



# 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 MEETING Minutes of March 2, 2022

Commissioner Ward called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm on March 2, 2022 via Zoom.

#### Roll Call:

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

Also present was Executive Director Tanya Ford-Crump and Assistant Director Lesley Waxman.

The scheduled SFI hearing is not required as the remaining 3 filers completed their filings prior to the scheduled hearing.

#### I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Mello, Franklin Street commented that he would like to request to review the unvoted ballots from the Municipal Election for Ward 6 Precinct 3 to review the ballots for randomization. Mr. Mello also commented that he was opposed to additional pension service for election employees due to COVID.

**Motion:** To close Public Comment.  
**Moved:** Commissioner Ward  
**Seconded:** Commissioner King

#### Roll Call:

Commissioner Larry Ward	Yes
Commissioner Victoria Harris	Yes
Commissioner Ethridge King	Yes
Commissioner Charles Marquardt	Yes
<b>Passed:</b>	<b>4—0</b>

#### II. MINUTES

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of February 15, 2022 with corrections.  
**Moved:** Commissioner Ward  
**Seconded:** Commissioner Harris

**Roll Call:**

Commissioner Larry Ward	Yes
Commissioner Victoria Harris	Yes
Commissioner Ethridge King	Yes
Commissioner Charles Marquardt	Yes

**Passed: 4—0**

**III: REPORTS**

**1. Executive Director's Report**

- A. Mr. Mello's Request  
Ms. Ford-Crump commented that Mr. Mello's request made during Public Comment should be made in writing to the Commission.
- B. City Census  
Ms. Ford-Crump informed the Commissioners that the city-wide census has been mailed and the drop box at 51 Inman St will be open for returns.
- C. Candidate letter from Democratic Party to the City Manager regarding commissioner appointment. Commissioner Victoria A. Harris term expiration is March 31, 2022.

Commissioner Harris commented that there was a public meeting held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> for all candidates to present their qualifications and respond to questions. Two people submitted questionnaires and answered questions at the hearing. Members of the City Committee will vote on March 17<sup>th</sup>. She noted that she would expect the City Manager to have a letter with the results shortly thereafter.

**2. Assistant Director's Report**

- A. Statement of Financial Interests - the final three forms were filed:
- a. Bonita Cox – filed 2/22/22
  - b. Manikka Bowman – filed 2/28/22
  - c. Ann Coyne – filed 3/2/22
- B. School Committee Campaign Finance Reports – still three reports not turned in:
- a. Manikka Bowman
  - b. Bernette Dawson – formal notice came back return to sender 2/22/22; Notice was re-mailed to her new address
  - c. Elechi Kadete

Ms. Waxman to report committees to OCPF.

- C. VRIS update: Ms. Waxman spoke with the Secretary of State's office and they confirmed that we need to let them know ASAP which apartment numbers at 205 Richdale Ave are in 10-2 and which are in 10-3.

Commissioner King to provide a mapping of the apartment numbers.

### **3 Commissioners' Reports**

Commissioner Harris reported:

- She had submitted her questionnaire for consideration as the Democratic City Committee's nominee for submission to the City Manager. In addition to herself, Mr. Mello also submitted a questionnaire for consideration. There was also a hearing where members of the Committee could ask questions of the candidates. Commissioner Harris provided a summary of questions posed (attached).

Commissioner Ward reported:

- He had emailed the Mayor regarding the working group discussed at the December round table regarding the use of schools as polling locations but had not yet received a response. He will try again this week.

Commissioner Marquardt reported:

- The Center for Technology and Civic Life had published a guide for debriefing poll workers after an election which contains helpful guidance much of which is similar to the approach the Commission has recently implemented. He will email the link to the Commissioners.

## **IV. ACTION AGENDA**

### *Old Business*

#### Warden and Clerk Debrief

Commissioner Harris provided a list of recommendations (attached) based on the feedback received.

#### Polling Locations

Ms. Waxman commented that she had included a chart of polling locations updated based on discussions at the previous meeting (attached).

Commissioner Marquardt commented that he had reached out to the YMCA and to the Rector at St. Peter's but had not received a response yet.

### *New Business*

#### Voter Survey

Commissioner Harris commented that she had put together some ideas on a voter survey. She noted that surveying voters is a good method to get feedback on the process of voting from the voters themselves. She included some examples of how other jurisdictions utilize surveys and the methods they employ.

Commissioner Marquardt commented that surveys can provide useful data that can educate decisions especially in times of significant change such as is happening with voting now.

Ms. Ford-Crump noted that educating the public about what the Commission does as well as what it has control over will be important to getting feedback. She commented that social media channels could be used to reach the public.

Ms. Waxman commented that having a representative sample is important in achieving actionable results.

Ms. Ford-Crump stated that the Commission should engage with the Public Information Office to develop a plan to get the information out to the public.

Ms. Waxman suggested that the Commission document what we want to get out of a survey as a way of developing a plan.

Commissioner Harris suggested that a survey could be incorporated into the communication of precinct changes.

All agreed that this is an important topic to be considered at future meetings.

Upcoming meetings of the Election Commission:

March 16 – Meeting

March 30 – Meeting with Disability Commission

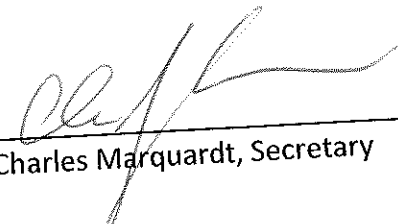
**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 6:53 pm.  
**Moved:** Commissioner Ward  
**Seconded:** Commissioner Harris

**Roll Call:**

Commissioner Larry Ward	Yes
Commissioner Victoria Harris	Yes
Commissioner Ethridge King	Yes
Commissioner Charles Marquardt	Yes

**Passed:** 4—0

A True Record

Attested by:   
Charles Marquardt, Secretary