



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

51 Inman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139-1732 • Telephone 617-349-4361 • TTY: 617-492-0235  
Fax: 617-349-4366 • Email: Elections2@cambridgema.gov • Website: www.cambridgema.gov/election

### COMMISSIONERS

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Tanya L. Ford-Crump

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
Lesley Waxman

### BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS VOTER REGISTRATION HEARING

Minutes of October 2, 2019

The Chair called to order the Voter Registration Hearing at 5:30 pm on October 2, 2019 at 51 Inman Street. Present were Commissioner Victoria Harris, Commissioner Charles Marquardt, Commissioner Larry Ward, Commissioner Ethridge King, Executive Director Tanya Ford, Assistant Director Lesley Waxman, and a member of the public.

The Assistant Director spoke with the plaintiff that is challenging the voter registration. The plaintiff has plans to be on vacation the same day as the hearing and therefore cannot attend today's hearing. Due to the proximity of the deadline to register to vote (October 16), the Board cannot hold a Voter Registration Hearing until after the November 5, 2019 Municipal Election.

Motion Close the Voter Registration Hearing at 5:33pm

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner Marquardt

Passed: 4—0

A True Record

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_

Ethridge King, Secretary



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### BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING

#### Minutes of October 2, 2019

The Chair called to order the meeting at 5:35 pm on October 2, 2019 at 51 Inman Street. Present were Commissioner Victoria Harris, Commissioner Charles Marquardt, Commissioner Larry Ward, Commissioner Ethridge King, Executive Director Tanya Ford, Assistant Director Lesley Waxman, and a member of the public.

The Minutes of September 18, 2019 were reviewed and accepted with corrections

Motion: To approve the Minutes of September 18, 2019 with corrections

Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner King

Passed: 4-0

### II: REPORTS

#### Executive Director's Report – R1

The commissioners were presented with a choice of six routes for election night memory cards pick up. Each commissioner selected a route, the Executive Director and someone from the office will were assigned the other two routes.

Commissioner Marquardt will do the ballot packing on November 1, 2019.

The Executive Director asked the commissioners to contact their election day drivers.

The Executive Director reported that the office will remain open late Friday, November 1, 2019 from 8:30 am to 5 pm and Saturday, November 2, 2019 from 9am to 5pm.

The commissioners chose the following dates to conduct Election Worker training:

October 23	Commissioner Marquardt	Warden/Clerk training
October 23	Commissioner Harris	Inspector Training
October 19	Commissioner King	Inspector Training
October 19	Commissioner Harris	Warden/Clerk Training

Motion: Dispose of the ballots and election materials from the September 8, 2016, State Primary and November 8, 2016, State Election, pursuant to MGL c.54, sec. 109.

Moved: Commissioner Victoria Harris

Seconded: Commissioner Marquardt

Passed: 4-0

Motion: Change the entrance description on the Voter Guide for Ward 3, Precinct 1, from the "side entrance" to the "side entrance located on Berkshire Street".

Moved: Commissioner Harris  
Seconded: Commissioner Marquardt  
Passed: 4—0

The Executive Director reported that the Election Commission received the Secretary of State certification letter for the ImageCast Tabulator Software (R2).

#### Assistant Director's Report – (R3)

The Assistant Director presented the Warden/Clerk and the Inspector training manuals (R5 and R4). The commissioners will review and email and suggestions to the Assistant Director by end of business Friday, October 4.

The Assistant Director also presented to the Board the following draft materials:

- Ejected Ballot quick reference guide (R6)
- Ballot Jams quick reference (R7)
- Instructions for polling locations with two ballot boxes (R8)
- Election Worker Training – Voter Referral Cards

### III COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner Marquardt reported that 259 Pearl Street is not a valid address

Commissioner Harris made the following three reports:

1. Report on public comment at 9/4/19 and 9/18/19 meetings

Remarks were made during public comment during the meetings of September 4th and September 18th regarding the random draw of precincts for the municipal election of 2017. Commissioner Harris reviewed documentation concerning related events and confirmed the facts already on file. The random draw had been scheduled for October 18, 2017. There were 2 commissioners who, unfortunately, had situations of a personal and emergency nature which arose within hours of the meeting, which necessitated the re-scheduling of the Commission meeting due to a lack of quorum. Apologies were made for the change, and the meeting was re-scheduled for October 24, 2017, at which the random draw of precincts was completed. The municipal election was administered successfully.

2. Parking Day report

Commissioner Harris, Barbara Morales, and Cheryl Vass from the Commission office staff represented the Election Commission at Parking Day on September 20. The space, located on Church Street in Harvard Square, received a lot of foot traffic, and people were asked to participate in a mock exercise for electing Cambridge's favorite candy using proportional representation voting. Materials at the table included specimen ballots, information regarding the re-designed ballot for the municipal election, voter registration materials, and precinct information. Ten people were registered to vote during the event. Overall, the day went very well, and the materials and other information from the Commission were well-received by the public.

3. Meeting with Anthony Wilson

During Parking Day, Anthony Wilson, the new City Clerk, and his family were among the visitors to the Commission table. Commissioner Harris asked whether he would be able to share some of his experiences with elections in Springfield

(where he was formerly City Clerk and oversaw the election administration function). Mr. Wilson said he would be happy to, and a meeting is scheduled for October 8 at 10 am. Commissioner Ward said he would also be interested in attending.

IV: PUBLIC COMMENT

in attendance: Gary Mello. Mr. Mello made comments (see attached )

V: ACTION AGENDA

The commissioners will schedule their Designated Healthcare Absentee Voting appointments.

Old Business – None

**Next meeting will be held on October 16, 2019 at 5:30 PM at 51 Inman Street**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 6:40 PM

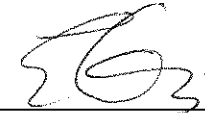
Moved: Commissioner Harris

Seconded: Commissioner ward

Passed: 4-0

A True Record

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_



Ethridge King, Secretary

Gary Mello 10/2/2019

I'm requesting a review of the financial dealings of a candidate for Cambridge City Council.

According to OCPF posting Candidate Denise Simmons is using campaign funds to pay rent for her private insurance agency. That office is located on the seventh floor of 678 Massachusetts Avenue. The building directory lists #700 as Allstate Insurance, Denise Simmons agent. At the seventh floor landing signs plainly indicate Allstate Insurance as tenant in addition to campaign material.

Payee, or landlord for the Allstate Agency is Partnership for Democracy and Education. While I personally disapprove the sublease of a nonprofit's space by a City Councillor, it is the Election Commission's discretion to investigate that aspect further.

Councillor Simmons explanation will be that the rent payment is an apportionment. Determined by whom? On what basis? Has she officially suspended the Insurance Agency for the duration of the 2019 campaign?


I fully expect Commissioners to immediately dismiss my concern of candidates' financial dealings as not within their jurisdiction and suggest that I contact OCPF. Indeed, I can reliably expect Cambridge's four Election Commissioners to refuse *any* request for work.

Let's review OCPF's most recent activities regarding Cambridge political candidates Smalltime Council candidate Paul Mahoney was fined for rookie mistakes while longstanding Candidate/Councillor Ken Reeves was given a pass for tens of thousands of dollars worth in kind donations. OCPF is not a reliable watchdog agency civilians should approach.

No, I'm asking the Cambridge Election Commission to investigate my inquiry under its responsibility to enforce the City's Ethics Ordinance. That's an all encompassing umbrella with no holes and zero constraints. Commissioners are obligated to follow up on a resident's concerns. If Commissioners' first concern is the potential risk to their own patronage positions we pretty much display why no Ethics Ordinance activity is on record.

Given my own assertion that Denise Simmons was instrumental in the 2018 nomination and appointment of now Chairperson Victoria Harris as Election Commissioner. I request that Ms. Harris transfer the principal investigator responsibility to Commission Secretary and Republican appointee Ethridge King.

Let me be precise in my goal: I'm asking that following its own investigation The Cambridge Election Commission, in its capacity as enforcer of the Municipal Ethics Code, conclude that Councillor Simmons' comingling of business and campaign funds is inappropriate and recommend that rents for the Mass. Ave. office paid out by her campaign be returned and properly relisted as refunded to OCPF, with her Insurance Agency then settling up with lessor Partnership for Democracy and Education as the two entities wish.

  
2 Oct 19