that was 22.6 percent of the
total ballots cast. This in comparison to the 2014 early voting, we saw 15.3 percent of the total ballots cast. So again, the early voting totals were up from 2018, as compared to 2014.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: now, this was the first time we actually had two precincts open per ward. Is that correct?

MS. MILLER: We had two early voting sites per ward, with the exception of Ward 1 and Ward 2.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: And we did not have that in the June election? Is that correct?

MS. MILLER: We did not have that in the June election. So, our early voting centers opened on October 22nd at 1 Judiciary Square. And the other 13 sites they opened on October 26th. And they were all open from those points through October 30th, from 7:00 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., I'm sorry, to 8 o'clock p.m.

So, we will look and try to find two other additional sites for Ward 1 and Ward 3 moving forward. And that would give us a total
of two sites per ward, with all the early voting
sites. But we did have a total of 14 sites,
early voting sites open for this election.

    Also, with respect to this -- we did
have about 1,700 poll workers, staff for the
election. Our goal was 2,000. But we did fall
short of that. But we did have 2,000, I mean,
1,700 poll workers for the election.

    So, the other thing that I want to
talk about just a little bit is the December 4th
special election. We will do that with respect
to the State Board of Education, for that ward.

    We have started our processing with
that. So, we kind of close out an election, and
begin the overlap process associated with that
September special, December special election.

    Our logic and accuracy testing will
start on Friday. We will have 20 precincts open
for that election. Because we have the equipment
available we will have two, quote, ballot boxes
per precinct. And staff it with three electronic
voting machines in each precinct.
Obviously we have equipment, because we don't have to do everything. So, you are able to do that, which will make things a lot easier. Should a machine break down we'll obviously have another one in the precinct operating until we can get the broken down one fixed.

We did, at the precincts during the November election let everyone in Ward 4 know that there would be a special election, by handing out flyers, and having posters in each of those precincts, inviting everybody back on December 4th to vote in the Ward 4 special election.

There is also that information available on our website. The ballots have been prepared, and we've ordered the ballots. And we will start sending out the absentee ballots for that election this week. So, we're set to go with that.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: What was the actual turnout in this election, this, the November election?
MS. MILLER: It was --

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: In terms of percentage of voters?

MS. MILLER: Forty-six percent.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Forty-six percent.

And what was the turnout in June? It was under 20 percent, if I recall.

MS. MILLER: Yes. I'm not sure. I can get that.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: That's okay. But I just want to put on -- I mean, I think in fact --

MS. MILLER: This was higher.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: This was much higher. And more than double -- and that compared to most mid-terms elections this was, I'm not sure that this was a record turnout. But I would imagine it's pretty close.

MS. MILLER: Yes. For the 2014, as I indicated, the turnout was 38 percent.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay.

MS. MILLER: That was the last five
elections.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: So, there are two things I wanted to note on that. One was, while I'm not sure if it was a record turnout or not, it was significantly higher than we have been used to.

And some of it was the politics of our times that drove people out. But also too, I think we actually put a fair amount of effort into encouraging people to vote.

And so, I think that's important for us to continue with our efforts to try and, to increase voter turnout in the District. It would be great to get above 50 percent, sooner versus later.

I doubt we can get it in December. But it would be great in 2020 if we were pushing it. And so, I encourage us to continue to look at ways for us to encourage voter turnout going forward.

The other thing I wanted to note with regard to this last session was, there were a
number of precincts that the wait was
significant. Some of them the wait was
significant because it was a huge turnout.

The other is that particularly at the
Eastern Market Center, that was actually two
precincts, we only had one machine. And that
machine got stuck on occasion. And we've
hopefully corrected that by getting two or three
machines there.

One of the things I think that we need
to do, and this is putting the Council on public
record, on notice, is that we really need more
money to get more ballot counting machines.

It doesn't make sense for large
precincts, or any precinct quite honestly, not to
have at least two. Because there's no reason, I
mean, because they're, you know, these are
machines. And they do break down.

So, I intend to talk about this with
the Council, and ask for more money to try and
make sure we have at least two machines at every
precinct.
The other thing is that we also want to make sure that we have enough persons supporting and working the precincts. Particularly when there's overcrowded situations. And we do have backup because machines may break down.

So, and the fact that we had 46 percent turnout, and that things went incredibly smooth is a real testament to Agency, and the leadership. And every person, you know, working in the Agency relative to making sure happen.

But there were occasions where things were, got pretty hairy in a couple of circumstances. And persons jumped to the rescue, or jumped to action quickly, and got things resolved quickly. So, my compliments.

But I also think too that we need more equipment, particularly in terms of ballot counting. And we also need to make sure that we have people available to support when necessary.

So, we need additional budget for that. So, I intend to make sure we ask the
Council accordingly. I just wanted to make I put
that on record. Any thoughts or comments on
that, Ms. Lewis in particular, since you --

  MEMBER LEWIS:  No. And I certainly --
Well, yes, actually. I certainly echo those
sentiments. And let me also just apologize for
my delay this morning. I was on a pre-conference
call with a judge. So, yes, can't really tell a
judge.

  CHAIRMAN BENNETT:  Oh, sure you can.
  MEMBER LEWIS:  Well, I did at the end,
you know, I have to go certify these results.
But I just wanted to note that for the record,
which is what was causing my delay.
  But yes, I think the turnout was
tremendous. There were, you know, several
complaints that I heard. But it was kind of like
a double edged sword, where people on the one
hand were like, oh, this wait is crazy. But on
the other hand, they were very excited about the
turnout.
  But I agree with Mr. Chairman, in that
if we did have proper resources, and more
resources rather, we do have proper resources,
but more resources to really help expedite the
process, I think that the general public would
certainly be at a greater advantage, particularly
when we have these type of turnouts.

And I think the idea and the goal for
our Board, and for the Agency in general is to
always have such engagement, such civic
participation and engagement from our residents
in these local elections.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Right. Ms. Miller,
what I'd like to do now is, are you good for a
few minutes?

MS. MILLER: Yes. I'm good now.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay. What I'd
like to do now then is, let me start at the top.
And we need to adopt the agenda. Although we've
been, I skipped around on the agenda. But I want
to adopt the agenda, as we have moved so far.

Secondly, I want to adopt the minutes
from the last time. We have a regulation that
Mr. McGhie needs to get a motion for, and for us to adopt. And then also, we need to certify the election.

So, let me start out by getting a motion to adopt the agenda as we have modified this morning.

MEMBER LEWIS: I move to adopt today's agenda, including its modifications.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Seconded. And so, the agenda is adopted as modified. Adoption of the minutes from the last meeting.

MEMBER LEWIS: So moved.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Seconded. And so, the minutes are adopted from the last meeting.

Mr. McGhie, would you put forth your matter regarding the Office of Campaign Finance regulations?

MR. MCGHIE: Yes. We have a file and rulemaking to amend Chapter 30, Campaign Finance Operations, Section 3014, Constituent Services Program.

The Board adopted that as emergency in
proposed rulemaking on September 5th, at its regular scheduled Board Meeting. It was published in the D.C. Register on September 14th. The 30 days for comment expired. No comments are received. And I would like the Board to entertain a motion at this time to adopt it as final.

MEMBER LEWIS: So moved.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Second. It's been so moved and properly seconded. So, the vote is complete. It's unanimous, with the vote. And I vote adopting. Okay, great.

Ms. Miller, will you, I guess finish your report, and also provide the opportunity to certify the election?

MS. MILLER: Thank you. I'm going to read the names of the winners into the record, and ask the Board to certify the following winners of the election from the November 6th general election for the following offices.

Delegate to the United States House of Representatives, Eleanor Holmes Norton. Mayor of
the District of Columbia, Muriel Bowser. Chair of the Council of the District of Columbia, Phil Mendelson. At-Large Member of the Council, there are two, Anita Bonds, and Elissa Silverman.

Ward 1 Member of the Council, Brianne Nadeau. Ward 3 Member of the Council, Mary Cheh. Ward 5 Member of the Council, Kenyan MacDuffie. Ward 6 Member of the Council, Charles Allen.


Ward 3 Member of the State Board of Education, Ruth Wattenburg. Ward 5 Member of the State Board of Education, Zachary Parker. Ward 6 Member of the State Board of Education, Jessica Sutter.

And I will say, with respect to the ANC members, both certified members of the members that should be certified are listed on
the Board's website as the winners.

We have a number of ANC candidates whose names were not on the ballot. They were write in candidates. They filed a declaration of candidacy. I will call their names, and the Board should certify these individuals as winners. Every other name is on our website.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay.

MS. MILLER: Do you want to name seven of those?

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Yes.

MS. MILLER: I don't think you want to sit here.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Sure. But let's do the ones that were write in.

MS. MILLER: The ones that we need to certify as write ins, and have qualified, filed a declaration of candidacy. And we actually counted those ballots.

ANC 1A12 is Jason Clock. ANC2A08, James Harnett. ANC 2E08, Matias Burdman. ANC 3D06, Virginia Gorsevski, G-O-R-S-E-V-S-K-I. ANC
3F04, Leah Freling -- Geez, I can't say her name. Let me just spell it. F-R-E-L-I-N-G-H-U-Y-S-E-N.

PARTICIPANT: Frelinghuysen?

MS. MILLER: Very good. ANC 4A07, Marlene Moss. ANC 4B05, Perry D. Reed. ANC 4C04, Nora Simon. ANC 5A04, Isaiah Burroughs. ANC 5E01 Nick Cheolas. ANC 7C06, Arnold Smith. ANC 7D05 Aretha Jackson. ANC 7D06 Sherice Muhammad. ANC 8A05, Dorcas Agyei. ANC 8B07, Keeon Bassett. ANC 8C03, Robinette Woodland.

Also, we had two candidates who actually won their ANC race. In 4B06 that would be Natalee S. Snider. And in 6D04 David Jaffe. But each of those candidates withdrew their candidacy before the election. So, we will certify vacancies in those ANCs. So, there are no winners.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay.

MS. MILLER: And that is the certifications. I would ask the Board for a motion to certify the elections, and the names of
the winners as has been read in the record.

MEMBER LEWIS: Moving to certify the
November 8th, 2018, excuse me, November 6th, 2018
general election results.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: And that motion
includes those names listed on our website. And
we will, we presume those names are correct, in
terms of the ANC. And also the write in
candidates that were read out, as well as the
other candidates that were read today. So,
that's a yes, and that's a second. And so, the
vote is for Ms. Lewis.

MEMBER LEWIS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: And for me it's
yes. Motion carries. And 2018 November 6th
elections are hereby certified. All right.

MS. MILLER: Thank you. Can I just
make a statement. I just want to kind of
piggyback on your statement, Mr. Chairman.

And that is, you're right. It takes
a lot to make these elections function, and to
work, and to work properly. Both you and Ms.
Lewis have recognized that.

Elections are no longer this -- little event that takes place every two years. They are national events, national -- there's a national get out the vote effort. Everybody responds.

And I think your indication about resources, and the fact that we need more resources, and we need the proper resources, the proper personnel. The additional focus is 100 percent accurate and correct. It just cannot work, and work well, without that, and without that proper attention.

Those who respond we welcome to respond. And we need to be ready when they respond. We need to be prepared with what is needed in order to properly respond.

I don't have a problem with lines. I think lines are good. But we don't want the, a situation where we're not ready when a line comes up, that we can't automatically respond in the proper way with a line.

It also, in my opinion, calls for the
proper personnel. It's not that our seniors are the people who have elections. But would offer me additional support to help them.

We have a lot of technology in this process now. And sometimes the seniors are not as comfortable with some of the technology that we use in the election process.

And we need to do outreach to individuals who are more astute with it, so they can help them along, and help guide them, and get them through the process.

And we really need to figure out a way to identify how we do that. Without that I think we are, a big question mark how we move forward and get this done.

So, we're going to have to, you know, examine everything. And go to the Council, go to wherever we need to go to get the resources that we need in order to be successful about moving forward.

I can imagine 2020 is going to be a huge election, both the primary and the general,
with a huge voter turnout for both of those elections. Something like maybe we've never seen nationally and locally. And we absolutely need to be prepared for it.

With that said, I would also like to recognize the fact that you have the best staff ever, as it relates to performing the functions needed for this election. They worked their fingers to the bone. And I mean it.

From the warehouse crew, to the staff in this office, they are here when needed, dedicated, through every weekend, you know, evenings, hours, whatever, whatever it takes.

And I'm very grateful that they're here. And I want to recognize and thank them for it. Because without it, it would not be done. I don't want to call names. But it's from management on down.

Everyone is here. They know they are going to be here. They don't even plan to do anything, because, the beginning until even last night staff was here making sure that we were
through everything that needs to get done, so
this election could be certified today.

And I want to say probably the last
person left here last night around 9:30 p.m. So,
for that I want to thank everybody for all their
help. And recognize the staff, because without
them we couldn't get this done.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Absolutely. Kudos
to everyone in the organization.

MEMBER LEWIS: And yes, I'd also, in
a similar regard just like to not only echo those
sentiments, but add to them, you know, and, you
know, wow. Director Miller indicated that, you
know, someone left at 9:30 p.m.

I just wanted to note that during the
election cycle staff members are here as early as
4:00 a.m., 5:00 a.m. in the morning. And they
don't leave until sometimes after midnight. And
so, it really is, well, that might even be
putting it lightly, quite honestly.

And it's not even, you know, when
Director Miller said from management on up, I'm
hoping she's including herself. Because she
really is a stalwart for this city. She's a
stalwart for the Agency.

And, you know, we, you know, in our
capacity spend a lot of time here. But, I mean,
if you see us here, you can guarantee that the
leadership of this organization, the Office of
Campaign Finance as well, the staff members that
support both offices are probably here three
times as long as we are, including the General
Counsel's Office, and those attorneys who work
with our General Counsel.

And so, I certainly just wanted to
note once specifically for the record that we
truly appreciate them.

When we're out in the field we, as in
the Board Members, are out in the field talking
to voters, talking to residents. We hear
sometimes feedback about, oh, the Board of
Elections, you know, they're not doing this. I
can guarantee you they are. And I just wanted to
note that for the record.
It's easy I think to kind of show up on election day, and perhaps a voting machine is a little delayed, or it's a little slow. Or, you know, something doesn't exactly go according to plan. It's easy at that point in time to gripe about that.

But the reality is, people have no real understanding of just how much behind the scenes effort, and work, and energy, and dedication, quite frankly, goes into making these elections what they are.

And so, I just wanted to again echo and supplement on those remarks. Because, especially for a record turn -- well, like you said, it may not be a record.

But for such a -- for a midterm election with such significant results, such significant engagement, as I remarked earlier, the staff, and the people who really did the maintenance, the whole process, who worked, are just outstanding.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: I agree. This
couldn't get any better. So, I'm proud to be associated with all of the persons in the Agency. With that I think I'm going to go to public matters. And I think we had Mr. Sindram on the line. So, Mr. Sindram, if you have any matters for the Board.

MR. SINDRAM: I do. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I took --

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Mr. Sindram, could you, for the record can you identify yourself, sir?

MR. SINDRAM: Absolutely. Michael Sindram, disabled veteran. Served our country more than most. I took advantage of early voting at 441 Judiciary Square. However, I don't recall an Advisory Neighborhood Commission election for 4B02. Is that because there were no candidates, or not open? Or was that maybe just an omission? Or anybody know? 4B02.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: 4B02. Ms. Miller, do you know? Or should we --

MS. MILLER: I don't know offhand.
Mr. Sindram, are you saying there were no candidates listed on your ballot for 4B02?

MR. SINDRAM: Correct. Yes, correct.

There were none.

MS. MILLER: If there were no candidates listed on your ballot then that means that no one filed to be a candidate. Let me see what our results show for 4B02.

MR. SINDRAM: Thank you. Other than that the early voting went very smoothly. I was well served. And it was very helpful.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Great. So, do you have a --

MS. MILLER: I'm showing 4B02 as Erin Palmer and Tanya Topolewski. You didn't notice those two names on your ballot?

MR. SINDRAM: Maybe now that you mention it, yes. I was thinking they were not there. But now that you named, I believe they were there.

MS. MILLER: Okay. Thanks.

MR. SINDRAM: Yes. Thanks. Also, the
upcoming Ward 4 education election. My question is, the precincts in Ward 4, will each of them have paper and touch tone available for the voters?

MS. MILLER: Yes. We'll have paper and touch screen ballots available. Both will be available.

MR. SINDRAM: Great. And what, I know it was mentioned that there were flyers and posters at the election November 6th. But November 4th is a way out. What preparation in addition is being done to alert voters in Ward 4 that this crucial, critical election, Board of Education, is taking place December 4th?

MS. MILLER: December 4th. Everyone will receive a notice in the mail for the December 4th election. I know you do not have access to the internet. But it's also on the website. It will be in the newspaper, the date of the election, as well as sample ballot. And we will have plenty of media ads going on as well.
MR. SINDRAM: I wanted to echo the sentiment. I believe you made it, the comment that our seasoned seniors, with the influx of technology are not very comfortable. And keep in mind, Ward 4 has a good number, if not the greatest, of seniors.

So, as you've pointed out, I am cybernetically challenged. I don't do email. I rely on snail mail, word of mouth, and so on. So, all to say, that's basically, you know, in our community how we get the word out.

Not to say that technology is not useful. It is. But some of us, you know, are not there. Or for whatever reason do not utilize it. And I think the wording that was used, you know, feel uncomfortable.

But be that as it may, you know, we want to make certain we get a good, a turnout just like this past election, if not more so, for this Ward 4. Because the, education is, you know, is a crucial, critical office.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Yes.
MS. MILLER: Thank you. We agree. We will do everything in our power to make certain that everybody knows, which was part of the reason why we were passing out flyers at every Ward 4 precinct on election day. And we did have posters at every Ward 4 precinct. As voters exited the precinct there was a big poster that said, return here on December 4th to vote.

MR. SINDRAM: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Do you have anything else, Mr. Sindram?

MR. SINDRAM: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: All right. Thank you. Any other public comments? Yes, sir.

MR. CRANE: Do you want me to come up to the front?

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Sure. Please.

MR. CRANE: Either?

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Yes. Either one is fine.

MR. CRANE: My name is Benjamin Crane. I live in the single member district of ANC 7B03.
I mounted a write in campaign for that office. I don't believe I heard my name in the write in list.

I submitted my affidavit of write in candidacy on November 2nd. When I handed it to the staff worker at the desk they said they would email me a copy. And I never received a copy. And when I called for the election results yesterday they informed me they did not have my affidavit of write in candidacy.

MS. MILLER: Do you have a copy of it?

Oh, you don't have a copy.

MR. CRANE: No, I don't.

MS. MILLER: 7B03. And we don't have any --

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Was there anyone that was --

MS. MILLER: Certifying --

MR. CRANE: There was no one registered. It would have been --

MS. MILLER: Someone else --

MR. CRANE: I don't know of any other
write in candidate for --

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: What was your name again, sir?

MR. CRANE: Benjamin Crane.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Benjamin Crane.

MEMBER LEWIS: Sir, can you spell your last name for the record?

MR. CRANE: C-R-A-N-E.

MS. MILLER: Yes. There were only write in candidates for that. Let me check into it and follow up. Okay. There's only write ins.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Was there anyone that was --

MS. MILLER: No named candidate on the ballot for that.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay. And the write in candidate was? Who was declared the winner for --

MS. MILLER: No one.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: No one. Okay. Mr. Crane, I think what we need to do is to, one, thanks for coming forward. We need to --
MS. MILLER: I'll investigate it.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: -- backtrack the administrative aspect of it. And if you could meet with Mr. Crane after we adjourn, and kind of walk through that. And we'll try and get an answer for you.

MS. MILLER: Do you remember who you handed it to?

MR. CRANE: Unfortunately no. I didn't get her name. And when I was asked I couldn't really provide a very good description. I wasn't really in a mindset where I thought I needed to remember that sort of stuff.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: And we appreciate that. And we probably ought to have -- Who from a legal standpoint needs to -- It's going to be Renee?

MR. MCGHIE: Renee.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Yes. Okay. All right. So, you can hang out for a little bit. And we'll walk through that.

MR. CRANE: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay. Thank you so much. Any other public matters?

MR. SINDRAM: Mr. Chair, I do have one follow-up question if I may?

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Yes, sir.

MR. SINDRAM: And that is, I took, with early voting, 441. So, on November 4th will that be available? Or we will be relegated to our assigned voting precinct?

MS. MILLER: December 4th the precincts will only be open in the wards. We will not have any early voting. There will be one day only. And that will be the December 4th date for the election.

MR. SINDRAM: And so, 441 Judiciary Square will not be an option to vote?

MS. MILLER: No. It will not.

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

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: All right. Thank you. Any other public matters? Hearing none, the meeting is adjourned at 11:55 a.m. Thank you
so much.

MR. SINDRAM: Keep up the good work, guys.

CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Thank you, sir.

MS. MILLER: Thank you.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 11:55 a.m.)
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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Board Meeting

Before: DC BOE

Date: 11-15-18

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