



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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### COMMISSIONERS

Ethridge A. King, Jr.  
Larry W. Ward  
Charles J. Marquardt  
Victoria A. Harris

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Tanya L. Ford

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
Lesley Waxman

### BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING

#### Minutes of February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Commissioner Marquardt called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in-person. Also present was Executive Director Tanya Ford and Assistant Director Lesley Waxman.

#### **Roll Call:**

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

#### **I. Public Comment:**

Mr. Mello asked would it be possible to end zoom meeting and return to in-person meetings?

**Motion:** To close public comment

**Moved:** Commissioner Marquardt

**Seconded:** Commissioner King

#### **Roll Call:**

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

4-0

#### **II. Minutes**

**Motion:** To accept the Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, minutes with corrections

**Moved:** Commissioner Marquardt

**Seconded:** Commissioner King

Passed 4-0

#### **III. Reports:**

1. **Executive Director's Report** – No report.

2. **Assistant Director's Report**

1. 2022 Statement of Financial Interests Update:

Ms. Waxman stated she does not have the two SFI reports that were reported to be mailed. The two outstanding reports are Branville Bard and Bonita Cox.

## 2. School Committee Finance Report

Ms. Waxman received one report since last reporting and will send out delinquency notices by email to the four who are still outstanding.

Ms. Waxman received a request from the Charter Review Committee to draw a district map dividing 33 precincts into three districts. Commissioner Ward asked what was the purpose? She stated they might be considering having district councilors and some at-large councilors. Commissioner Harris who took notes of the zoom video added that the Chair, Kathy Born was wondering if the Commission could provide "sample district layouts". Please see Charter Review Committee zoom for full discussion. They also asked about fractional transfer. Commissioner noted he is very nervous about how information provided by the Election Commission would be used. Ms. Ford stated the need for a disclaimer on any information provided. She also suggested they submit a formal request for the information the Charter Review Committee is asking for. Commissioner Marquardt noted that Ms. Waxman did say in her written response that the board and the commission is neutral, and we don't consider political issues regarding lines being drawn. Commissioner King asked if we would send an email asking for clarification from the Charter Review Board. Ms. Waxman responded yes.

Ms. Waxman contacted Somerville Election Office about voter registration regarding 3, 5, 7 Harris Street and they do have those addresses in their system, those addresses are not in Cambridge system. Cambridge and Somerville both have 15 Harris Street in their systems. One voter at that address is registered in Cambridge and the other voter at that address is registered in Somerville. Twenty-one Harris Street is in both systems, however Somerville has it marked as "no longer in use" and Cambridge has people registered there. The commission will do more research before rendering a decision.

## 3. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Harris contacted Professor Stewart of MIT and Professor Cobb at Suffolk University regarding assisting with developing a survey for voters. They stated they would be happy to help and asked the commission to provide more direction about what information should be gathered in the survey. Commissioner Marquardt noted the city uses survey monkey and it might be available for these purposes. Commissioner King asked if this survey is to get voter preferences or to retrospectively see how they voted. Commissioner Harris suggested it is both. Moving forward, commissioners can send information to Commissioner Harris and Ms. Waxman, and they will talk with Professor Stewart and Professor Cobb.

## IV. Action Agenda

### Old Business -Election calendar

**Motion:** To accept the 2023 Municipal Election Calendar

**Moved:** Commissioner Marquardt

**Seconded:** Commissioner king

4-0

Commissioner King asked if ballots in the vault have been deposited of recently. Ms. Ford said we cannot yet.

**Submitted budget** – Ms. Ford has submitted her portion of the budget to the Deputy Budget Director.

Commissioner Harris stated she wants to make sure money for public outreach activities is in the upcoming budget.

Commissioner Marquardt urged everyone to watch Charter review Committee to gain a perspective on “where we are going”.

Commissioner Harris stated the purpose of the letter to the Charter review Committee was to thank them and express appreciation for the opportunity to respond to their questions and to make clear the Election Commission is here for advice and guidance throughout the process. It was stressed that whatever is proposed, is reviewed by the Election Commission prior to submission to the City Council. Commissioner Harris stressed it is important for us to work together and they seek out advice and guidance from the Election Commission. Ms. Ford stated it should be made clear as to what authority they have. Ms. Ford noted that she asked that question to the law department several months ago and no one has gotten back to her.

Census was mailed on 2-13-23. It was also included in the online daily city update.

#### **New Business**

Next hearing will be held at 5:30, at 51 Inman Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, on March 1<sup>st</sup>, in-person.

Next meeting will be held on March 1<sup>st</sup>, following the hearing, via zoom.

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm

**Moved:** Commissioner Marquardt

**Seconded:** Commissioner Harris

**Passed: 4-0**

A True Record

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Ward, Secretary