GOVERNMENT
OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 2, 2021

The District of Columbia Board of Elections convened via video-teleconference, pursuant to notice at 10:00 a.m. EDT, Michael Bennett, Chair, presiding.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEMBERS PRESENT:

MICHAEL BENNETT, Chair
MIKE GILL, Member
KARYN GREENFIELD, Member

BOARD OF ELECTIONS STAFF PRESENT:

ALICE P. MILLER, Executive Director
TERRI D. STROUD, General Counsel

ALSO PRESENT:

CECILY COLLIER-MONTGOMERY, Director,
Office of Campaign Finance
WILLIAM SANFORD, ESQ., General Counsel,
Office of Campaign Finance
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CALL TO ORDER/ASCERTAINMENT OF QUORUM

CHAIR BENNETT: Good morning. This is Michael Bennett, and this is the June meeting of the D.C. Board of Elections. I'd like to call the meeting to order. First, I want to ascertain a quorum. Can I have Ms. Greenfield acknowledge that she's present?

MEMBER GREENFIELD: I'm present.

CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you, Ms. Greenfield. Can I have Mr. Gill acknowledge his presence?

MEMBER GILL: I'm here, Michael.

CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you, Mr. Gill.

So we've got a quorum.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CHAIR BENNETT: I'd like to start out first by adopting the agenda for today and also approval of the minutes from the May 5th meeting, which was the May meeting. Can I get a motion from Mr. Gill to adopt the agenda for today and
to approve the minutes from the May 5th meeting, the May meeting?

MEMBER GILL: I make a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting.

CHAIR BENNETT: Great. Can I get a second from Ms. Greenfield?

MEMBER GREENFIELD: I second.

CHAIR BENNETT: It's been properly moved and seconded. Can I get a voice vote? Ms. Greenfield.

MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Gill.

MEMBER GILL: Aye.

CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Gill.

MEMBER GILL: Aye.

CHAIR BENNETT: You may be on mute, but I assume that's an aye. It's aye for me, as well, so it's -- I think I see some motion. So it is unanimous. The agenda for today and the minutes from the last meeting are adopted. It is now time for Board matters.

Let me stop, though, before Board
matters, and make sure that our court reporter is present. Can I get an acknowledgment from the court reporter that they are present and that they can hear?

(No audible response.)

CHAIR BENNETT: Yes, I got a thumb's up.

BOARD MATTERS

CHAIR BENNETT: In the Board matters, Mr. Gill, do you have any Board matters today?

MEMBER GILL: No, I do not.

CHAIR BENNETT: Ms. Greenfield, do you have any Board matters for today?

MEMBER GREENFIELD: No, I do not.

CHAIR BENNETT: I do not, as well. We shifted the normal agenda around a little bit to make sure we get to -- to be able to vote on a couple things relatively early. We're going to start off with the general counsel's report, Ms. Terri Stroud. Thank you.

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

MS. STROUD: Good morning, everyone.
I have on my agenda a final rulemaking. The rulemaking is to amend Chapter 10 to place that chapter into conformity with the newly enacted Initiative and Referendum Process Improvement Amendment Act of 2020, which took effect on March 16th.

Emergency and proposed rulemaking with respect to this rulemaking was introduced at the Board's April 7th meeting, and it was published in the D.C. Register on April 16th. No written comments on the proposed rules were received during the public comment period, and no substantive changes have been made to the regulations as they were proposed.

As I discussed during the Board's April meeting, the rulemaking reflects amendments to the Board's regulations which reflect legislation. It requires, among other things, that the Board's drafted summary statement for the initiative be written in plain language.

The Board is required to request a fiscal impact statement with respect to
initiative measures from the Office of the Chief Financial Officer and to request advisory opinions from the Office of the General Counsel for the Council, as well as the attorney general.

They are required to submit advisory opinions within a certain time frame. We're also required to publish our formulations with respect to initiatives and referenda which were adopted at a public meeting in the D.C. Register, at least one newspaper in general circulation, and to be posted on the Board's website. That's a summary of the regulations. I'm requesting that the Board approve the rulemaking so that it can be sent to the D.C. Register for publication.

CHAIR BENNETT: It seems like our camera's not on, but we're going to keep going. We're going to try and fix that. I do understand the camera's not on, but we're going to try to fix that. Okay, can I get a motion from Mr. Gill to approve the permanent rulemaking -- the final rulemaking, sorry, that Ms. Stroud just described?
MEMBER GILL: I make a motion to approve the final rulemaking with the general counsel's description.

CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Can I get a second from Ms. Greenfield?

MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yes, I second that.

CHAIR BENNETT: It's been properly moved and seconded. Get a voice vote. Ms. Greenfield.

MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Gill.

MEMBER GILL: Aye.

CHAIR BENNETT: Aye for me, as well, so it's unanimous. The final rulemaking is complete. Thank you, Ms. Stroud. Can you continue with your report?

MS. STROUD: That is the only item on my agenda for today's meeting.

CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Mr. Gill, do you have any questions for the general counsel?

MEMBER GILL: No questions.
CHAIR BENNETT: Ms. Greenfield, do you have any questions for the general counsel on any other matters?

MEMBER GREENFIELD: No, I don't have any questions.

CHAIR BENNETT: Okay, great. Neither do I. Thank you, Ms. Stroud. We're going to move on --

MS. STROUD: I'll just state, for the record, that I will submit this, and it will be published in the D.C. Register on next Friday, not this coming Friday, but the next Friday.

CHAIR BENNETT: Okay, great. Thank you. Also, now we have Item 6 on the agenda, campaign finance, Ms. Cecily Montgomery.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT

MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes, good morning. First, again, I would like to report that the Office of Campaign Finance continues to operate under a modified status. All of our services continue to be provided remotely, by email, as well as by telephone. We can be
reached at 202-671-0547.

All candidate and committee reports will continue to be received online, at our website, on the required deadlines. Candidates may contact the office for instructions concerning the registration process.

Commencing June 7, 2021, the OCF managerial staff will return to the office for at least 50 percent of their scheduled weekly tour of duty. Also, I want to announce, on the record, that as of this date, the OCF line staff is scheduled to return on July 12, 2021.

On May 21, 2021, the Office of Campaign Finance published, at our website, fact sheets for the fair elections and the traditional campaign finance programs during the 2020 election cycle.

The information brochures contained information concerning the following deadlines during the 2022 election cycle, as well as information concerning the contribution limits for the traditional program and the threshold
requirements for the fair elections program.

With community outreach during the month of May, the Office of Campaign Finance once again initiated its program with the advisory neighborhood commissions across the city.

During the month of May, the OCF managers participated in the following ANC virtual meetings: on Tuesday, May 4, ANC 4A; on Wednesday, May 12, ANC 1C; on Wednesday, May 12, ANC 6C; and on Wednesday, May 19, ANC 5A.

With our fair election program, during the month of May, again, during the 2020 election cycle, the total sum of $4,016,797.64 was disbursed from the fair elections fund in base amount and matching payment to the 36 candidates who were certified in the program to participate in the June 2, 2020 primary election, the June 16, 2020 special election, and the November 3, 2020 general election.

The 2020 election cycle closed on November 3, 2020, and the 2020 special election cycle closed on June 16, 2020. During the month
of May 2021, there were no disbursements authorized for base amount and matching payments from the fund for candidates who have registered seeking to participate in the program during the 2022 election cycle. The audit section of the fair elections program during the month of May conducted nine desk reviews of termination and amended reports of receipts and expenditures, which have been filed with the Agency and, as a result of those desk reviews, issued four requests for additional information.

As of May 31, 2020, the total fund of $132,148.07 have been remitted for deposit in the fair elections fund from the campaign operations, again, of participating candidates in the June 16, 2020 special election, the June 2, 2020 primary election, and the November 3, 2020 general election.

During the month of May 2021, the Office of Campaign Finance did not receive any further remission payments. With the ongoing post-election full field audits which have been
initiated in the fair elections program of the
candidates who participated in the three
elections during calendar year 2020, the status
of those audits -- and there are 34 audits in
total -- will be posted at our website with the
report of the office this evening, at the close
of business. Just for information, there were
ten post-election audits which were initiated
with respect to the June 2nd primary election.

There were four post-election audits
which were initiated at the June 16, 2020 special
election, and ten post-election audits which were
initiated of the November 3, 2020 general
election 20.

I would just also say, for the record,
with these post-election audits, the audits are
-- these are full-field audits which are
conducted of the entire campaign operations of
the candidates who were certified in the fair
elections program.

In the Public Information and Records
Management Division, during the month of May,
there was one filing deadline. That filing deadline was on May 3, 2021. That was the filing deadline for the 16th report of receipts and expenditures by the legal defense committee, which is registered with the office. There was one required filer, filing timely filed and also electronically filed the report. During the month of May, in terms of new candidates and committees in our traditional program, we had two candidates who registered, one was Phil Mendelson, Mendelson for chairman, registered on May 5, 2021, Oye Owolewa, Owolewa for U.S. representative '22, registered on May 11, 2021.

As of May 31, 2021, four candidates have registered in the traditional campaign finance program, and one candidate has registered seeking to participate in the fair elections program for the 2022 election cycle.

We also had candidates and treasurers who completed the mandatory entrance conference presentation during the month of May, one Brandon Scott, treasurer for the Ward 7 Democrats,
Brandon Clark, treasurer for Ryan Jones for attorney general, Ben Young, treasurer of Mendelson for chairman 2022, Oye Owolewa, candidate Owolewa for U.S. representative 2022.

In our traditional audit program, during the month of May 2021, the audit branch conducted ten desk reviews of reports which have been filed with the Office of Campaign Finance. Also during the month of May, for the record I would like to state what the status of the audits are in the traditional audit program. First, there were no audit reports issued. With respect to ongoing audits, we have two full-field audits of newly elected officials in the District of Columbia which are ongoing.

The first is Brooke Pinto for Ward 2, and the audit notification letter was issued on February 8, 2021. The records were due on March 15, '21. An extension was approved until March 30, 2021. The audit was initiated on April 4 -- April 8, 2021, and the field work is in progress.

The second audit of a newly elected
The official is Jacque DC for at-large State Board of Education. The audit notification letter was issued on February 8, '21.

The records were due on March 8th. The second reminder was sent on March 12th. The audit was initiated on April 5, 2021. The audit manager is in the process of reviewing the audit field work, and also is preparing the issuance of the draft preliminary statement of findings.

With respect to random periodic audits in the traditional audit program of past and continuing committees who participated in the 2020 election, there are ongoing audits of the January 31, 2021 report. The first is with Oye for U.S. representative. The preliminary draft statement of findings was issued on April 14, 2021, and the audit manager's in the process of reviewing the committee's response in the final audit report.

The second is the committee to elect Alex Pedro. The preliminary draft statement of findings was issued on April 1, 2021. The audit manager is in the process of reviewing the
committee's response and the final audit report.

That completes my report with respect to the divisions, the Fair Elections Program division, as well as our traditional program, and also the Public Records and Information Division. I would ask the General Counsel, William Sanford, to now provide the report of the Office of the General Counsel.

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you. Mr. Sanford.

MR. SANFORD: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and distinguished Board members. I am William Sanford, General Counsel for the Office of Campaign Finance. During the month of May 2021, the Office of the General Counsel did not receive any referrals for informal hearings. However, the office did issue a total of 35 orders, which included the following. Seven orders were issued in which statements of violations and notices of hearings were vacated. Twenty-eight orders were issued in
which fines that totaled $52,600 were imposed. During the month of May 2021, the Office of the General Counsel imposed fines against 28 respondents.

However, I will not read each fine and respondent into the record, but the entire report will be published at the Office of Campaign Finance website by close of business today.

During the month of May 2021, the Office of the General Counsel did not collect any fines.

During the month of May 2021, there were no open investigations. There were no requests for interpretive opinions, and there were no show cause proceedings conducted. That should conclude my report.

CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you, Mr. Sanford. I just had -- Mr. Gill said he didn't have any questions. Ms. Greenfield, do you have any questions?

MEMBER GREENFIELD: No, I don't have any questions.

CHAIR BENNETT: I have one. Ms.
Montgomery, can you tell me, again -- I know you
repeated it in your report -- the number of
people that have applied for the fair elections
program so far and who they are?

MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes. In this
-- as of this date, there has been one candidate
who has applied to -- who has registered, rather,
to participate -- seeking to participate in the
fair elections program. I believe that candidate
is Ryan Jones, who has registered as a candidate
for the Office of Attorney General.

CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. There's
obviously a lot more time that people could file
and apply for that. Is it possible to start out
in the traditional program, and then switch if
you have not actually collected money that would
be in violation of the fair elections program?

MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes, it is
possible. What they would be required to do is
to file a termination report of their receipts
and expenditures in the traditional program, then
register (Simultaneous Speaking). Yes.
CHAIR BENNETT: If they had collected and had -- that was not in compliance with the fair election, they'd have to give money back, I would assume, in order to be in compliance.

MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes, they would. In fact, they would have to distribute the surplus in accordance with the process that is established in the Campaign Finance Act. There is no provision which would allow them to transfer those funds over into the fair elections program for the purposes of qualifying in that program.

CHAIR BENNETT: Okay.

MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: One thing I would like to add and neglected to report would be the audits that are currently being conducted in the constituent service program. Those are periodic random audits of the April 1, 2021 reports.

The first is Phil's Fund for Citizen Service. The audit records were due to the audit staff on May 3rd. An extension was approved until
May 18th. The records were received on May 14, 2021, and the audit field work is in progress.

The second is the Evans Constituent Service Fund. The audit records were due to the audit staff on May 3, 2021. This is a termination report. The audit staff has requested that the committee request the final bank statement from its depository. That concludes my report.

CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you, Ms. Montgomery, and thanks for answering my question.

The next item on the agenda is the executive director's report, Ms. Alice Miller.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MS. MILLER: Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not a lot, but I will report that on May 24th, we appeared before the subcommittee on redistricting, which is chaired by Councilmember Silverman, and also Councilmember Henderson and Councilmember Bonds serves on that committee, to provide comment on the redistricting process as it relates to the ward's responsibilities.
As you know, every ten years, the city undergoes a redistricting process. Normally, the city council would have had the redistricting information. They usually get it in March. But the census was delayed with that data due to COVID, nationally, so the data will not be provided until late August, which has backed up the whole process, not only in D.C., but on a national level, and has created some challenges as it relates to the redistricting process.

Basically, just for the record, the D.C. law requires the Board to assist Board task forces as they draw ANC SMD boundaries. D.C. law requires that the Board, along with the mayor, provide each ward task force with technical and analytical services necessary for the decennial redistricting.

The services include, but are not limited to, statistical analysis of official census data and the production of the maps. The Board will work, as I put on the record, in conjunction with the Office of Planning, to
provide the materials needed to each of the ward
task forces.

We have done this in the past, so we
will do it with this process, as well. We will
have to have the materials by December 23rd.
That's 180 days before the election, before the
June 21st election, which is what the law
requires, in order for us to successfully
complete the process prior to the election.
Anything after December 23rd would not provide
timely delivery of the information for us to have
it done in time for the June 21st election.
Also, we did do our first in-person outreach
event last Thursday, on May 26th, at the Harriet
Tubman House women's shelter.

That was the first one since COVID.
We were able to register approximately 20
individuals. We will start scheduling these a
little bit more frequently now that things have
gotten a little better.
That one was scheduled from 11:00 to
1:00, as I said, and it was a women's shelter. I
will also put on the record that we will have our ANC 7F-07 election, which is the first election that the Board will actually conduct.

As you know, the council initiated emergency legislation that provided -- that we were responsible for conducting elections for the ANC as long as the public health emergency existed. This is the only one, so far, that has been -- that has mandated that we conduct an election because the other vacancies have all been -- have not required an election to be conducted because only one person is qualified. Those individuals have been, basically, the ones confirmed as the winners. They've not been contested. The 7F-07 election will be scheduled for June 15th, from 3:30 to 7:30, at Park Kennedy Apartments, 1901 C Street, Southeast. That concludes my report.

CHAIR BENNETT: Great, thanks, Ms. Miller. Any questions, Ms. Greenfield? I think Mr. Gill has no questions.

MEMBER GREENFIELD: No, I don't have
any.

CHAIR BENNETT: All right, thank you. We are now at public matters. If you have a question or some thoughts, please just, I guess, raise your hand and we will unmute you and go from there.

PUBLIC MATTERS

CHAIR BENNETT: Let's unmute everybody and see if anybody has anything to say. Anybody have anything? You can unmute yourselves. Okay, I will take that as no public matters today. With that, can I take a motion from Ms. Greenfield to adjourn the meeting?

MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yes, I move that we adjourn the meeting.

CHAIR BENNETT: Okay, second. It's been properly --

MS. BRIZILL: This is Dorothy Brizill. I was trying to unmute myself to raise a public matter.

CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Sorry, Ms. Brizill. We will not adjourn the meeting. Would
you go ahead and identify yourself, Ms. Brizill, and ask a question.

MS. BRIZILL: This is Dorothy Brizill, B-R-I-Z-I-L-L. I'm executive director of D.C. Watch, located at 1327 Gerard Street, Northwest. I have two public matters I'd like to raise. I'm raising them because we're in the budget season and the budget hearing for the Board of Elections will be held before the next Board meeting.

My first question has to do with what is -- I'd like to learn what is the status of the Chairman's plan to reorganize the Board of Elections and the Office of Campaign Finance, as well as to change election processes and procedures, such as the creation of large vote centers, the mailing of absentee ballots to all registered voters, etc. Can you tell me what the status of that plan is?

CHAIR BENNETT: I am still, actually, thinking through and working through some -- the whole process in my own head, relative to what I may recommend for a reorganization. I hope to
put something out in probably 30 days or so, Ms. Brizill, if I put anything out. I've been kind of thinking through it and got drafts of my own that I'm kind of working through --

(Simultaneous speaking)

MS. BRIZILL: Along those lines, can you tell us, other than your input, how will the plan be developed, and how will you secure public input or the input of elected officials?

CHAIR BENNETT: What I'll do is to put out some recommendations to both the elected official council and also the mayor's office, as well as to the general public. It will be just recommendations, in terms of how I see things.

Just to recap a little bit, this past year or so has taught us all a lot in every part of our life. The reality is, I don't think, anyway, that we are going to go back to how life was before the pandemic. I have some thoughts as how it might work best for both the public and for the organization, relative to structure. I plan to make it -- to make my recommendations
known probably within the next 30 days, Ms. Brizill.

MS. BRIZILL: The current budget before the council does not reflect any reorganization changes or policy changes at the Board of Elections.

CHAIR BENNETT: No, ma'am.

MS. BRIZILL: My next question has to do with the warehouse. What are the plans for the warehouse in Northeast? In the budget, there is specific reference to the warehouse in this sentence: funding is provided in the budget for temporary warehouse space and to install an IT infrastructure for BOE's voting equipment, systems, and activity. What does that mean and reference?

CHAIR BENNETT: Ms. Miller.

MS. MILLER: Yes. That has to do with the temporary location that we have right now where the drop boxes are stored. There is no IT communication -- there's no communication in that specific location. I believe that's what that is
referring to, to be able for the staff, the
warehouse staff to be able to use that location
to do things, such as charting poll paths and
setting up a communications system there.

MS. BRIZILL: Can you tell me, Ms. Miller, where were election ballots counted and
processed last year? Were they processed at the
warehouse?

MS. MILLER: The ballots, yes.

MS. BRIZILL: Going forward, you said the warehouse would be more than just the storing
of drop boxes and charging of pods. It would be
the site for the tabulation of votes. Am I correct?

MS. MILLER: I'm sorry, Ms. Brizill. You're muffled. I couldn't quite understand what you're saying.

MS. BRIZILL: Can we go back, in terms of reviewing your answer? Is it your intention to use the warehouse, in the future, in the same manner that you used it in 2020? That was to process votes.
MS. MILLER: Yes, for the ballots that came in through the mail, that's correct. That's not -- your question referred to the IT.

MS. BRIZILL: No. Wait a minute. Why don't I state my question so that you don't speculate as regards what my question is. In 2020, where were ballots processed by the Board of Elections? Was it at the warehouse?

MS. MILLER: Yes.

MS. BRIZILL: Going forward, where do you intend to process ballots in the future?

MS. MILLER: The mail-in ballots will be processed at the warehouse.

MS. BRIZILL: And is that the reason for the funding for IT infrastructure at the warehouse?

MS. MILLER: No.

MS. BRIZILL: I don't understand that answer, then.

MS. MILLER: Because we have two locations. The IT infrastructure that the upgrades are referring to are tied to the second
location, which is about -- which is located down
the street from the location where 3535 V Street
is.

That, as I said, currently, actually,
has no communication, whatsoever, capabilities.
Those funds are to provide communication data
processing. There's no telephone system. There
is no communication -- so that we'll be able to
do things such as charge poll pads, charge the
voting machines and things like that.

CHAIR BENNETT: I think your question,
Ms. Brizill, was whether or not we would be
counting ballots at that second location. I
think the answer is no, if that was your
question.

MS. BRIZILL: Where did you tabulate
ballots in 2020, what location?

MS. MILLER: 3535 V Street.

MS. BRIZILL: The funding that's in
the mayor's budget for IT infrastructure, is
there a second warehouse that is referred in the
budget as temporary warehouse?
MS. MILLER: That's correct.

MS. BRIZILL: Why is it temporary?

MS. MILLER: Because it's a temporary location. It's not a permanent location.

MS. BRIZILL: Do you intend to identify a permanent location?

MS. MILLER: We have no idea as to whether or not that will be provided to us. Right now, it's identified as temporary because that's what we've been told.

MS. BRIZILL: One last question. The main warehouse for the Board of Elections at 3535 V Street is not air conditioned.

MS. MILLER: It is air conditioned.

MS. BRIZILL: When did it get air conditioned?

MS. MILLER: It's always been air conditioned. The air --

(Simultaneous speaking)

MS. BRIZILL: I'm talking about the main large space at that warehouse.

MS. MILLER: -- always been air
conditioned. I can tell you that the air
condition is not always functioning.

MS. BRIZILL: It has never been
functioning in the times I've been over there.

What percentage of the time is the air
conditioning down?

MS. MILLER: It has the capability to
provide air conditioning, and it goes out quite
frequently, but it's always repaired.

CHAIR BENNETT: Last summer was a very
difficult period for air conditioning at that
facility.

MS. BRIZILL: The reason I'm asking
that question is to invest in putting -- first of
all, to be counting ballots in a space where you
have workers, as well as sensitive equipment, and
that space is not air conditioned, especially in
the summer months and heat that we had last year,
is that a wise investment to make, or is there a
need to identify an alternative location?

MS. MILLER: I agree with you, but
this space is air conditioned, and they fix it
all the time. It is air conditioned.

MS. BRIZILL: Mr. Bennett, if I could

ask a question -- I hate to belabor this.

CHAIR BENNETT: Okay.

MS. BRIZILL: A great deal of funds

were spent to relocate the Offices of the Board

of Elections, the Office of Campaign Finance to

what many in the community refer to as pretty

posh space.

Why wasn't an allocation of space made

for the tabulation of votes there, as opposed to

a dirty, non-air conditioned space at a warehouse

in far Northeast that is not readily accessible?

Why wasn't provision and planning made to put the

counting center in the main offices of the Board

of Elections?

CHAIR BENNETT: I appreciate your

question, but quite honestly, we're not

completely in control of our space. We make

requests, but the Department of General Services

actually drives the matter around space. I

appreciate your point. I don't have any argument
with you. Alice, did you want to add anything?

MS. MILLER: I can say that we don't identify the space that we're in, as Mr. Bennett has just said. We put in a request for space, and we're told where that space will be. We don't go out and find space. That's not what we do.

MS. BRIZILL: That's not what my question was, and that's not what I asked about. That's not what I asked about at all. In terms of size and space, which was an odyssey the Board went on for several years, you had to identify to the General Services Administration the total square footage you needed and any other special specifications you needed in that space.

When you did that, did you indicate that you needed space allocated for a count center for the tabulation and review of ballots and voter registrations, or did you always intend to have that operation separate and apart, over at the warehouse? That is not a decision General Services made. That's a decision the Board of
Elections made.

MS. MILLER: I just also received a message that DGS has replaced the unit, the air conditioning unit, and it's currently functional, to answer that part of your question, as well.

MS. BRIZILL: That does nothing for the problems that occurred last year and that could likely occur again. But can you answer my question, in terms of DGS acted on specifications, including square footage, and any other qualifications that (audio interference) in terms of the need for new (audio interference).

I didn't indicate that I expected the Board or the Board staff to go around, in terms of going to real estate options and what have you, but why didn't the Board make preparations for a vote center, a counting center, a counting facility in its new offices?

CHAIR BENNETT: I wish we could answer your question, Ms. Brizill, but we are -- we work with DGS and provide them with the information and the square footage and all the specifications
that we need. That's an ongoing activity. We appreciate your concern, and we are constantly focused on trying to make sure we have adequate space, along with all the other things. I'm not sure how best to answer your question.

MS. BRIZILL: Mr. Bennett, are you saying that the Board of Elections did not provide DGS with information regarding the need for space for its computers, for its staff, for its equipment to tabulate votes at its main office?

CHAIR BENNETT: Yes, we did.

MS. MILLER: We did. They actually came to the old space, looked at it, made measurements and all of that, saw what we had there, took that, identified it, and then made measurements with respect to moving to the new space. All of that took place.

MS. BRIZILL: Where did things fall apart, then?

MS. MILLER: I'm sorry; can you repeat the question?
MS. BRIZILL: Where did things fall apart? When you moved into your new space, were you aware then that there was no room, or did you separately decide that you didn't want to tabulate the votes there and that you wanted to have an offsite location to tabulate votes?

CHAIR BENNETT: Your question is why didn't we have this space as space to tabulate ballots. Was that your --

MS. BRIZILL: I think that was my question.

CHAIR BENNETT: Okay, Ms. Brizill, we're struggling trying to hear you.

MS. MILLER: The normal process, we would receive the votes back by modem. We would never have the number of paper ballots that we had to be tabulated that we had last year. Last year was an exceptional circumstance that we had to adjust and figure out how to do what we did.

As you know, we get the ballots back through electronic means. We get the results back through electronic means, which comes in
through the polling places, through our sticks, 
through our vote sticks. We never generally had 
that number of ballots that we're actually 
manually counting.

MS. BRIZILL: I don't mean to belabor 
it, but you do -- you would acknowledge that with 
special ballots having to be cast at polling 
sites, you do have a good deal of paper ballots, 
even in a normal election, that you have to 
process. Do you provide space at your main 
office for the processing of those paper ballots, 
or did you just always intend to have the 
tabulation of votes done offsite?

MS. MILLER: We do tabulate our 
special ballots and absentee ballots at our main 
location, yes.

MS. BRIZILL: Let me make sure I 
understand this. What did you tabulate at the 
warehouse, then?

MS. MILLER: We tabulated the mail-in 
balloons at the warehouse, the ballots that came 
in through the drop boxes, the ballots that came
in by mail we tabulated at the warehouse.

MS. BRIZILL: Where did you tabulate voter registrations sent in by mail?

MS. MILLER: I'm sorry?

MS. BRIZILL: Where did you tabulate voter registrations sent in by mail?

MS. MILLER: Where did we tabulate voter registrations sent in by mail?

MS. BRIZILL: Yes, that's the question.

CHAIR BENNETT: They come into the main office, and they're loaded here, at the main office.

MS. BRIZILL: So the only thing that the pictures show of paper being fed through your equipment are the absentee ballots that came in by mail or the drop boxes?

CHAIR BENNETT: Yes.

MS. MILLER: The mail and drop boxes.

CHAIR BENNETT: Yes.

MS. BRIZILL: The second warehouse that you want to acquire, that would be
predicated upon the D.C. Government passing legislation that would authorize the Board to send absentee ballots to every registered voter.

MS. MILLER: No.

CHAIR BENNETT: That particular warehouse, Ms. Brizill, was really acquired for storage that was -- that we needed for drop boxes that we bought last year that we hadn't anticipated buying.

We had no idea we would need that kind of storage. With that space, the point is there are other things that could be done there that you need some kind of IT infrastructure to be able to do. You need phones. You need to be able to have IT. I'm not sure --

MS. BRIZILL: Okay. What is the address of the second warehouse?

CHAIR BENNETT: Say again.

MS. BRIZILL: What is the address of the second warehouse?

MS. MILLER: It's about three or four doors down from 3535 V Street. I don't know the
exact address. It's on V Street.

CHAIR BENNETT: We can find that. If you want to drop an email, we'll certainly be happy to give that to you, Ms. Brizill.

MS. BRIZILL: Okay. See you at the budget hearing.

CHAIR BENNETT: Thanks. Any other public matters?

(No audible response.)

CHAIR BENNETT: Okay, I think I'll take a motion to adjourn again.

MS. MILLER: I have it. It's 3559 V Street.

CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Can I get a motion to adjourn from Mr. Gill? I think I see him.

MEMBER GILL: I make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

CHAIR BENNETT: Can I have a second from Ms. Greenfield.

MEMBER GREENFIELD: I second.

CHAIR BENNETT: It's been properly

MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Gill.

MEMBER GILL: Aye.

CHAIR BENNETT: Aye from me, as well.

It's unanimous. The meeting is hereby adjourned.

Thank you so much.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 10:53 a.m.)
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In the matter of: Board Meeting

Before: DC BOE

Date: 06-02-21

Place: teleconference

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

[Signature]
Court Reporter