



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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Charles J. Marquardt
Victoria A. Harris

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Minutes of Voter Registration Challenge Hearing, February 15th, 2023

Commissioner Marquardt called the hearing to order at 5:32 pm on February 15th, 2023. Commissioner Marquardt explained that the purpose of the hearing was for the Commissioners to hear testimony and review evidence presented in regards to the voter registration challenge filed by Charles Teague against Sam Seidel. Commissioner Marquardt also explained for those present that Commissioner Harris had recused herself from the hearing to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest due to her having worked for Mr. Seidel as a City Council Aid. Also present was Executive Director Tanya Ford and Assistant Director Lesley Waxman, Sam Seidel, and Heather Hoffman who represented Charles Teague.

Roll Call:

Commissioner King	Yes
Commissioner Marquardt	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Absent
Commissioner Ward	Yes

Commissioner Marquardt swore in those who were present to present evidence regarding the voter registration challenge.

Ms. Hoffman presented the information previously submitted with Mr. Teague’s complaint. Ms. Hoffman also pointed out that the determining factor in where a person is registered to vote in boundary cases is where they habitually sleep and that Mr. Seidel’s house is clearly contained within the Somerville portion of his property.

Mr. Seidel made a presentation regarding why he should remain a registered voter in Cambridge highlighting, among other things, his address is a Cambridge address, his address had been accepted by the City of Cambridge, that he receives services from the City of Cambridge and that there are other homes with voters similarly situated in his neighborhood and he did not consider being singled out fair. Mr. Seidel also referenced that he believes that the complaint filed by Mr. Teague was done as a pattern of harassment.

The Commissioners discussed amongst themselves and with staff the factors to be considered in determining where someone should be registered to vote in boundary cases. Of particular focus was are there any other factors that can or should be determined.

The Commissioners decided with the consent of both parties to seek guidance on the above issue from the City Solicitor. Therefore, the meeting would go into recess and reconvene on March 1.

Motion: Recess hearing and reconvene on March 1st, 5:30 pm at 51 Inman Street in-person

Moved: Commissioner Marquardt

Seconded: Commissioner King

Passed: 3-0-1 (Commissioner Harris absent)

A True Record

Attested by: _____
Larry Ward, Secretary