



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-Crump

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Lesley Waxman

BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Minutes of October 13, 2021

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm on October 13, 2021 via Zoom.

Roll Call:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Commissioner Larry Ward | Present |
| Commissioner Victoria Harris | Present |
| Commissioner Ethridge King | Present |
| Commissioner Charles Marquardt | Present |

Also, present were Executive Director Tanya Ford-Crump, Assistant Director Lesley Waxman and Jeff Amero and Sean Sweeney from Geographic Information Systems "GIS".

The first order of business for the meeting was the Random Draw of Precincts for the November 2, 2021 Municipal Election. Commissioner Ward showed everyone on Zoom that the container for the corks numbered for each Ward and Precinct combination was empty before dropping the corks into the container and spinning it to shake up the corks randomizing the results. Commissioner Ward then selected corks one at a time and displayed each for those on Zoom. Commissioner Marquardt was in the room with Commissioner Ward observing the selections and recording them on the attached form.

Commissioner Ward then explained that GIS was present to present Simulation 2D as well as a couple of modification possibilities to deal with an apartment building split between two Census blocks.

Motion: To suspend the rules to bring forward GIS presentation and reprecincting.

Moved: Commissioner Ward

Seconded: Commissioner Harris

Roll Call

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Ward | Yea |
| Commissioner Harris | Yea |
| Commissioner King | Yea |
| Commissioner Marquardt | Yea |

Passed: 4—0

Jeff Amero started by noting that GIS has been fine tuning the map over the past week. In this process, they identified a building at 205 Richdale Ave that is split into two Census blocks.

Sean Sweeney presented two options for resolving this issue:

- Simulation 2D-1 moves a block into 10-2 such that both blocks are now in 10-2.

- Simulation 2D-2 moves a block into 10-3 such that both blocks are in 10-3.

Commissioner King commented that he lives in that building and he believes at Simulation 2D-2 is a better solution.

Ms. Ford-Crump noted that she and Ms. Waxman will be meeting remotely with Senator Brownsburger and Representative Moran, Co-Chairs of the Special Joint Committee on Redistricting to discuss the State Senate and House redistricting maps released on Tuesday, October 12th.

Commissioner Harris asked about the implications of the State maps released yesterday on the Cambridge reprecincting as there are differences between the State districts and the Cambridge precincts in Simulation 2D.

Ms. Ford-Crump noted that there would be more information at tomorrow's meeting as they will have met with Senator Brownsberger and Representative Moran.

The Commissioners discussed Simulation 2D-1 and 2D-2 and the adjustments for Census blocks splitting 205 Richdale Ave and determined that they would follow Commissioner King's lead as he resides in that building.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair opened the meeting for public comment.

James Williamson, 1000 Jackson Place, commented that he appreciated the work of the Commission and GIS in addressing issues related to Rindge Towers that were raised last week. He commented that keeping Ward 11 in a coherent shape and not requiring voters to cross railroad tracks was appreciated. He noted that additional time for comment would be appreciated as it is hard to get the word out to more people. Mr. Williamson also expressed interest in the location of the polling location for the new 11-1.

Gerry McDonough, Hollis Street, thanked the Commission and staff for listening to the concerns raised and addressing them in the revised precinct maps.

There being no more public comment.

Motion: To close Public Comment.

Moved: Commissioner Ward

Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward Yea

Commissioner Harris Yea

Commissioner King Yea

Commissioner Marquardt Yea

Passed: 4—0

II: MINUTES

Motion: To approve the minutes of October 6, 2021 with corrections.

Moved: Commissioner Ward

Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Commissioner Ward | Yea |
| Commissioner Harris | Yea |
| Commissioner King | Yea |
| Commissioner Marquardt | Yea |
| Passed: | 4—0 |

Commissioner Ward indicated that he would like to return to discussion of reprecincting after having heard public comment.

Motion: **To suspend the rules to bring forward reprecincting.**
Moved: Commissioner Ward
Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Commissioner Ward | Yea |
| Commissioner Harris | Yea |
| Commissioner King | Yea |
| Commissioner Marquardt | Yea |
| Passed: | 4—0 |

Commissioner Marquardt opened by commenting that he believed a goal in the remainder of the process should be to avoid needing sub-precincts now that concerns raised by residents in public comment over the past two weeks have been satisfactorily addressed.

Jeff Amero commented that he had spoken to the Secretary of the Commonwealth’s office to obtain the shape files for the redistricting maps. He informed the Commission that the SOC was trying to tighten the boundaries and having map files from Cambridge would help.

Executive Director Ford-Crump commented that having an approved map from the Commissioners would put her and the Assistant Director in a better position for their discussion with Senator Brownsberger and Representative Moran tomorrow.

Commissioner Harris noted that the redistricting maps would appear to require changes to the reprecincting maps, which will require additional work and public input.

Commissioner Ward noted that the redistricting maps use the old precinct boundaries which we cannot use in their entirety because of population growth.

Commissioner Harris raised a concern regarding possible confusion between the process that the Legislature used and the reprecincting process.

Executive Director Ford-Crump commented that the Commissioners would be approving a map and not the entire reprecincting plan which requires detailed descriptions of precinct boundaries. This process comes after the map and the map can be changed until submitted for final approval by LEDRC. She also encouraged members of the public to reach out to their representatives if they have any concerns regarding redistricting.

Commissioner Marquardt commented that it is important to focus on the impacts of the redistricting maps on Cambridge.

Commissioner King commented that he shared many of his colleagues' thoughts. He also noted that he believes that Simulation map 2D-2 was the preferred map.

Motion: To approve Simulation Map 2D-2.

Moved: Commissioner Ward

Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward Yea

Commissioner Harris Yea

Commissioner King Yea

Commissioner Marquardt Yea

Passed: 4—0

Commissioners Ward and Harris thanked GIS for all their hard work and Executive Director Ford-Crump and Assistant Director Waxman for their clarifications of the process.

III: REPORTS

1. Executive Director's Report

- a. Request to dispose of the ballots and election materials from the September 4, 2018, State Primary and November 6, 2018, State Election, pursuant to MGL c.54, sec. 109

Motion: To approve Request to dispose of the ballots and election materials from the September 4, 2018, State Primary and November 6, 2018, State Election, pursuant to MGL c.54, sec. 109

Moved: Commissioner Ward

Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward Yea

Commissioner Harris Yea

Commissioner King Yea

Commissioner Marquardt Yea

Passed: 4—0

- b. Municipal Election, November 2, 2021
 - 9584 early voting ballot applications received
 - 9361 ballots mailed to voters - 225 voted ballots received
 - Revised Draft Ballot Drop Box Pickup/Drop and Chain of Custody Procedures, there were additional edits identified and Ms. Ford-Crump to discuss at the October 14th meeting. Commissioner Harris commented that Victor at DPW had mentioned they could open them every day. Commissioner King noted that we could transition to keeping the boxes open 24 x 7. Commissioner Harris noted that this would require flame retarding devices to be installed. Ms. Ford-Crump commented that all the materials sent for this election have the schedule of the drop boxes included and that

any changes would have to be discussed with the City Solicitor. Commissioner King commented that keep times for this election and possibly reconsider for the future.

- Request for additional funds to cover Municipal Election expenses on the agenda for the City Council meeting of October 18th
- Memory Card pickup – Commissioners and Director
- Driver routes – There will be 8 large vans instead of six to accommodate the additional black ballot boxes (2)

c. Buildings and Grounds Committee (School) – attended the meeting to request use of the Morse School, 40 Granite Street and the Martin Luther King, Jr. School, 102 Putnam Ave. for the upcoming Special State Primary, Dec. 14 and Special State Election, January 11, 2021. Committee members will submit their recommendations to the School Committee. Response seems favorable

2. Assistant Director's Report

a. Election Worker Training Update

- Scytl will be sending a link out by the end of the week - once it goes out, I will notify you and commissioners should send an email with the link to their workers and a reminder to complete training
- Manuals will be mailed this week only to workers who have sent back paperwork saying that they are working
- In-person training for election workers who don't have access to online training?

Commissioner Marquardt commented that he can accommodate in person training and will provide a date at the next meeting.

b. Draft Evacuation Procedures (R4)

Commissioners thanked Ms. Waxman for her work on these procedures.

Motion: To the Evacuation Procedures

Moved: Commissioner Ward

Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward Yea

Commissioner Harris Yea

Commissioner King Yea

Commissioner Marquardt Yea

Passed: 4—0

3. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Harris reported:

Harvard Votes is having an event on November 4th. She indicated that should could

attend contingent on the Municipal Election not be ongoing at the time. Commissioner Marquardt commented that he could attend with the same contingency. She had spoken with Harvard Law School about potential poll workers and she will reach out and encourage them to apply online. She attended the Building and Grounds Subcommittee of the School Committee meeting with Ms. Ford-Crump and Commissioner Ward. She also suggested that we should hold a joint meeting after the election with the City Council and School Committee to discuss use of the schools as polling locations. 21 Notre Dame Ave is **NOT** a valid address.

Commissioner Ward reported:

363 Cambridge Street is **NOT** a valid address

He attended the Building and Grounds Subcommittee of the School Committee meeting with Ms. Ford-Crump and Commissioner Harris. Commissioner Ward will convene a meeting on the use of the schools as polling location.

He had a conversation with Damien Smith, CRLS Principal, regarding the use of CRLS as a polling location. Principal Smith is supportive of having CRLS as a polling location.

IV. ACTION AGENDA

Old Business

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:41 pm

Moved: Commissioner Ward

Seconded: Commissioner King

Roll Call

Commissioner Ward Yea

Commissioner Harris Yea

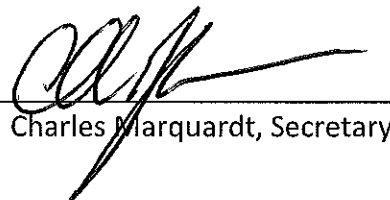
Commissioner King Yea

Commissioner Marquardt Yea

Passed: 4—0

A True Record

Attested by: _____



Charles Marquardt, Secretary