

GOVERNMENT
OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING

+ + + + +

MONDAY

MARCH 3, 2025

+ + + + +

The District of Columbia Board of
Elections convened via Videoconference, pursuant
to notice at 10:30 a.m. EST, Gary Thompson,
Chair, presiding.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEMBERS PRESENT:

GARY THOMPSON, Chair
KARYN GREENFIELD, Member

BOARD OF ELECTIONS STAFF PRESENT:

MONICA HOLMAN EVANS, Director
TERRI STROUD, General Counsel
WILLIAM SANFORD, General Counsel, Office of
Campaign Finance

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

2 (10:31 a.m.)

3 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right, good
4 morning, everybody. Happy Monday. Thanks for
5 gathering on a Monday morning. I appreciate
6 that, in lieu of Wednesday. It is -- what is
7 this? Monday, March 3rd. So we're nearly past
8 our winter and into spring. Weather is getting a
9 little nicer.

10 We have a pretty busy agenda today.
11 First off, we have a quorum. Karyn Greenfield is
12 here, so both Board members are present. The
13 first thing we do is adopt our agenda. We've
14 each had a chance to review that. So, at this
15 time, I'll move that we adopt our agenda. All in
16 favor?

17 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

18 CHAIR THOMPSON: Aye. And we've also
19 reviewed the minutes from our last meeting, and I
20 would also move that we adopt those minutes. All
21 in favor?

22 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

1 CHAIR THOMPSON: Aye. So, onto the
2 General Counsel's report. We're going to have a
3 series of petition challenges and some
4 enforcement hearing matters.

5 MS. STROUD: Thank you so much and
6 good morning, everyone. The first item on the
7 agenda is a nominating petition challenge
8 hearing, and it is Hamilton v. Wilson, candidate
9 for the office of Advisory Neighborhood
10 Commissioner for Single Member District 8D-06.

11 And so if we could determine whether
12 or not the candidate is on the -- can you scroll
13 down? We're looking for Hamilton. Yes. Maybe
14 it's Wilson v. Hamilton.

15 CHAIR THOMPSON: Can they raise their
16 hand? There's a hand raised.

17 MS. STROUD: Is that Anna H.?

18 CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah, Anna H.

19 (Pause.)

20 MS. STROUD: Wilson. The candidate is
21 Wilson. Yes. Is that 407?

22 (Pause.)

1 MS. STROUD: Is the candidate here?

2 (No audible response.)

3 MS. STROUD: Okay.

4 CHAIR THOMPSON: Does Ms. Hamilton
5 need to speak?

6 MS. STROUD: Well, let's see. Yeah,
7 okay. So, the challenger appears to be here, but
8 not the candidate.

9 CHAIR THOMPSON: What about the
10 circulator?

11 MS. STROUD: That was the candidate.

12 CHAIR THOMPSON: Oh, he's his own
13 circulator? Okay. Is it Ms. Wilson or Mr.
14 Wilson?

15 MS. STROUD: Mr. Wilson.

16 CHAIR THOMPSON: We're looking for Mr.
17 Wilson, the candidate, who's also his own
18 circulator.

19 MS. STROUD: Armonte Wilson.

20 CHAIR THOMPSON: Well, maybe we should
21 move to the next matter. We'll come back to it

22 --

1 MS. STROUD: Okay.

2 CHAIR THOMPSON: -- in a half an hour
3 or so, see if he's --

4 MS. STROUD: Yes, let's do that.
5 Okay.

6 So the next matter on the agenda -- or
7 the next item is in the matter of Samantha Lyew.

8 Mr. Quintana, if you could come up.
9 Yes. And before the representative from the
10 Office of the General Counsel presents his case,
11 I just want to give some background on this
12 matter, as well as the next two matters.

13 The Board is a member of the
14 Electronic Registration Information Center, also
15 known as ERIC. ERIC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan
16 list maintenance organization that was created
17 by, and is comprised of, state election
18 officials. And it assists election officials
19 with the maintenance of accurate voter rolls.

20 ERIC also has a voter participation
21 project that allows us members to request reports
22 after each general election that will allow them

1 to identify potential illegal voting activity.
2 Specifically, voters who may have cast ballots in
3 more than one state, more than one ballot in the
4 same state -- or federal district, as we are --
5 or who may have voted on behalf of a deceased
6 voter.

7 And these activities are violations of
8 federal law, as well as local law, and carry
9 penalties ranging from \$2,000 to up to \$10,000 or
10 imprisonment of not more than five years, or
11 both, for each offense.

12 As we did for the 2020 general
13 election, after the 2022 general election, we
14 requested reports from ERIC. And over the next
15 couple of years we conducted investigations in
16 conjunction with other states who also
17 participated in the project for that year. And,
18 based on the information that was received, the
19 Board's Data Services Division worked to
20 determine whether the individuals identified in
21 the reports who potentially voted in both D.C.
22 and another jurisdiction corresponded with

1 individuals on our voter registration record.

2 So we did an investigation to
3 determine what the -- whether double voting had
4 occurred or whether there was some other error.
5 And so the next three matters involve cases where
6 we identified that there had been double voting
7 in the 2022 general election.

8 And the first matter involves Samantha
9 Lyew. I'm not sure if I'm pronouncing her name
10 correctly, but, Mr. Quintana, if you could just
11 describe the Board's activities in this matter.

12 MR. QUINTANA: Thank you, General
13 Counsel, Chair, members of the Board. Following
14 up on the Election Registration Information
15 Center, or ERIC, report that we received, we
16 initiated an investigation in the matter of the
17 ballots cast in the name of Benjamin Gurin in
18 both the 2022 D.C. election, as well as the 2022
19 general election in Michigan. This evidence
20 obviously suggested a prohibition on voting
21 twice.

22 The Board staff checked the ballot

1 return envelope for the ballot cast in D.C. and
2 saw that the signature was very clearly not one
3 for a Benjamin Gurin, but instead, very easy to
4 read, a Samantha R. Lyew.

5 We launched the investigation and we
6 held a pre-hearing conference in where Ms. Lyew
7 appeared and was quite forthright and basically
8 said that she mistakenly signed and submitted a
9 ballot intended for Mr. Gurin. She testified
10 that she had rented the apartment there and had
11 been receiving mail from Mr. Gurin, as well as
12 other tenants. Both Mr. Gurin and Ms. Lyew were
13 both registered at 2701 Connecticut Avenue.

14 She also, during the pre-hearing
15 conference, basically admitted to it, called it a
16 careless mistake. She just did not look closely
17 at the name of the ballot to who it was addressed
18 to. She also referenced, basically, her life.
19 She has no criminal record of any type. She's an
20 attorney in good standing with the State Bar of
21 Georgia, has been rewarded for extensive pro bono
22 work.

1 So, it's very clear that that
2 signature did not belong to the intended
3 recipient of the ballot, Mr. Gurin, but that Ms.
4 Lyew signed it. And she has admitted to making
5 that careless mistake and has entered into a
6 stipulation with the General Counsel.

7 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay, thank you. Do
8 we need to hear from Ms. Lyew about her
9 acceptance?

10 MS. LYEW: Hi. My name is Samantha.
11 Can you hear me okay?

12 CHAIR THOMPSON: We can.

13 MS. LYEW: Okay, great. Thank you.
14 Hi. Good morning, everyone. Thank you, Mr.
15 Quintana, for doing a great job of summarizing
16 what you and I discussed last July. I just
17 wanted to raise one issue for the Board that you
18 might consider.

19 Like Mr. Quintana said, I carelessly
20 voted someone else's ballot. And I'd also just
21 add that I only voted once in the November '22
22 election. And so that also just demonstrates

1 that I did not attempt to commit voter fraud, in
2 the sense that I truly thought I was just voting
3 my standard ballot one time in that election.

4 The matter that I'd like to bring up
5 for you all to consider is whether you might
6 publish the administrative order for this
7 decision and redact my name or use initials or
8 some other anonymous identifier.

9 I have seen the other advisory -- or
10 sorry, the other administrative orders that have
11 been posted online and see that you almost
12 always, if not always, use defendants' full
13 unredacted names. And I understand there are
14 certainly reasons to post these decisions and use
15 the full unredacted names, but I would
16 respectfully request that, in this circumstance,
17 the facts that I've stipulated to do not justify
18 the use of using my full unredacted name.

19 It's really concerning for me that
20 this could be indefinitely posted online forever.
21 And, as you all have seen with my last name, it's
22 certainly unique. And I'm very concerned with

1 the tracing back to me forever for something that
2 is, while very serious, something that was just
3 simply a careless mistake. There are other
4 examples with D.C. administrative proceedings
5 where unredacted -- or, sorry, redacted names are
6 used.

7 I'd also suggest that, for certain
8 offenses, first-time offenders are able to have
9 charges dismissed after completing certain
10 actions. And one of those would be, like, a DUI
11 offense. And I would say, in this instance, with
12 having this administrative order posted
13 indefinitely with my full name essentially gives
14 me a record for life. And, as Mr. Quintana
15 stated, I have no criminal record, no civil
16 record. I think I've gotten one traffic
17 violation in my entire life.

18 So I would just respectfully ask that
19 you consider posting this administrative order
20 with my redacted name or with initials or some
21 other anonymous identifier. Thank you.

22 CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you. Ms. Lyew,

1 you're otherwise okay with the proposed
2 stipulation?

3 MS. LYEW: Yes, I am.

4 MS. STROUD: And, for the record, the
5 proposed stipulation that Ms. Lyew agreed to was
6 that she would pay a civil penalty of \$100 and
7 there would be no recommendation of a referral.
8 And that's what we agreed to. And we signed off
9 on that. And that will be entered into the
10 record.

11 CHAIR THOMPSON: Mr. Quintana,
12 anything else?

13 So, thank you, Ms. Lyew. We'll
14 consider your request.

15 Any comment at this point about that?

16 MS. STROUD: No, we will look into the
17 matter.

18 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. Okay.

19 MS. LYEW: I'd be happy to provide
20 supplemental briefings or attend any other
21 meetings or conference-type situations like we
22 did in July to further brief you all, if that

1 would be helpful.

2 MS. STROUD: That would be great.

3 CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you. All
4 right, does the Board need to vote on this?

5 MS. STROUD: Yes, I think that would
6 be appropriate, if you would. We could entertain
7 a motion to agree to the stipulation and have Ms.
8 Lyew pay a fine of \$100 for the violation of
9 signing a ballot or ballot return envelope that
10 did not belong to her. So she -- it was sort of
11 an attempt to cast a ballot, even though the
12 circumstances presented indicate that it was not
13 intentional, but it was still, in fact, a
14 violation. So I would ask for a motion that we
15 accept the stipulated agreement.

16 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Yeah, the
17 chair moves that we accept the stipulated
18 agreement, subject to Ms. Lyew's question about
19 whether we could redact her name, which we'll
20 determine at a later time. But, aside from that,
21 the motion is to accept the stipulation.

22 MEMBER GREENFIELD: And second.

1 MS. STROUD: With that, we'll take a
2 roll call vote. Mr. Chair.

3 CHAIR THOMPSON: Chair votes aye.

4 MS. STROUD: Ms. Greenfield.

5 MEMBER GREENFIELD: I vote aye.

6 MS. STROUD: Okay, and that indicates
7 that we will accept the stipulation agreement
8 between the Board and Ms. Lyew whereby she will
9 pay a fine of \$100, as agreed. And there will be
10 no referral in this matter.

11 MS. LYEW: Thank you.

12 CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you.

13 MS. STROUD: And the next matter is in
14 the matter of Ashlynn Fields. And that's handled
15 by a senior staff attorney, Ms. Christine
16 Pembroke.

17 (Audio interference.)

18 MS. STROUD: Oh, Christine, is the mic
19 on?

20 MS. PEMBROKE: Sorry. Okay, sorry.
21 As the General Counsel stated, the Board is a
22 member of an organization called ERIC that

1 generates reports about individuals who've voted
2 in more than one jurisdiction. And, as a result
3 of that report, we were alerted to the fact that
4 a voter who was registered to vote in D.C. voted
5 here and also, I believe it was, in Colorado.

6 And when we investigated, we
7 discovered that the person living in that
8 individual's former D.C. apartment had voted the
9 ballot that was automatically sent to him because
10 he did not cancel his voter registration. That
11 individual was Ashlynn Fields. She signed the
12 ballot over the signature line for the voter very
13 clearly her own name. She made no attempt to
14 conceal that she was voting another person's
15 ballot.

16 We were able to contact her. She
17 cooperated with the investigation and she's
18 agreed to enter into a stipulation by which she
19 would acknowledge that she did unintentionally
20 and mistakenly vote another person's ballot, in
21 return for which the General Counsel would limit
22 her recommendation of enforcement penalty.

1 So, I believe Ms. Fields is here. I
2 see her right there at the top of the list. So,
3 that's the background of this case. If the Chair
4 wants to hear from Ms. Fields, he can.

5 CHAIR THOMPSON: Ms. Fields, hello.
6 Good morning. The main question from us is, do
7 you accept the stipulation?

8 MS. FIELDS: Hi. Yes, I do.

9 CHAIR THOMPSON: Well, thank you for
10 that. Anything else you want to say?

11 MS. FIELDS: I think she summed it up
12 pretty well. I take election integrity really
13 seriously and didn't realize I was making an
14 error. I thought the ballot was mine since it
15 was sent to my apartment, and have cooperated
16 since I learned that I made this mistake.

17 MS. PEMBROKE: And can I add? She did
18 not vote another ballot in her name. She only
19 voted once in that election year.

20 MS. STROUD: And that was the case for
21 Ms. Lyew, as well, I want to say for the record.

22 CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you for that.

1 So, we'll go ahead and move?

2 MS. STROUD: Yes, my recommendation
3 would be similar, which would be that the Board
4 accept the stipulation agreement whereby Ms.
5 Fields would pay \$100 and there would be no
6 recommendation for referral.

7 CHAIR THOMPSON: The Chair so moves
8 that we accept the stipulation.

9 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Second.

10 MS. STROUD: We'll have a roll call
11 vote.

12 Mr. Chair.

13 CHAIR THOMPSON: Aye.

14 MS. STROUD: Member Greenfield.

15 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

16 MS. STROUD: And, with that, the Board
17 accepts the stipulated agreement entered into by
18 the Office of the General Counsel and Ms. Fields
19 with respect to this matter. And Ms. Fields will
20 pay the fine of \$100 and there will be no
21 recommendation for referral.

22 MS. FIELDS: Thank you very much,

1 everyone.

2 MS. STROUD: Thank you.

3 MS. PEMBROKE: The next matter is in
4 the matter of Susan Goodman. It's a similar
5 situation. Again, it came to our attention that
6 an individual who was living at an apartment that
7 was later occupied by Ms. Goodwin [sic] had voted
8 twice. And when we investigated, we discovered
9 that the ballot return envelope for that
10 individual was clearly signed by someone else.
11 And we were able to identify that person as Ms.
12 Goodwin [sic].

13 We were able to contact her. She
14 fully cooperated in the investigation. She did
15 not vote more than once in that election. She
16 only voted the one ballot that was sent to her.
17 She admitted that she did it by accident. She
18 didn't intend to vote another person's ballot.
19 And she entered into a stipulation with us.

20 She's not here today, I don't believe.
21 She told me she would not be making it. But she
22 did submit a written statement, which, with the

1 Chair's permission, I'd like to read into the
2 record.

3 CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes, please.

4 MS. PEMBROKE: So, Ms. Goodman wrote:
5 "I accept the proposed stipulation and will
6 promptly pay the \$100 fine should that be the
7 final determination. I am sorry that I sent the
8 wrong ballot. It was certainly not my intent to
9 do so. I was 80 years old at the time of sending
10 the ballot, so I just don't think as clearly as I
11 used to, but I will certainly be more careful in
12 the future. Thank you for your understanding."

13 CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah, I appreciate
14 that. And I appreciate in all three of these
15 cases the fact that the person didn't intend to
16 do this. It was inadvertent oversight. Maybe
17 they didn't read the ballot carefully. And also
18 I'm glad to know that our system notices these
19 things and has brought them to attention. So,
20 that means the system's working well.

21 And, in my own mind, I kind of think
22 of these sort of like traffic tickets. Like, you

1 know, I was -- I went over the speed limit. I
2 didn't really mean to. And it's an appropriate
3 approach, I think, we're taking here to enter
4 into stipulations reciting there's no intent,
5 but, I think in this case also, a \$100 civil
6 fine.

7 MS. STROUD: Yes, that's correct.
8 Yes. And so, with that, the motion would be the
9 same, that the Board accept the stipulated
10 agreement entered into by Ms. Fields -- oh, no,
11 by Ms. Goodman and the Office of the General
12 Counsel, whereby she would pay a fine of \$100 and
13 there would be no recommendation for referral.

14 CHAIR THOMPSON: The Chair so moves.

15 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Second.

16 MS. STROUD: And the roll call vote?

17 CHAIR THOMPSON: Aye.

18 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

19 MS. STROUD: Okay. And we have agreed
20 -- the Board agreed to accept the fine -- the
21 payment of a fine of \$100 with no recommendation
22 for referral in the matter of Susan Goodman.

1 And the next matter does not stem from
2 ERIC, but it is another case where a voter cast a
3 ballot meant for another. And this came to the
4 Board's attention because the voter at issue
5 contacted the Board to report receiving
6 notifications that she had voted in the 2024
7 primary election. And these notifications came
8 from the BallotTrax system and the voter
9 contacted the Board because she had not voted in
10 that election.

11 MS. PEMBROKE: That's correct. And so
12 we were able to determine that the individual --
13 an individual living at her address had cast her
14 ballot. That individual's name is Seth McNayr.

15 Again, we were able to contact Mr.
16 McNayr. He fully cooperated with our
17 investigation. He actually specifically
18 remembered getting two ballots. He voted the
19 first one. And when he got the second one, he
20 thought it was a mistake, and so he threw it
21 away. So he did not vote more than once. And
22 we entered into a stipulation where he also

1 agreed, as with the other individuals, to a \$100
2 fine in this case.

3 He's, also, represented in this matter
4 by Andrew George. So he's here on this call, as
5 well as his attorney, Mr. George. So if the
6 Board wants to hear from either of those
7 individuals, they're here.

8 CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah, Mr. George,
9 maybe you should go first as counsel. Do you
10 want to confirm acceptance of the stipulation or
11 say anything else?

12 MR. GEORGE: Sure. Can you hear me
13 okay?

14 CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah.

15 MR. GEORGE: Hi. Thank you. Thank
16 you for having me on this morning. I agree fully
17 with Ms. Pembroke. We agreed to the entry of the
18 stipulation. This was a mistake. And we
19 appreciate the manner in which the General
20 Counsel's Office approached this matter. And I
21 respectfully request that the Board adopt the
22 agreed stipulation.

1 I will add that I heard the request
2 that was made earlier by Ms. -- I believe her
3 last name was pronounced Lyew. And we would
4 respectfully request a similar accommodation in
5 this instance that Mr. McNayr's name either be
6 listed through a pseudonym or through initials.
7 Mr. McNayr works in the field of national
8 security and has some concern for potential
9 collateral consequences from the creation of a
10 public record in this instance. And so we would
11 request similar consideration. Thank you.

12 MS. STROUD: Thank you, Mr. George.

13 I don't know if you wanted to speak,
14 Mr. McNayr.

15 MR. McNAYR: No, nothing else to add.
16 Thank you very much to Ms. Pembroke and her
17 assistance on this. Definitely apologize to Ms.
18 Main for voting her ballot unintentionally, but
19 nothing else to add. I appreciate the
20 stipulation.

21 MS. STROUD: And, with that, I would
22 ask the Board -- I would recommend to the Board

1 that it adopt the stipulated agreement that was
2 introduced by the Office of the General Counsel
3 and Mr. McNayr whereby Mr. McNayr would pay a
4 fine of \$100 and there would be no recommendation
5 for referral.

6 CHAIR THOMPSON: The Chair so moves,
7 and subject to Mr. George's inquiry as to whether
8 we might redact the name.

9 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Second.

10 MS. STROUD: And, with that, we'll do
11 a roll call vote. Mr. Chair?

12 CHAIR THOMPSON: Aye.

13 MS. STROUD: And Ms. Greenfield?

14 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

15 MS. STROUD: Okay. And, with that,
16 the Board adopts the stipulated agreement whereby
17 Mr. McNayr would pay the fine of \$100 and there
18 would be no recommendation for referral -- no
19 referral in this matter.

20 Okay. So, the next two matters are
21 petition circulation irregularity matters. And
22 these arose as a result of findings made in two

1 ballot access challenge hearings to nominating
2 petitions.

3 The first is in the matter of Tommy
4 Herbert, who was a circulator for a candidate,
5 Kevin Rapp. And the order associated with that
6 matter was Administrative Opinion of the Board
7 24-025.

8 And, Ms. Pembroke, if you would
9 outline the matter for the Board and the members
10 of the public.

11 MS. PEMBROKE: So, as the General
12 Counsel stated, in the course of the challenge
13 proceedings it came to our attention that there
14 was some circulator sheets that were circulated
15 by a Mr. Tommy Herbert that contained pretty
16 clear evidence of forged signatures, in that the
17 signatures were all in the same hand.

18 Most notably, of an initial submission
19 of 60 sheets was a sheet 53 in which all of the
20 signatures, all of the 10 signatures on that
21 sheet, seemed pretty clearly, just from a lay
22 perspective, to be in the same hand, and also to

1 compare with the signature of the circulator at
2 the bottom of the sheet.

3 And all of the address information is
4 printed in the same hand. All of the dates are
5 entered very clearly in the same hand. In fact,
6 the dates were entered for each signature as
7 7-3-24. And then somebody went over each of
8 those 10 entries and wrote the number eight over
9 seven. So, it just -- you know, on its face,
10 that sheet in particular has clear evidence of
11 fraud.

12 So, we were able to get a hold of Mr.
13 Herbert and we conducted a pre-hearing
14 conference, which he attended and which the
15 candidate attended. And the candidate explained
16 that he was sort of scrambling to collect all the
17 signatures he needed. Because it's an at-large
18 seat, there's a fairly high signature
19 requirement. He didn't notice that, out of the
20 several dozen sheets he submitted, there were a
21 few sheets in which there were what appeared to
22 be forgeries.

1 He did say that there was -- there
2 were some sheets he did spot by another
3 circulator and he didn't bother -- he didn't
4 submit those. He notified that person that he
5 couldn't submit sheets with those kinds of sort
6 of evident forgeries. So he was making some
7 effort to make sure that the petition was
8 correct, but he missed that sheet.

9 Mr. Herbert acknowledged that he had
10 filled out those sheets. Initially, he was not
11 willing to admit that he forged other people's
12 signatures, but he sort of admitted it during the
13 pre-hearing conference. He explained that he was
14 being paid by Mr. Rapp per signature and then, if
15 a sheet was completed, I think he got \$35 for the
16 sheet. And he only submitted four sheets, so it
17 wasn't as if he was making a lot of money from
18 doing this. It was fairly nominal amount.

19 He explained that he did it because he
20 felt strongly about Candidate Rapp's candidacy
21 and ability to get on the ballot, and he was just
22 trying to help Mr. Rapp get on the ballot.

1 He was offered a stipulation. He did
2 not complete it. He didn't respond when the
3 stipulation was sent to him. He was notified of
4 this meeting and given all the information to
5 access it, but I have not heard from him as to
6 whether he would be here and I haven't seen him
7 on the call.

8 CHAIR THOMPSON: And, just to clarify,
9 you said he "sort of" admitted it. Can you maybe
10 be a little more specific?

11 MS. PEMBROKE: He said that he
12 collected signatures from people -- at the outset
13 of the pre-hearing conference, he said he wasn't
14 really paying attention to what they were writing
15 on the sheet and he left it to them to fill it
16 out. But, at the end of the conference call, he
17 sort of retracted that and indicated that he did
18 fill out the sheet. He didn't say specifically
19 "I forged names," but he said he filled out the
20 sheet.

21 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay, is he here?

22 MS. STROUD: No.

1 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay, so, Mr. Herbert
2 is not present. And so what's your
3 recommendation?

4 MS. STROUD: He -- yes, he's not. I
5 mean, I see that there are two numbers, but
6 they've not raised their hands. I'm not sure
7 whether either of them is Mr. Herbert.

8 CHAIR THOMPSON: Mr. Herbert, if
9 you're here, just raise your Zoom hand.
10 Sometimes there's not a name, just a phone
11 number. We can't be sure.

12 MS. STROUD: He can also use the chat
13 function or the Q&A function.

14 (Pause.)

15 MS. STROUD: And, Ms. Pembroke, could
16 you go into how you provided notice of today's
17 proceeding to Mr. Herbert?

18 MS. PEMBROKE: Yes. So, when he did
19 appear -- he was sent a certified letter of the
20 meeting and also sent an email of the pre-hearing
21 conference. And when he appeared at the
22 pre-hearing conference, I asked him if he would

1 agree to communicating further in this matter
2 through the email address that we had also used
3 to notify him of the pre-hearing conference, and
4 he agreed to that.

5 So, for the purposes of this meeting,
6 I sent him an email to the email address that he
7 agreed to use in communicating in this matter.

8 MS. STROUD: Okay.

9 MS. PEMBROKE: It did not bounce back,
10 but I did not hear anything further from him.

11 MS. STROUD: Okay. It would be my
12 recommendation that Mr. Herbert be fined \$150 in
13 connection with the apparent forged signatures on
14 the petition sheets that he circulated in support
15 of Mr. Rapp's candidacy, in light of there being
16 several sheets that were -- appear to have these
17 forged signatures.

18 They were provided to the Board
19 members for their review. And they were
20 identified by the Registrar, as well as the
21 challenger in the matter at issue, the underlying
22 matter, as having been signatures that were made

1 that purported to be the signature of individuals
2 whose it did not appear that that was the case.

3 And so, in light of that, I would
4 recommend that the Board fine Mr. Herbert \$150.
5 And we may proceed with this proceeding in his
6 absence ex parte. So I would recommend that that
7 would be the fine for Mr. Herbert.

8 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. The Chair
9 so moves.

10 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Second.

11 MS. STROUD: Okay. And, with that,
12 the Board will assess a civil penalty of \$150 for
13 Mr. Herbert.

14 CHAIR THOMPSON: Do a roll call?

15 MS. STROUD: Oh, yeah, roll call.
16 Roll call vote. Mr. Chair?

17 CHAIR THOMPSON: Aye.

18 MS. STROUD: And Member Greenfield?

19 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

20 MS. STROUD: Thank you. I jumped the
21 gun. My apologies. And so, with that, a civil
22 fine of \$150 is assessed against Mr. Herbert.

1 And I do not recommend, and the Board does not --
2 we'll not proceed with a criminal referral in
3 this matter.

4 And the next matter is in the matter
5 of Lakeshia Lloyd-Lee and Sherice Muhammad. This
6 was a matter in which Ms. Muhammad was a
7 candidate for office. I believe it was for the
8 State Board of Education. And Ms. Lakeshia
9 Lloyd-Lee was a signatory on a petition that was
10 submitted on behalf of Ms. Muhammad.

11 Ms. Pembroke.

12 MS. PEMBROKE: Yes. As the General
13 Counsel stated, this has to do with a nominating
14 petition that was submitted by Ms. Muhammad for
15 her bid for Ward 7 member of the State Board of
16 Education.

17 When her petition was submitted, it
18 was challenged. The challenger noted that one of
19 the petition sheets had a number of signatures
20 that were written in the same hand, indicating
21 that there might've been some forgeries. They
22 were for individuals who were also all at the

1 same address.

2 When the challenger raised that
3 challenge, the Registrar reviewed it and also
4 agreed that there appeared to be forgeries. And
5 so she put that in her report. That report was
6 shared out with the candidate. The candidate
7 happened to be the circulator of that sheet, so
8 she was warned that, you know, if she spoke at a
9 pre-hearing conference, whatever she said could
10 be used against her, and warned of her Fifth
11 Amendment right.

12 She chose to go forward. If the Board
13 recalls, there was quite a bit of litigation over
14 the signatures on her petition because she was
15 very close to having enough signatures. I
16 believe, at the end of the day, she was only
17 seven signatures short. And she argued
18 throughout the proceedings that the suspect
19 signatures were signed in her presence. The
20 Registrar, I think she updated her report three
21 or four times. In the final report, she
22 indicated that the signatures could be accepted

1 based on the fact that the signatures -- the
2 candidate was maintaining the signatures were
3 signed in her presence.

4 But, at the end of the day, she was
5 found to be just slightly short and did not get
6 access to the ballot. She then went on and
7 appealed to the Court of Appeals to continue to
8 fight for ballot access, and was not successful
9 on appeal.

10 Following all of that, after the
11 election, we initiated an investigation into the
12 signatures that appeared to be forgeries. And we
13 notified everyone at the residence on that sheet
14 that -- because they're all potential witnesses,
15 it all happened on the same day and they were all
16 living at the same address. We notified them
17 that we were going to have pre-hearing conference
18 on the matter. They all appeared. I think there
19 were five family members. They all appeared at
20 the pre-hearing conference.

21 Ms. Muhammad and her counsel appeared.
22 And, in the course of the pre-hearing conference,

1 Ms. Lakeshia Lloyd-Lee, one of the residents of
2 the house where these signatures were obtained,
3 acknowledged that she signed for two of her
4 children and that's why the signatures were in
5 the same hand. She apologized profusely. She
6 didn't appreciate that that was not permissible.
7 And her children, who were also in the
8 pre-hearing conference, corroborated what she
9 said, that she had signed with their permission.

10 So, it wasn't a forgery. She signed
11 with their permission. But it was a violation of
12 the election laws, which require that only the
13 person whose name appear on the petition actually
14 sign the petition.

15 So she entered into a stipulation with
16 us, and she's here on this call. And she agreed
17 to accept responsibility for wrongly entering the
18 names of two petition signers. And the General
19 Counsel agreed to cap her enforcement
20 recommendation at a \$100 fine.

21 Ms. Muhammad, as the circulator of
22 that sheet, then was also under investigation

1 because her failure to witness personally the
2 signing of the petition is a violation of the
3 election laws. Ms. Muhammad was offered a
4 stipulation and was not willing to agree to all
5 of the terms on that. So there is no stipulation
6 with respect to her and her conduct as a
7 circulator. And she is also here, I see from the
8 Zoom, as well as her attorney, Mr. Rondell
9 Jordan.

10 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. So, these
11 are separate. Let's take these separately and
12 start with Ms. Lakeshia Lloyd-Lee. Does that
13 make sense?

14 MS. STROUD: Yes, that makes sense.
15 And so Ms. Lloyd-Lee did submit a signed -- she
16 entered into a stipulated agreement with the
17 Board, with the Office of the General Counsel,
18 whereby she agreed to pay a \$100 fine and there
19 would be no recommendation of referral in this
20 matter. And so we can hear from Ms. Lloyd-Lee
21 before we take any action.

22 And so, Ms. Lloyd-Lee.

1 MS. LLOYD-LEE: Yes, good morning. I
2 want to first take accountability to say that I
3 do apologize. I'm sorry I'm so nervous. When
4 you sent over the agreement, Ms. Pembroke, you
5 stated that my fine would be \$25. I don't have a
6 problem with paying the \$100 fee, but when you
7 sent it over, you said that it was going to be a
8 \$25 fine.

9 I would like to say I'm very, very,
10 very apologetic. I didn't know. And I will take
11 responsibility for it. I just didn't know. It
12 was during a family -- we were getting ready to
13 have a family event and our kids were getting
14 dressed and getting ready, so I did ask them. We
15 all were in support of Ms. Muhammad, but they
16 were not able to come down to get the -- you
17 know, so that they could sign. And they did tell
18 me that I could sign. So I will say I'm very
19 apologetic for it and that will never happen
20 again.

21 MS. PEMBROKE: Yeah, okay. I'm sorry,
22 Ms. Lloyd-Lee, I misspoke. It is a \$25 amount on

1 the stipulation. My apologies about that.

2 MS. LLOYD-LEE: And I will ask to make
3 sure that this don't go on my record or be -- I
4 just started a new job and I honestly didn't
5 know. But we were all in support of Ms.
6 Muhammad.

7 CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms.
8 Lloyd-Lee. We really appreciate that. And don't
9 be nervous, don't worry. This is pretty minor.
10 And we'll take into consideration redacting your
11 name as well.

12 And this sounds like a situation where
13 it's the circulator that should have made sure
14 this was done properly. So, your role in this is
15 pretty minor and please don't worry too much
16 about it.

17 MS. STROUD: Okay, thank you, Mr.
18 Chair. And thank you, Ms. Lloyd-Lee. And so the
19 recommendation of the Office of the General
20 Counsel would be that the Board accept the
21 stipulated agreement entered into by Ms.
22 Lloyd-Lee and the Office of the General Counsel

1 whereby she would pay a fine of \$25. And there
2 would be no recommendation of -- there is no
3 recommendation for referral to prosecution in
4 this matter.

5 And so, with that, I ask the Board for
6 a motion with respect to Ms. Lloyd-Lee.

7 CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah, the Chair so
8 moves.

9 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Second.

10 MS. STROUD: And we'll take a roll
11 call vote with respect to that. Mr. Chair?

12 CHAIR THOMPSON: Aye.

13 MS. STROUD: And Member Greenfield?

14 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

15 MS. STROUD: And, with that, the
16 stipulated agreement is accepted by the Board,
17 and Ms. Lloyd-Lee will pay \$25 and there is no
18 referral for prosecution in this matter.

19 And now the second part is with
20 respect to the circulator candidate, Ms. Sherice
21 Muhammad. And she is represented by Mr. Rondell
22 Jordan.

1 MR. JORDAN: Yes. Good afternoon --
2 excuse me, good morning. Pursuant to the
3 applicable legal standards, Ms. Muhammad actually
4 moves for dismissal of the allegations against
5 her on the ground that the statute actually
6 requires knowing and willful misconduct.

7 Respectfully, it's not a negligence
8 standard. I believe earlier we mentioned, like,
9 a traffic ticket. Yeah, there's no evidence that
10 General Counsel has presented, or as Ms.
11 Lloyd-Lee just shared, to suggest that Ms.
12 Muhammad acted with intent to deceive or defraud.

13 And the statute is unambiguous. It
14 does require knowing and willful conduct to
15 violate the provisions of the statute. So, as a
16 matter of law, we're requesting the motion.

17 MS. PEMBROKE: The statute requires
18 that you personally witness the signing of the
19 petition. Obviously, she did not personally
20 witness the signing of the petition because
21 somebody else signed it. So it's actionable
22 violation of the law.

1 MR. JORDAN: Respectfully, D.C.
2 Official Code 1001-084, which is the very next
3 section referring to enforcement, it requires
4 knowing and willful conduct.

5 MS. PEMBROKE: Well, she knowingly and
6 willfully did not personally witness.

7 CHAIR THOMPSON: So, let me just
8 interject. Is that the correct standard, knowing
9 and willful?

10 MS. PEMBROKE: Well, usually it is,
11 but we're not -- you know, the Board has
12 authority to impose a civil fine, which would be
13 a much lesser standard.

14 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay, so we're in the
15 civil fine context. And I think the counsel's --
16 or the BOE's argument is that the facts indicate
17 a knowing allowance of improper signatures taking
18 place.

19 MR. JORDAN: Can General Counsel refer
20 to me where the standard is different from the
21 civil and the criminal? I mean, the statute is
22 pretty clear.

1 MS. PEMBROKE: The statute does not
2 specify a standard for civil penalties, but, as a
3 general rule, a civil penalty is not subject to
4 the same level of responsibility. And, I mean,
5 if you think that -- well --

6 MR. JORDAN: It's not about what I
7 think. I'm trying to go on, like, the law.

8 MS. STROUD: And so, I disagree, Mr.
9 Jordan. And the fact is that once the Board
10 makes a ruling, whatever it is with respect to
11 this matter, it can be appealed. And so that's
12 an argument that you can make at the appeals
13 level.

14 So, you know, I think that it has been
15 demonstrated that Ms. Muhammad did not personally
16 witness the signing of the petition. And the
17 individual who signed has conceded as much and
18 admitted as much. And we just issued -- accepted
19 a stipulated agreement that indicates that she
20 signed on behalf of individuals, which is a
21 violation of the statute.

22 And so my recommendation would be, in

1 light of that, that Ms. Muhammad be fined \$250.
2 And the Board does not -- I would not recommend
3 criminal referral to the authorities for
4 prosecution in this matter. I would recommend
5 that the Board assess a civil penalty of \$250
6 with respect to this matter.

7 CHAIR THOMPSON: And, Mr. Jordan, let
8 me just interject and I'll ask you a question.
9 It appears from the facts that Ms. Muhammad, in
10 her capacity as a circulator, knowingly allowed
11 improper signatures to be placed on the petition.
12 And then knowingly misrepresented that fact in
13 the challenge hearing that Ms. Pembroke referred
14 to. So, even if the standard is knowingly, I'm
15 interested just to hear you address the facts as
16 they've been presented.

17 MR. JORDAN: Yeah, thank you. When
18 you say knowingly allowed, that reads to me that
19 we're transmuting the conduct of Ms. Lloyd-Lee to
20 Ms. Muhammad. So they were -- from what I
21 understand from the facts, they were all in
22 around in the kitchen area, the children were

1 coming and going, and Ms. Muhammad had a
2 reasonable belief that the children had signed in
3 their own hand.

4 In fact, it kind of -- I mean, I've
5 handled petitions before. Like, sometimes you
6 can be talking to folks and they pass you back
7 the petition and you notice, hours later, oh,
8 wow, they left the date absent or misspelled
9 something. So the belief that she had was based
10 in the context of what was going on around them
11 while they were gathering petitions. So, she
12 believed that they may have signed it. That's
13 what I got from the facts.

14 MS. STROUD: So, if you personally
15 witness, why does there need to be a belief that
16 something happened? If you personally witness
17 it, then you personally witness it.

18 MR. JORDAN: Well, honestly,
19 personally witnessing something is based on a
20 reasonable belief, right? Like, when you see
21 something, all of us can kind of like, you know,
22 see the same thing and have our own different

1 belief about what exactly happened.

2 So she had no -- and I don't think Ms.
3 Lloyd-Lee indicated, and neither did General
4 Counsel -- she had no reason to believe that the
5 children didn't sign it. And, in fact, I think
6 this came up after General Counsel, I believe,
7 scrutinized the signatures and was like, oh, I
8 don't know, a handwriting expert or something,
9 like, these look like the same hand.

10 So that's not something that -- you
11 know, it's just like kind of common sense, you
12 know, that, oh, I thought this person was around,
13 they supported me, I thought they may have signed
14 on my behalf. I think that's a reasonable belief
15 standard. So that's why I'm kind of confused as
16 to what's the standard that we're using today.

17 CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you for that.
18 Of course, we have the stipulation from Ms.
19 Lloyd-Lee that she did, in fact, sign for her two
20 sons.

21 So you just hypothesized a few things
22 about what might have been in the case with

1 respect to Ms. Muhammad's role here. This is
2 totally your call. Would you like to present her
3 as a witness to testify directly under oath?

4 MR. JORDAN: Yeah. I would like to --
5 let me actually consult with her for a moment.
6 Do you guys mind if I chat with her for a moment?

7 CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah.

8 MR. JORDAN: Only a minute or two.
9 Just a moment.

10 Ms. Muhammad is prepared to speak.

11 MS. MUHAMMAD: Thank you, Mr. Jordan.
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Ms. Stroud. My question
13 really --

14 CHAIR THOMPSON: Hold on.

15 MS. MUHAMMAD: Well, I'll begin with
16 this. The circumstances behind my ballot
17 petition signature was in the Lloyd-Lee home --

18 CHAIR THOMPSON: Hold on. Ms.
19 Muhammad.

20 MS. MUHAMMAD: Yes?

21 CHAIR THOMPSON: Before we start, this
22 -- we need to put you under oath.

1 MS. MUHAMMAD: Oh. Absolutely.

2 MS. STROUD: Okay. Ms. Muhammad, do
3 you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and
4 nothing but the truth, do you swear or affirm to
5 do so?

6 MS. MUHAMMAD: I affirm.

7 CHAIR THOMPSON: Now, you know, you
8 can just, you can just sort of tell us your view
9 of the facts on your own, or Mr. Jordan could
10 maybe give you some direct questions. It's up to
11 you all how you want to proceed.

12 MS. MUHAMMAD: I can take direct
13 questions from the panel or -- and/or my counsel.

14 CHAIR THOMPSON: Why don't you just go
15 ahead with what you were going to say, and if Mr.
16 Jordan wants to interject, he can.

17 MS. MUHAMMAD: Okay, thank you. Thank
18 you, Mr. Chairman.

19 On the day that I was at the Lloyd-Lee
20 home, I was there at the kitchen table discussing
21 my platform, along with another gentleman who was
22 there from the union. I spoke with Ms. Lakeshia

1 Lloyd-Lee, her husband, her daughter, and her --
2 one of her sons, who had actually -- had come
3 down in the kitchen.

4 So there was discussion around my
5 ballot petitions and my campaign. So the
6 discussion was primarily why am I running for
7 State Board of Education and part of my platform.

8 Now, the issue, number one, with
9 regard to Ms. Pembroke's testimony, I wanted to
10 make two corrections. Number one, the reason
11 that I was seven votes short was because, not of
12 forgery, but because of the addresses of the
13 seven that were different from the Board of
14 Election's registry. That was why you, sir, Mr.
15 Chairman, denied ballot access for me to appear
16 on the ballot in the general election. That's
17 number one.

18 Number two, the signatures of Ms.
19 Lloyd-Lee and her family I believed were
20 authentic, and the discussion of my campaign at
21 the time. So I want to kind of paint the picture
22 of what actually happened that day. I was seated

1 at the table. I was having a conversation with
2 Pastor Kore, and I was also having discussion
3 with Ms. Lakeshia Lloyd-Lee. So there were
4 people coming in from her family, and so I'm
5 turning my head to left to speak with Pastor
6 Kore, I'm turning my head to the right to talk to
7 Ms. Lakeshia Lloyd-Lee, and that's generally how
8 -- what was happening on that particular day.

9 So my concern with did I witness each
10 signature is a slippery slope on the part of Ms.
11 Pembroke and Ms. Stroud, because I'm handling two
12 things at once, and that generally is the process
13 when -- if I'm at someone's home or if I'm, you
14 know, standing on someone's porch or in their
15 yard passing out ballot petitions on clipboards.
16 So it's a slippery slope to say that I stood over
17 like a drone and watched each person sign,
18 because in normal circumstances, procedurally,
19 when a Candidate is out there engaging people --
20 let's say they're at a table, they're at a mass
21 meeting, and you're passing out ballot petition
22 signatures, the witnessing of a particular

1 signature, peripherally, yes, specifically, maybe
2 not.

3 But the issue here, for me, was the
4 fact that I was less than two feet away from the
5 family members who, one by one, were coming into
6 the kitchen and signing my petition. So that's
7 the backdrop. That's the picture of what
8 actually took place. I explained this to Ms.
9 Pembroke in the preconference hearing, and when
10 she sent me the stipulation, I made some markups
11 of the stipulation. Not that I was not willing
12 to sign it. It was because the stipulation, as
13 it was written, did not reflect the facts of what
14 occurred in the prehearing with Ms. Lloyd-Lee and
15 her family, and it did not reflect all of what
16 occurred in my hearing with my counsel.

17 So we never heard back. We turned in
18 the stipulation with the proposed markups prior
19 to the deadline that was given, which was 10:30
20 or 10 o'clock Friday the 28th, and so we never
21 heard anything back from Ms. Pembroke. Even up
22 to this time, we never heard anything further on

1 the part of Ms. Pembroke or Ms. Stroud. We came
2 to this meeting because we knew that this was on
3 the docket to be discussed, but I want, for full
4 transparency, that we were compliant and
5 interactive with Ms. Pembroke and Ms. Stroud with
6 regards to the stipulation.

7 MR. JORDAN: Excuse me. And I
8 believe, if I may, I just want to clarify. So
9 this morning, around, like, I think an hour or so
10 before the hearing began, we received an email
11 from Ms. Pembroke saying that we're going to
12 proceed with an adversarial process and the
13 stipulation will be withdrawn.

14 But in that stipulation that was --
15 that has since been withdrawn, there was language
16 around negligence. And again, I understand that
17 we're in the civil context, but it's a bit
18 inconsistent. Like, I mean, logically, for the
19 statute on which we are -- Ms. Muhammad is
20 alleged to have violated, to have a standard that
21 outlies knowing and willfulness, and we're going
22 below that threshold, it just -- it's -- and you

1 know, based on what you all know already, those
2 two signatures were already previously challenged
3 and struck. So this is -- this could also be
4 contentious to due process.

5 I believe that Ms. Pembroke earlier
6 mentioned that Ms. Lloyd-Lee's behavior didn't
7 even constitute a forgery. So this -- you know,
8 we're kind of, like, really going beyond the
9 panel here to find Ms. Muhammad even in civil
10 violation. She herself didn't -- and is not
11 being accused of any, again, deceitful,
12 fraudulent actions, and doesn't even sound like
13 Ms. Lloyd-Lee is.

14 So it's just -- it's really, really
15 troubling. That's why, you know, among other
16 things, we're really pushing back on this,
17 because as Ms. Muhammad said, you -- we risk
18 chilling the electoral process where, you know,
19 folks have to actually stand over or risk
20 disengaging with other voters to make sure that
21 every T and every I is dotted on folks who are
22 otherwise supporting them. Even, again, I think

1 Ms. Lloyd-Lee contended, and Ms. Pembroke has
2 contended that the entire family was in support
3 of Ms. Muhammad. So it's not even a matter of
4 whether or not, you know, she was, again, trying
5 to circumvent the law, which is clear that it
6 requires knowledge and willfulness to circumvent.
7 So it's really, really difficult for me, and I
8 think even any court, to see that there's a dare
9 there when a statute is really unambiguous about
10 what's required to violate it.

11 MS. STROUD: Okay. I have a question
12 for Ms. Muhammad. Did you personally witness
13 Deonte Lee sign the petition?

14 MS. MUHAMMAD: I don't know them by
15 name. I know one of the sons was downstairs in
16 the kitchen. He had gone into the refrigerator
17 and he was, you know -- he was presented to me
18 or, you know, we were introduced to discuss, you
19 know, why I'm running and, you know, platform.
20 I'm not sure which names which goes with the son
21 that I saw in the kitchen. And the other son
22 that I do know. So unfortunately, I can't answer

1 that in the affirmative.

2 MS. STROUD: Which son do you know?

3 MS. MUHAMMAD: I know the younger son,
4 the youngest one. I can't recall his name.

5 MS. STROUD: Okay. So did you witness
6 the signing of every signature -- did you
7 personally witness the signing of every signature
8 on the sheet at issue?

9 MS. MUHAMMAD: Not every.

10 MR. JORDAN: Respectfully, Ms. Stroud,
11 I think Ms. Muhammad answered that earlier when
12 she mentioned that, you know, she was in the
13 kitchen, and through her periphery, she believed
14 that's what -- I'm sorry?

15 MS. STROUD: She just said that she
16 did not.

17 MR. JORDAN: Could you ask that
18 question again, I'm sorry, because we --

19 MS. MUHAMMAD: Yeah, can you rephrase
20 that.

21 MR. JORDAN: -- we haven't even
22 defined personally witness, and that's the issue.

1 MS. MUHAMMAD: Yes.

2 MS. STROUD: Whether she personally
3 witnessed each petition signature that was on the
4 petition sheet at issue and she said that she did
5 not.

6 MR. JORDAN: What do --

7 MS. MUHAMMAD: With respect -- I'm
8 sorry. Go right ahead, Mr. --

9 MR. JORDAN: I was just going to ask,
10 like -- and that's, I think, the crux of this
11 issue. What are we meaning by personally
12 witness? Are you referring to vision? Are you
13 referring to petition in hand? You know, what
14 exactly are we referring to? And I'm not trying
15 to play games with semantics. I mean, like, this
16 is a real thing that happens when folks are
17 circling petitions, like Ms. Muhammad mentioned.
18 You know, you can be in a group, as she was, and
19 everyone's there handling the sheet or in and out
20 or around, and you presume, because you have
21 their support, or because you've talked to them,
22 or because they've expressed verbally, hey, I'll

1 sign this petition for you, that that's what
2 happens.

3 MS. STROUD: Well, so here's the --
4 here's what the petition says. Here's what
5 you're signing off on when you submit a petition
6 as the circulator. You are saying that I
7 personally circulated this petition sheet, that I
8 personally witnessed the signing of each
9 signature thereon, and I have personally inquired
10 from each signer whether the signer is a duly
11 registered voter in the District of Columbia.
12 And so it's not just did I see. You're talking
13 to people. You are interacting when the sign.
14 And so you're signing to all of those things.

15 And so when you saw peripheral or I'm
16 not sure or things were going on, if you didn't
17 do those things, then you are falsely signing.
18 So that's -- you know, it's not just a question
19 of did I see. It's did I have this interaction
20 that is intended, that is contemplated, that is
21 discussed in the statute with respect to the
22 signing of this sheet.

1 MR. JORDAN: Yeah. And I mean, it
2 seems to me those three prongs were met. Whether
3 or not the fact of the matter, like right -- they
4 actually didn't sign, that's a little different
5 than whether Ms. Muhammad reasonably believed
6 that that's what occurred. You know, in
7 actuality we know, because Ms. Lloyd-Lee has
8 shared that she signed the -- on behalf of her
9 sons. But that's, again, transmuting, like, her
10 behavior and her decision to Ms. Muhammad.

11 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. Well,
12 thank you so much. I think we've -- we really
13 appreciate hearing from both of you about the
14 facts and the legal standard, and I think we'll
15 turn now to the BOE's counsel's recommendation.

16 MS. STROUD: Yes. My recommendation
17 would be, Mr. Chair, that Ms. Muhammad be
18 assessed a civil penalty of \$150, and that we do
19 not refer this to the authorities for criminal
20 prosecution.

21 CHAIR THOMPSON: The Chair's going to
22 move that we proceed in that manner, that -- to

1 impose a civil fine of \$150 with no referral.

2 And I want to assure Mr. Jordan and
3 Ms. Muhammad that we will look into the legal
4 standard. The way this usually works is there's
5 a written opinion that's drafted for our review.
6 We have a chance -- we Board members have a
7 chance to look that over. I'm going to look very
8 carefully at the way the legal standard is
9 described. I'll look into it myself, look at the
10 statutes. I certainly want to make sure we get
11 that standard right, because it's something that
12 we've applied to basically everybody that we've
13 been considering today. So that's going to be a
14 really important focus for me to understand the
15 standard and how it's described.

16 But so I just want to assure we're
17 going to look into that. If the standard is what
18 I think it is, which is -- which includes
19 mistakes, you know, that's perhaps what this is,
20 an oversight, in the same manner that the other
21 people that we've talked to today have, for
22 whatever reason, not diligently ensure that their

1 signing the correct ballot or, in this case, that
2 the circulator did not personally witness the two
3 signatures and, in each case, confirm with the
4 person that they're a duly registered voter in
5 the relevant district.

6 You know, if that's the case, it's
7 like I've said, it's -- in my mind, it's a little
8 bit like a traffic ticket. It isn't -- nobody
9 said fraud or nobody said deceit, nobody said
10 conspiracy. There's none of those terrible thing
11 that are being invoked here. This is just --
12 part of the process here in circulating
13 petitions, gathering signatures, filling out
14 mailed ballots is people make mistakes. It's
15 important for us to catch those mistakes and,
16 when appropriate, impose minor civil fines to
17 help make sure that there's appropriate diligence
18 on -- in these regards by Candidates going
19 forward. So I don't -- I really am affected by
20 your comment that we don't want to have a
21 chilling effect on Candidates, but on the other
22 hand, you know, we want to strike the right

1 balance.

2 So there's no referral here, there's
3 no findings of, you know, deceit or fraud or
4 anything like that. It's, I think, just simply
5 --

6 MR. JORDAN: Excuse me. And sorry,
7 respectfully, Mr. Chairman, too, I do want to,
8 for the record, say that the statute does
9 contemplate civil matters. It eludes to fines as
10 well as criminal matters, so it's clear and
11 unambiguous, just for the record, that it does
12 contemplate civil matters.

13 CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah, thanks. I
14 appreciate your argument. Like I said, I'll
15 definitely look into that very closely. So I
16 guess that was all by way of explaining my motion
17 to accept General Counsel's recommendation of a
18 civil fine of \$150 without referral.

19 MEMBER GREENFIELD: I second.

20 MS. STROUD: And we'll take a rollcall
21 vote. Mr. Chair?

22 CHAIR THOMPSON: The Chair votes aye.

1 MS. STROUD: Member Greenfield?

2 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Vote aye.

3 MS. STROUD: And with that, the Board
4 agrees to assess a civil penalty of \$150 against
5 Ms. Muhammad and not refer the matter for
6 criminal prosecution.

7 CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you.

8 MS. STROUD: And we will now go back
9 to Hamilton versus Armonte Williams, Candidate
10 for Office of the Advisory Neighborhood
11 Commissioner for Single Member District 8D06.

12 CHAIR THOMPSON: It's Wilson. You
13 said Williams.

14 MS. STROUD: I'm sorry, Armonte
15 Wilson.

16 CHAIR THOMPSON: And is Mr. Wilson
17 here now?

18 MS. STROUD: Yes, he is.

19 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right.

20 MS. STROUD: Okay. So -- yeah, the
21 Candidate is not here, but we can proceed without
22 the -- the challenger is not here, but we can

1 proceed without the challenger on this matter.
2 We're going to have the parties state their name
3 and either residence address or professional
4 address in the case of Maisha Thompson, who is a
5 representative from the Office of Voters
6 Services.

7 Mr. Wilson, if you can state your name
8 and address for the record?

9 MR. WILSON: Hi. My name is Amonte
10 Wilson.

11 MS. STROUD: And your address?

12 MR. WILSON: 4320 Halley Terrace,
13 Apartment 4, Southeast Washington, D.C. 20032.

14 MS. STROUD: Okay. And the -- again,
15 the challenger does not appear to be here, but we
16 can proceed without -- oh she is, okay. Ms.
17 Hamilton is here. Thank you.

18 And Maisha, if you could state your
19 name and work address for the record.

20 MS. THOMPSON: Good morning. My name
21 is Maisha Thompson. Address, 1015 Half Street,
22 Southeast, Suite 750.

1 MS. STROUD: Okay. And so what we
2 will do is we will have Ms. Thompson read the
3 summary of her report regarding the challenge
4 into the record, and then the parties will have
5 the opportunity to respond.

6 MS. THOMPSON: So today I'll be
7 reading the report to the challenge of the
8 petition of Amonte Wilson, Candidate for the
9 Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Single Member
10 District 8D06.

11 On February 3rd, 2025, Amonte Wilson
12 submitted a nominating petition as a Candidate to
13 fill a vacancy for the Office of Advisory
14 Neighborhood Commissioner, ANC, Single Member
15 District, SMD, 8D06.

16 The minimum required to obtain ballot
17 access for this office is 25 signatures. The
18 petition contained 31 signatures. The petition
19 was posted for public inspection for five days as
20 required by law. The petition was challenged on
21 February 11th, 2025, by Anna Hamilton, a
22 registered voter in the District of Columbia.

1 Challenger Hamilton filed challenges
2 to 12 of the 31 signatures submitted enumerated
3 by line and number -- and page number on
4 individual challenge sheets filed for each
5 petition page. The signatures were challenged
6 pursuant to the D.C. -- to the Board's
7 regulations in Title 3, Chapter 16 of the DCMR on
8 the following grounds.

9 The signer is not a registered voter
10 in D.C., 1603. The signer, according to the
11 Board's records, is not a registered voter -- is
12 not registered to vote at the address listed on
13 the petition at the time the petition was signed.

14 And 1607.1(b), the petition does not
15 include the name of the signer and the signature
16 is not sufficiently legible for identification.

17 1607.1(f), challenger Hamilton also
18 noted on the challenge sheet 1 of 4 that the
19 circulators affidavit predated the signatures on
20 the sheet.

21 My review of the challenges indicates
22 that 12 of the 12 challenges are valid. One is

1 valid because the -- sorry. One is valid because
2 the signer is not a registered voter. One is
3 valid because the signer is not registered to
4 vote at the address listed on the petition at the
5 time the petition was signed. Three are valid
6 because the signer's voter registration was
7 designated as inactive on the voter roll at the
8 time the petition was signed. And seven are
9 valid because the circulator did not or could not
10 have personally witness the persons sign the
11 petition as evidenced by their predated
12 circulators affidavit.

13 This leaves the Candidate's nominating
14 petition with 19 signatures, 16 signatures below
15 the number required for ballot access. It's --

16 MS. STROUD: Six or 16?

17 MS. THOMPSON: Six.

18 MS. STROUD: Six, okay.

19 MS. THOMPSON: Historically, with
20 Board approval, the seven signatures that have
21 been discounted due to the predated circulator's
22 affidavit can be cured. See the past Board

1 administrative orders. If the predated
2 signatures were credited back, the Candidate's
3 nominating petition would be at 26, which would
4 be 1 signature above the number required for
5 ballot access.

6 MS. STROUD: Okay, thank you.

7 Ms. Pembroke, you conducted the
8 prehearing conference. Is there anything to
9 discuss with respect to what happened during that
10 prehearing conference?

11 MS. PEMBROKE: Yes. Just very
12 briefly, the parties were, you know, made aware
13 of the fact that this was a defect that could be
14 cured. Ms. Hamilton did not wish to withdraw her
15 challenge, but she was advised that even if she
16 had done so, because this could -- this cure
17 could only be approved by the Board, the matter
18 would have to go to the Board. And so Mr. Wilson
19 was informed of that as well, and indicated that
20 he wanted to go before the Board in order to have
21 an opportunity to cure those seven predated
22 circulator signatures. He is the circulator of

1 that sheet, so he's available to testify as to
2 what happened and why he predated those
3 signatures.

4 MS. STROUD: Okay. Hi, Mr. Wilson.

5 MR. WILSON: Hi, hello.

6 MS. STROUD: Okay. Oh, yeah. Do you
7 swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and
8 nothing but the truth with respect to this
9 matter?

10 MR. WILSON: I do.

11 MS. STROUD: Thank you.

12 MR. WILSON: I just want to say that
13 I was the circulator, and it was an honest to God
14 mistake. I was there on that day to witness the
15 signatures along with my partner, who was the one
16 who turned in the petitions with me as he was
17 there as I was signing the signatures. And so I
18 made just a valid mistake and I would ask that
19 the Board grant me clemency and allow me the
20 opportunity to run in this election.

21 MS. STROUD: Okay, thank you. And so
22 you are asking the Board to waive what you

1 acknowledge to be an error?

2 MR. WILSON: Yes, please.

3 MS. STROUD: Okay. And as Staff
4 Attorney Pembroke indicated, there is precedence
5 for the Board doing just that with respect to
6 instances such as these. One example is Woodland
7 v. Murray, which is the Board's Administrative
8 Order 2022-025, and there are cases that are
9 cited in support of that. So the Board has done
10 that.

11 And so with that, Mr. Chair and Member
12 Greenfield, what would you like to do with
13 respect to this matter?

14 CHAIR THOMPSON: Yeah, thank you.
15 This appears to be a case where Mr. Wilson
16 mistakenly predated the circulator affidavit but,
17 in fact, did circulate the sheets at the time at
18 issue, at the time they were signed. That is a
19 waivable issue, so I would move that we accept
20 that -- Mr. Wilson's testimony and so waive the
21 issue here such that the signatures on that sheet
22 can be accepted.

1 MEMBER GREENFIELD: I second.

2 MS. STROUD: Okay. And we'll take a
3 rollcall vote. Mr. Chair?

4 CHAIR THOMPSON: Aye.

5 MS. STROUD: Member Greenfield?

6 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

7 MS. STROUD: And with that, the Board
8 has decided to waive the formal defect with
9 respect to the date on the circulator's
10 affidavit, and with that Mr. Wilson will gain
11 seven signatures, which would mean that he would
12 have one signature over the number required for
13 ballot access in this contest at 26 signatures.

14 And so Mr. Wilson's name will be
15 forwarded to the 8D Advisory Neighborhood
16 Commissioner -- Commission, and he will be
17 certified -- I mean, he will be granted status as
18 a candidate qualified to run for the Office of
19 ANC Commissioner for Single Member District 8D06.

20 CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr.
21 Wilson. No harm, no foul. Don't worry about it.

22 MR. WILSON: I really do appreciate

1 it, and I thank you all for your time and
2 dedication. To Ms. Hamilton, good luck.

3 CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay.

4 MS. STROUD: Okay, thank you.

5 And the next -- all the hearings are
6 concluded, and the next item on my agenda is
7 litigation status. The first matter is Stacia
8 Hall v. the Board -- v. the D.C. Board of
9 Elections. That is in the U.S. Court of Appeals
10 for the D.C. Circuit. The Solicitor General
11 filed a pleading, which was a cross appeal reply
12 on February 19th, 2025. An oral argument in this
13 matter is set for March 14th in the U.S. Court of
14 Appeals. The next matter -- and that will be
15 argued by the Solicitor General for the District
16 of Columbia.

17 The next matter is Charles Wilson v.
18 Muriel Bowser in the D.C. Court of Appeals.
19 February 6th, the Court vacated the order of the
20 Superior Court and remanded the matter back to
21 that court for further proceedings to address
22 Appellant's proper subject claims. On February

1 11th, the Board sought en banc review of the
2 February 6th decision. On February 26th, the
3 Court ordered that the Appellant's file a
4 response to the Board's petition for en banc
5 review by March 12th, 2025.

6 The third case is Charles Wilson
7 versus Muriel Bowser in the D.C. Superior Court.
8 This is the remand of the case just described.
9 To date, the Superior Court has not acted on the
10 remand.

11 The fourth case is Long v. D.C. Board
12 of Elections. That's in the U.S. District Court
13 for D.C. This case is in federal court pursuant
14 to the removal on November 26th of a matter
15 originally filed in D.C. Superior Court. On
16 February 3rd, the U.S. District Court remanded
17 the case back to D.C. Superior Court, noting that
18 only defendants can remove cases to federal
19 court.

20 The fifth matter is Long v. D.C. Board
21 of Elections in the D.C. Superior Court. This is
22 the remand of the case just described. To date,

1 the Superior Court has not acted on the remand.

2 The sixth matter is Deirdre Brown v.
3 the Board. That's the in D.C. Court of Appeals.
4 This is a case where the Petitioner sought review
5 of the certification of Initiative Measure No.
6 83. This matter is fully briefed and oral
7 argument is scheduled for April 24th, 2025.

8 The next matter is Calvin Gurley v.
9 the Mayor and the Board. That's in D.C. Superior
10 Court. An initial status hearing had been set
11 for February 21st, 2025, but on February 20th,
12 the Court granted the Board's motion to dismiss.

13 And the final matter is Sobin v. the
14 Board. That's in U.S. District Court. Other
15 than the granting of -- on February 21st, 2025,
16 of the Plaintiff's motion to proceed in forma
17 pauperis, there's been no activity in this case
18 since the Board's last meeting.

19 And that concludes the General
20 Counsel's report.

21 CHAIR THOMPSON: All right, thank you
22 so much. Thank you everybody for your patience

1 with all those many matters. And now we'll turn
2 to the Executive Director's report from Monica
3 Evans.

4 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5 This is the Executive Director's
6 report for February 2025. On February 4th, the
7 D.C. Council voted to expel the Ward 8
8 councilmember. We received the expulsion of
9 councilmember Trayon White, Sr., resolution of
10 2025, on February 5th, 2025. The expulsion
11 created a vacancy in the Ward 8 councilmember's
12 seat. The Board certified the vacancy at a
13 Special Board Meeting held on February 14, 2025.
14 The special election to fill the Ward 8
15 councilmember vacancy will be held on July 15,
16 2025.

17 On February 19, the Board of Elections
18 had our performance oversight hearing before the
19 Committee on Executive Administration and Labor
20 of the D.C. Council. In addition to providing a
21 recap of our activities in FY2024 and FY2025 to
22 date, I described our preparations for the Ward 8

1 special election and the 2026 election cycle.

2 Voter registration rolls. In
3 February, we registered 1,189 new voters and
4 processed 1,927 registration changes. In total,
5 we prepared 3,116 voter registration cards to be
6 mailed.

7 Additionally, 58 registered voters
8 were moved out of D.C., 209 voters cancelled
9 their D.C. registrations and registered with
10 other jurisdictions, and 577 voters registered in
11 D.C. after cancelling their registrations in
12 other states.

13 Online voter registration. We are
14 continuing to register voters using our website
15 portal. To date, we have processed over 96,462
16 applications using the portal. These including
17 new voter registrations and updates to existing
18 registrations. In February, we registered one
19 non-citizen to vote in local elections. Total
20 non-citizen registration is 981.

21 Since the election, we have seen a
22 noticeable decline in the number of non-citizens

1 registering to vote. We are also receiving
2 inquiries regarding the process to cancel a
3 registration.

4 Restore the Vote, or RTV. The RTV
5 division is working with the Corrections
6 Information Council, or CIC, on the joint after
7 action report on the 2024 election cycle as
8 required by the Restore the Vote Amendment Act.
9 They will also work with the Department of
10 Corrections and Federal Bureau of Prisons to
11 alert incarcerated D.C. residents from Ward 8 of
12 the upcoming special election. Eligible
13 residents will be able to vote in the special
14 election and will receive a mail ballot.

15 And lastly, the RTV is working with
16 the Mayor's Office for Returning Citizens
17 Affairs, or MORCA, and the Court Services and
18 Offender Supervision Agency, CSOSA, regarding
19 upcoming outreach events. We are currently
20 exploring the possibility of in-person visits at
21 the Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities.

22 2025 next steps and off election year

1 planning. We are getting estimates to address
2 our needs to replace voting equipment that has
3 reached the end of its life cycle. As we
4 continue planning for the 2026 election cycle, we
5 are taking steps to fully implement new
6 legislation. We are currently reviewing the
7 requirements of the Automatic Voter Registration
8 Expansion Act. We are meeting with jurisdictions
9 that have similar legislation. We are reviewing
10 our outreach plans, communications strategies,
11 and election worker recruitment efforts ahead of
12 the 2026 election cycle. Additionally, we will
13 convene all of our vendors to develop a strategy
14 to conduct a mock election later this year.

15 List maintenance. List maintenance is
16 an ongoing process. Our data team will continue
17 to focus on keeping voter registration records
18 accurate and up-to-date by conducting essential
19 tasks, such as identifying registrants who have
20 moved, whether in-state or out-of-state,
21 verifying deceased individuals, addressing
22 duplicate records, and identifying ineligible

1 voters and inactive voters.

2 As part of our voter registration list
3 maintenance efforts, we are conducting the
4 biannual mail canvas to verify the residential
5 addresses of voters who are eligible but did not
6 participate in the 2024 general presidential
7 election. This process includes sending a
8 First-Class non-forwardable canvas mailer to the
9 address on record. This initiative will help
10 maintain the integrity of our voter roll by
11 identifying outdated or inaccurate address
12 information.

13 To initiate this process, a total of
14 153,404 First Class non-forwardable canvas
15 mailers were sent to voters' record addresses on
16 Friday, February 28th.

17 Technology and cybersecurity. We met
18 with OCTO to discuss our application for the
19 migration to a .gov domain. We are currently
20 waiting for our application to be approved. We
21 have successfully completed the annual
22 self-assessment for the Nationwide Cybersecurity

1 Review, or NCSR, which helps state, local, tribal
2 and territorial government organizations assess
3 and improve their cybersecurity maturity.

4 Sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security
5 and the Multistate Information Sharing and
6 Analysis Center, the review was completed on
7 February 15, 2025. We are currently awaiting a
8 customized report that will include
9 recommendations to strengthen our cybersecurity
10 environment and provide an opportunity to address
11 any identified risks.

12 Voter education and outreach. On
13 February 11th, the Voter Education and Outreach
14 Division participated in the naturalization
15 ceremony at the U.S. District Court. The
16 division also finalized the outreach plan for the
17 Ward 8 special election. The plan includes
18 targeted outreach at libraries, nursing homes,
19 senior residential buildings and community
20 organizations.

21 Election worker division. In
22 preparation for our next election cycle, the

1 election worker division has updated the election
2 worker application. They are also compiling a
3 list of necessary upgrades and enhancements to
4 the election worker web platform. The division
5 recently took inventory of supplies to determine
6 what is needed for the Ward 8 special election.
7 And finally, they developed a training schedule
8 for this special election. The goal is to train
9 between 180 and 200 election workers over a
10 three-week period ahead of the July 15th special
11 election.

12 ANC vacancies. We currently have 27
13 active ANC vacancies for the 2025/2026 term.
14 These positions are in different stages of being
15 filled. After candidate filing requirements are
16 met, an open vote of registered voters of the
17 affected SMD will be held during regularly
18 scheduled ANC meetings.

19 And as far as more information about
20 the Ward 8 special election, as mentioned
21 earlier, we are actively planning for the special
22 election in Ward 8. On February 14, we issued a

1 press release announcing the opening of the
2 ballot access period for the July 15th election.
3 However, I must note that we have not yet
4 received funding to conduct this election.
5 Nominating petitions were made available on
6 Tuesday, February 18. We currently have 15
7 candidates who are circulating petitions for the
8 Ward 8 councilmember vacancy. The last date to
9 file nominating petitions is Thursday, April 17.
10 Individuals may visit the D.C. BOE website for
11 more information regarding the election, current
12 candidates and pertinent dates.

13 And that concludes my report.

14 CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you very much.

15 Turning to the Office of Campaign
16 Finance. Director Collier-Montgomery couldn't be
17 here, but we have General Counsel Sanford.

18 MR. SANFORD: Good morning Mr.
19 Chairman and distinguished Board member
20 Greenfield. The Director's full report will be
21 published at the Office of Campaign Finance
22 website, but I will provide an abbreviated

1 version.

2 During the month of February 2025, the
3 Office of Campaign Finance participated in
4 several community outreach events across the
5 District of Columbia. On February 1st, OCF
6 joined other District agencies at the Westminster
7 Presbyterian Church in the Southeast Waterfront
8 Neighborhood. On February 4th, OCF presented at
9 the ANC Single Member District 4A01 meeting. On
10 February 14th, OCF participated in an outreach
11 event at Pierce Park in Adams Morgan. On
12 February 20th, OCF attended a community event at
13 the Bernice Fonteneau Wellness Center in
14 Petworth. And on February 21st, OCF engaged with
15 residents at the Kelsey Apartment Center in
16 Columbia Heights.

17 In the Fair Elections Division. As of
18 today's date, there are 20 -- there were 20
19 certified participating candidate in the 2024
20 Fair Elections Program and the Office of Campaign
21 Finance authorized disbursement in the amount of
22 \$2,830,041.15. To date, there are no candidates

1 certified in the Fair Elections Program for the
2 2026 election cycle and no disbursements have
3 been made.

4 During the month of February 2025, the
5 Fair Elections Division conducted 22 desk reviews
6 and issued seven letters requesting additional
7 information. As of today's date, the total sum
8 remitted to the Fair Elections Fund is
9 \$872,102.58. To date, the Fair Elections
10 Division has issued 28 final ordered reports for
11 the 2022 election cycle.

12 During the month of February, the
13 Office of Campaign Finance issued 20
14 post-election audit letters for the June 4th,
15 2024 primary election and the November 5th, 2024
16 general election to candidates who were certified
17 to participate in the Fair Elections Program
18 during the 2024 election cycle. The audits were
19 initiated on the 3rd of February.

20 Public Information and Records
21 Management Division. During the month of January
22 -- as of January 31st, a required filing date,

1 there were 26 required filers in the traditional
2 program. Twenty-three timely filed, three failed
3 to file, and three were referred to the Office of
4 the General Counsel.

5 On -- as for the political action
6 committees required to file reports on January
7 31st, 2025, there were 44 required filers.
8 Forty-two timely filed, one extension was
9 requested and granted, and one was referred to
10 the Office of the General Counsel.

11 Regarding independent expenditure
12 committees required to file the January 31st
13 report, 12 were required to file. Eleven timely
14 file, one requested and was granted an extension.

15 In the Fair Elections Division, there
16 were 10 required filers for the previous
17 elections. Five timely filed, one requested an
18 extension, four failed to file, and four were
19 referred to the Office of the General Counsel.

20 Fair Elections Division for candidates
21 who participated in the 2024 election cycle.
22 There were 18 required filers. Eleven timely

1 filed, three requested extensions and were
2 granted, and four failed to file and were
3 referred to the Office of the General Counsel.

4 Initiative committees that were
5 required to file the January 31st, there were
6 two. One timely filed, one failed to file and
7 was referred to the Office of the General
8 Counsel.

9 Recall committees that were required
10 to file the January 31st report, six were
11 required to file. Four filed timely, two failed
12 to file and were referred to the Office of the
13 General Counsel.

14 The 2026 election cycle. A total of
15 six candidates have registered in the traditional
16 program. Two candidates for mayor, one for U.S.
17 senator, and three for the Ward 8 council special
18 election. The candidates include the following:
19 Nicholas Dorsey for mayor, registered on January
20 22nd, 2025; James McMorris for mayor, registered
21 on February 24th, 2025; Robert Simmons, U.S.
22 senator, registered on the 14th of February 2025.

1 And the following candidates registered for the
2 Ward 8 special election: Khadijah Clark, 24th of
3 February; Kara Johnson, the 26th of February; and
4 Oliver Roy on the 26th of February.

5 In the Fair Elections program, a total
6 of six candidates have registered for that
7 program; two for mayor and four for the council
8 -- Ward 8 council special election. The
9 candidates include Tracey Lucas for mayor,
10 registered on the 1st of February 2025; Gary
11 Robert Goodweather, registered for mayor,
12 registered on the 19th of February 2005. And the
13 following candidates registered for the Ward 8
14 special election: Salim Adofo, registered on the
15 19th of February 2025; Sheila Bunn, registered on
16 the 21st of February 2025; Dion Jordan,
17 registered on the 21st of February 2025; and
18 Robbie Jordan, registered on the 25th of February
19 2025.

20 In the Reports and Audit Division, a
21 total of 99 desk reviews were completed. They
22 included 41 of political action committees, 5

1 constituent services funds, 1 U.S. senator
2 representative, 38 principal campaign committees,
3 10 independent expenditure committees, and 4
4 initiative recall committees.

5 In the General Counsel's Division,
6 during the month of February 2025, the Office of
7 the General Counsel received 22 referrals,
8 completed 13 informal hearings, and issued 13
9 orders, which included the following. Four
10 orders were issued in which no fines were
11 imposed, and nine orders were issued in which a
12 total of \$11,435 in fines were imposed.

13 In the month of February 2025, the
14 Office of Campaign Finance imposed fines against
15 the following respondents. A fine of \$50 was
16 imposed against the committee to elect Darryl
17 Moch. A fine of \$100 was imposed against Markus
18 Bachelor. A fine of \$360 was imposed against
19 Sriqui for Ward 3 schools. A fine of \$50 was
20 imposed against Paul Trantham. A fine of \$3,650
21 was imposed against Friends of Vijay for Ward 4.
22 An additional fine of \$2,700 was imposed against

1 Friends of Vijay for Ward 4. A fine of \$250 was
2 imposed against Our Friend Brandon Douglass. A
3 fine of \$2,700 was imposed against Randy Downs
4 for Ward 2. And a fine of \$1,575 was imposed
5 against D.C. Black Democratic Caucus.

6 During the month of February 2025,
7 there were no requests for interpretative
8 opinions received, and there were no open
9 investigation before the Office of Campaign
10 Finance. And during the month of February 2025,
11 no show cause proceedings were conducted.

12 Finally, the Office of Campaign
13 Finance appeared before the District of Columbia
14 Committee on Executive Administration and Labor
15 during a performance oversight hearing on
16 February 19th, 2025. Amongst the topics
17 discussed were preparation and funding for the
18 Ward 8 member of council special election and the
19 election cycle in 2026.

20 The contents of both the Director's
21 reports and the General Counsel's report will be
22 published at the OCF website by close of business

1 today, on today's date the 3rd of March 2025, and
2 that should conclude my report.

3 CHAIR THOMPSON: I don't think my mic
4 was on when I said that. So hello, thank you so
5 much. If you didn't hear me, my mic was off.

6 At this time, we'll take public
7 comment. If anybody's out there and would like
8 to comment, just raise your Zoom hand and we'll
9 look out for you. Okay. Public comment. Public
10 comment going once, twice, three times.

11 Okay. Thank you everybody. Really
12 appreciate you being here those who have stuck
13 with us. It's been a good meeting. And we will
14 meet again on the first Wednesday of April I
15 think, which will be Wednesday, April 2nd. All
16 right. The day after April Fools' Day.

17 With that, I move that we adjourn.

18 MEMBER GREENFIELD: I second.

19 CHAIR THOMPSON: All in favor. Aye.
20 All right. Thank you.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
22 went off the record at 12:15 p.m.)

A			
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In the matter of: Board Meeting

Before: DC BOE

Date: 03-03-25

Place: teleconference

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