

GOVERNMENT  
OF  
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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BOARD OF ELECTIONS

+ + + + +

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY

JULY 8, 2020

+ + + + +

The District of Columbia Board of Elections convened via teleconference, pursuant to notice at 10:30 a.m. EDT, D. Michael Bennett, Chair, presiding.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD OF ELECTIONS STAFF PRESENT:

MONICA EVANS, Special Assistant to the Executive Director  
ALICE P. MILLER, Executive Director  
TERRI D. STROUD, General Counsel

ALSO PRESENT:

CECILY COLLIER-MONTGOMERY, Director,  
Office of Campaign Finance

C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

1) Call to Order . . . . . 3

2) Ascertainment of Quorum . . . . . 4

3) Adoption of Agenda/Approval  
of Minutes Regular Board Meeting --  
Wednesday, June 17, 2020

4) Board Matters . . . . . 5

5) Campaign Finance Report --  
Cecily Collier-Montgomery. . . . . 6

6) Executive Director's Report --  
Alice P. Miller. . . . . .27

7) General Counsel's Report --  
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of Elections . . . . . .35

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8) Public Matters. . . . . .39

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 (10:34 a.m.)

3 CHAIR BENNETT: It is 10:33, and the  
4 July meeting of the D.C. Board of Elections is  
5 called to order. I want to ascertain a quorum.

6 So, this is Michael Bennett, Chair of  
7 the Board of Elections. I am present.

8 Can I get a present from Karyn  
9 Greenfield, member?

10 (No audible response.)

11 CHAIR BENNETT: I think she dropped  
12 off. Can I get a present from Michael Gill?

13 MEMBER GILL: Hello, Mr. Chairman.  
14 Mike Gill is present.

15 CHAIR BENNETT: Great, okay. So I  
16 think Ms. Greenfield dropped off. She'll be  
17 coming back in.

18 But having Mr. Gill and myself, I  
19 think we do have a quorum at this point.

20 MEMBER GREENFIELD: I'm here.

21 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Well, Ms.  
22 Greenfield's present, so all --

1 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yes.

2 CHAIR BENNETT: So all board members  
3 are here and present. So we do have a quorum.

4 This is the adoption of the agenda and  
5 the approval of the minutes of our regular board  
6 meeting that was on June 17, 2020.

7 And can I get a motion from Ms.  
8 Greenfield to adopt today's agenda and to approve  
9 the minutes from the June 17 meeting?

10 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yes, I move that  
11 we adopt the minutes from the June 17, 2020  
12 meeting, and approve the agenda for today's  
13 meeting.

14 CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Gill, can I have  
15 a second?

16 MEMBER GILL: This is Board Member  
17 Mike Gill. I second the motion.

18 CHAIR BENNETT: It's been properly  
19 moved and seconded. All in favor? Ms.  
20 Greenfield?

21 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

22 CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Gill?

1 MEMBER GILL: Aye.

2 CHAIR BENNETT: And aye for me as  
3 well, so it's unanimous. The agenda from June 17  
4 and the minutes from that meeting are adopted.

5 Are there any board matters, Mr. Gill?

6 MEMBER GILL: None at this point, Mr.  
7 Chairman.

8 CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you. Ms.  
9 Greenfield, any board matters?

10 MEMBER GREENFIELD: None at this  
11 point.

12 CHAIR BENNETT: Great. I just wanted  
13 one from me -- actually, a couple.

14 One is I wanted to thank everybody for  
15 all the work that, one, occurred since our last  
16 meeting relative to just addressing community  
17 issues and responding to various concerns.

18 And getting all the work that we are  
19 doing to get prepared for November.

20 I don't intend to go back to any  
21 earlier points, but we are moving forward and are  
22 thankful for all the work that people are doing.

1                   We are continuing to have community  
2 meetings.

3                   Well, in fact, we have one this  
4 afternoon at 12:30 that I believe is with I think  
5 ANC.

6                   Do you know the name of the group  
7 we're meeting with?

8                   (No audible response.)

9                   CHAIR BENNETT: One of the ANCs and  
10 democratic movement.

11                   But anyway, but the whole focus is to  
12 continue to work with the community to make sure  
13 that we have an opportunity to get input and to  
14 make sure that we're addressing and moving  
15 forward in a way that will make I think November  
16 very successful.

17                   My view is that we're probably going  
18 to end up shattering all kind of voter turnout  
19 records come November, so we've got to do things  
20 different than we've done before.

21                   Lots of known unknowns, but I think  
22 we're working pretty hard to get there. DC Dems

1 is at 12:30.

2 Okay. The first report we had is  
3 campaign finance. And Ms. Cecily Montgomery, if  
4 you could go ahead and get started?

5 (No audible response.)

6 CHAIR BENNETT: Ms. Montgomery?

7 MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: One five four  
8 seven, that all candidate and committee reports  
9 are continuing to be received online at our  
10 website.

11 And also, I would remind the public,  
12 especially candidates, that they can contact our  
13 office for instructions regarding the  
14 registration process, as well as in terms of  
15 their compliance with the mandatory (audio  
16 interference) requirement.

17 In our Fair Elections Program  
18 Division, the first thing I would report that is  
19 that as of June 30, 2020, the total sum of  
20 \$2,583,924 has been dispersed and distributed out  
21 in payments to the 22 candidates who have been  
22 certified in the program to participate in the

1 June primary election, the June special election,  
2 and the November the 3rd, 2020 general election.

3 There are currently 21 candidates who  
4 are registered in the program for the November  
5 the 3rd, 2020 general election, and six of these  
6 candidates are certified as participating  
7 candidates.

8 Eleven of the 12 candidates who are  
9 certified as participating candidates in the June  
10 2nd, 2020 primary election achieved valid access,  
11 and nine of those candidates were defeated in the  
12 election and will not continue to participate in  
13 the general election.

14 The four candidates who are certified  
15 as participating candidates in the June 16  
16 special election were defeated in the election.

17 During the month of June, the total  
18 sum of \$96,067.65 was distributed in actual  
19 payments to approximately 18 FEP candidates who  
20 have been certified in the program.

21 I will not list all of the candidates  
22 at this time, but their names and the amounts and



1 the dates of the distribution are contained in  
2 the stats, and the stats will be posted at the  
3 end of the day.

4 Next, in the Fair Elections Program,  
5 I would point out that as of June the 23, 2020,  
6 the Ed Lazere for D.C. Council At-Large principal  
7 campaign committee has reached and received a  
8 maximum allowable cap for matching payments of  
9 \$308,639 for qualified small-dollar contributions  
10 for participating candidates for the  
11 participating candidates for the Public Office of  
12 Member of the Council elected at-large during the  
13 2020 election cycle.

14 So, he is actually the second  
15 candidate in principal campaign committee that  
16 has reached the maximum allowable cap, and I  
17 would point out for the record that even though  
18 the candidate may have reached the maximum  
19 allowable cap for matching payments, he is still  
20 allowed to continue to collect qualified  
21 small-dollar contributions, and also a small-  
22 dollar contribution from non-residents of the

1 District of Columbia.

2           However, the contributions are no  
3 longer eligible for match.

4           In the Division, during the month of  
5 June, the Division also conducted 59 desk reviews  
6 of the report of receipts and expenditures, which  
7 were filed with the agency.

8           The Division issued 14 requests for  
9 additional information.

10           The Division also issued status  
11 reports, eight -- to candidates who are seeking  
12 certification in the program, but have not yet  
13 met the threshold requirement.

14           On June the 3rd, 2020, the Division  
15 issued recommendations and orders, denying  
16 certification as a participating candidate in the  
17 Fair Elections Program to the following  
18 candidate.

19           Fria Moore, Vote Fria Moore 2020  
20 principal campaign committee.

21           Danielle Platt, Danielle Platt for  
22 Ward 8 principal campaign committee.

1 Daniel Hernandez, Daniel Hernandez for  
2 Ward 2 principal campaign committee.

3 Clayton Aristotle Rosenberg, Rosenberg  
4 2020 principal campaign committee.

5 And these were actually campaign  
6 committees who failed to meet the threshold  
7 requirement for the program.

8 On June 18, 2020, the Division  
9 forwarded recommendation to remit funds by a  
10 participating candidate in the Fair Elections  
11 Program in the June primary election for the  
12 following principal campaign committees to the  
13 general counsel of the Office of Campaign  
14 Finance.

15 One, Kelvin Brown for D.C. Council,  
16 Ward 7, Green for Ward 7, Evans 2020, Yilin for  
17 Ward 2, Patrick Kennedy for Ward 2, Mike for Ward  
18 8, Kishan for D.C. 2020, Jordan Grossman for Ward  
19 2, John Fanning for Ward 2, Elect Renee Bowser.

20 And basically, the recommendation to  
21 remit funds is consistent with the requirements  
22 of the Fair Elections Act, which requires

1 candidates who were unsuccessful in the primary  
2 election to remit any remaining funds in their  
3 campaign account to the Office of Campaign  
4 Finance within 60 days of the conduct of the  
5 election.

6 And also, it also requires that they  
7 donate any equipment which is valued at \$50 or  
8 more, which was also purchased with campaign  
9 funds, to an organized charity or non-profit.

10 On June the 19th, 2020, the Fair  
11 Elections Division also issued notice of the  
12 initiation of full field audits to the following  
13 principal campaign committees, and these were  
14 campaign committees who participated in the June  
15 2, 2020 primary election.

16 Kelvin Brown for D.C. Council, Ward 7,  
17 Green for Ward 7, Evans 2020, Yilin for Ward 2,  
18 Patrick Kennedy for Ward 2, Mike for Ward 8,  
19 Kishan for D.C. 2020, Jordan Grossman for Ward 2,  
20 John Fanning for Ward 2, and Elect Renee Bowser.

21 And what the Office of Campaign  
22 Finance tells us, consistent with our

1 regulations, and also with our statutes, is that  
2 at the end of the election cycle in which the  
3 candidates participated, the agency will conduct  
4 full field audits of those campaign operations  
5 that received public funds.

6 Also, on June 30, the Division  
7 forwarded recommendations for the remission of  
8 funds by participating candidates in the program  
9 who had participated in the June 16 special  
10 election to the general counsel for the following  
11 candidate so that the general counsel could  
12 prepare again orders for the remission of funds.

13 And those will be sent to the  
14 following candidates.

15 Kishan Putta, Kishan Putta for Ward 2  
16 Special Election.

17 John Fanning, John Fanning for Ward 2  
18 Special Election.

19 Jordan Grossman, Jordan Grossman for  
20 Ward 2 Special Election.

21 Patrick Kennedy, Patrick Kennedy for  
22 Ward 2 Special Election.

1           Again, I would state that this action  
2           is consistent with the Fair Elections Act, which  
3           requires that participating candidates in the  
4           program who were unsuccessful in the special  
5           election remit any funds remaining in their  
6           campaign account to the Office of Campaign  
7           Finance within 60 days of the election, and  
8           again, that they donate any equipment purchased  
9           with campaign funds to a non-profit.

10           In our Public Information and Record  
11           Management Division, during the month of June,  
12           there were several filing deadlines.

13           The first was the June 10 report of  
14           receipts and expenditures, which was due by our  
15           Fair Elections Program principal campaign  
16           committee.

17           There were 32 required filers, 28  
18           timely filed, two requested extensions, which  
19           were granted.

20           There were four failures to file, and  
21           there were two referrals to the Office of the  
22           General Counsel, and all of the candidates

1 electronically filed their report.

2 Also, during the month of June, June  
3 10 was the deadline for filing the report of  
4 receipts and expenditures by principal campaign  
5 committees, as well as our political action  
6 committees.

7 There were 69 required filers, 59  
8 timely filed.

9 We had two late filers, we had two for  
10 whom extensions were requested and granted, and  
11 we had eight who failed to file, and there were  
12 ten referrals made to the Office of the General  
13 Counsel.

14 June 1st, 2020 was also the reporting  
15 deadline for our legal defense committee for the  
16 seventh report of receipts and expenditures.

17 We have one filer, and the filer  
18 timely filed and also electronically filed the  
19 report.

20 With respect to our independent  
21 expenditure committee, June 10 was also the  
22 filing deadline for their financial report.

1                   We had three required filers. All  
2 three filed, and all three electronically filed  
3 their reports.

4                   During the month of June, we had nine  
5 new candidates and committees who registered with  
6 the Office of Campaign Finance.

7                   In our traditional program, the  
8 following candidates registered.

9                   Jacque Patterson, Jacque for D.C.  
10 At-Large State Board of Education on June the 12.

11                   Nelson Jackson, Independent Campaign  
12 for Nelson Jackson, Ward 8 City Council  
13 registered on June the 14.

14                   Alexander Pedro, Committee to Elect  
15 Alex Pedro At-Large City Council registered on  
16 June the 17.

17                   Troy Murphy At-Large State Board of  
18 Education registered on June 22.

19                   Frederick Hill, Fred for Ward 8, Ward  
20 8 City Council registered on June the 24.

21                   And Cornelia Weiss, U.S. Senate  
22 registered on June the 25.



1                   With our Fair Elections candidates,  
2 we had three who registered.

3                   Frazier O'Leary, Frazier for Ward 4  
4 State Board of Education registered on June the  
5 17.

6                   Martin Fernandez, Martin for Ward 2  
7 City Council registered on June the 17.

8                   Vincent Orange, Vincent Orange 2020  
9 At-Large City Council registered on June the 22.

10                  Again, there were twelve referrals to  
11 the Office of the General Counsel for the failure  
12 to file the June 10 report of receipts and  
13 expenditures.

14                  I won't read those referrals into the  
15 record. The names of those candidates and their  
16 treasurers will be posted at our website.

17                  They're included in our stats, and the  
18 publication will be posted at the end of the day.

19                  We also, during the month of June, had  
20 candidates and treasurers who completed the  
21 mandatory entrance of conference presentation.

22                  And there were six.

1                   Hugh Broadus, Treasurer for D.C. for  
2                   Democracy, Milton Hardy, candidate for Ward 7,  
3                   D.C. Republican Committee, Daniel Moscovitz,  
4                   Treasurer, Karl Racine 2022, Karl Racine,  
5                   candidate, Attorney General, Terry Red,  
6                   candidate, Ward 4 City Council, Fred Hill,  
7                   candidate, Fred -- Ward 8.

8                   In our Audit Division, during the  
9                   month of June, the Audit Division conducted 95  
10                  desk reviews of reports of receipts and  
11                  expenditures that had been filed during the  
12                  month.

13                  The office also issued 26 requests for  
14                  additional information with respect to the  
15                  reports that were filed, and the agency reviewed.

16                  The agency also, through its Audit  
17                  Division, had several ongoing audits. The first  
18                  is a full field audit, which is of the Jack Evans  
19                  Legal Defense Fund.

20                  The response to the preliminary draft  
21                  audit report was received on May the 27, 2020.

22                  The draft audit report is being

1 prepared rather for the review of the general  
2 counsel.

3 We have periodic random audits. The  
4 first are being conducted of the candidates from  
5 the upcoming 2020 election, which is of the  
6 January 31 filing.

7 The first is Friends of Robert White.  
8 The audit records were received by the division  
9 on March 16.

10 Veda for Ward 7. The audit was  
11 initiated on March 2.

12 Committee to Elect Rogers for Council,  
13 and that was initiated on March 2.

14 We also have periodic random audits of  
15 the January 31 filings via our political action  
16 committees.

17 The first is of the Verizon  
18 Communications Good Government Club PAC, which  
19 was initiated on March 2.

20 The D.C. Libertarian Party, which was  
21 initiated on March 2.

22 And the Firefighters Committee on

1 Political Activity, which was initiated on March  
2 2.

3 We also have ongoing periodic random  
4 audits of our constituent service programs, of  
5 specifically the April 1, 2020 filing of the  
6 financial report.

7 The first is of Mayor Bowser's  
8 Constituent Service Program, which was initiated  
9 on June 30.

10 Our Ward 5 Constituent Service  
11 Program, which was initiated on July the 1.

12 And our Ward 4 Constituent Service  
13 Program, an extension was granted until July 30,  
14 for the presentation or submission of the  
15 financial record.

16 With audit issues, we did not issue  
17 any audits during the month of June.

18 And if the general counsel, William  
19 Sanford, is on the line, I would ask him to give  
20 the legal report of the Office of Campaign  
21 Finance, if there are no questions with respect  
22 to the report that I have just submitted.

1 CHAIR BENNETT: Why don't we go to the  
2 report of Mr. Sanford?

3 And then, if there are any questions  
4 we'll go back from the other board members. Mr.  
5 Sanford?

6 (No audible response.)

7 CHAIR BENNETT: We're trying to figure  
8 out the muting.

9 Do you want me to mute everybody?  
10 Everybody muted. Mr. Sanford, can you please  
11 start speaking, sir, if you can?

12 MR. SANFORD: Yes, I'm on the line.  
13 Good morning. Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

14 CHAIR BENNETT: Can you identify the  
15 number you're speaking from, Mr. Sanford?

16 MR. SANFORD: The last four digits are  
17 0253.

18 CHAIR BENNETT: No, we need the first  
19 four, sir.

20 MR. SANFORD: 240-593-0253.

21 CHAIR BENNETT: Can you say that  
22 again, Mr. Sanford?

1 MR. SANFORD: 240-593-0253.

2 CHAIR BENNETT: Yeah, we got you.

3 Thank you. Please continue, Mr. Sanford.

4 MR. SANFORD: Members, this is William  
5 Sanford, general counsel for the Office of  
6 Campaign Finance.

7 And during the month of June, 2020,  
8 the Office of the General Counsel received 22  
9 referrals.

10 We conducted one informal hearing, and  
11 issued one order which imposed a fine of \$550  
12 against the D.C. Chamber of Commerce for failure  
13 to timely file a required report.

14 In addition, the Office of the General  
15 Counsel issued an order on June 30 requiring the  
16 principal campaign committee of former candidate  
17 Renee Bowser to remit all remaining fair election  
18 funds and donate equipment purchased by the  
19 committee valued at \$50 or more to a non-profit  
20 organization, in accordance with the Fair  
21 Elections Act, which required losing candidates  
22 to remit the remaining funds and donate

1 equipment, or candidates, as in Ms. Bowser's  
2 case, who failed to continue to pursue their  
3 candidacy.

4 Ms. Bowser withdrew from the campaign  
5 before the June primary election.

6 During the month of June 2020, the  
7 Office of the General Counsel maintained the  
8 following open investigations.

9 The Committee to Hold Jack Evans  
10 Accountable. Adam Eidingger, Chairman, was the  
11 Complainant. That complaint was received on  
12 February 3, 2020.

13 The respondent was D.C. Legal Defense  
14 Committee for Jack Evans. The allegation was the  
15 unlawful use of a legal defense committee.

16 That matter has been referred to the  
17 Reports Analysis and Audit Division, and as a  
18 director indicated, that matter is close to  
19 completion by that division and will be referred  
20 back to the Office of the General Counsel.

21 The second open investigation was  
22 based upon a complaint that was filed by Jennie

1 Malloy on May 19, 2020.

2 The respondent was Karl Racine for  
3 Attorney General 2018.

4 The allegation is inappropriate use of  
5 campaign funds. That investigation is pending.

6 Ms. Malloy also filed a complaint on  
7 the same date, May 19, 2020, against Ed Lazere  
8 for D.C., alleging there was inappropriate use of  
9 fair election funds, and that investigation is  
10 also pending.

11 On May 28, the Office of the General  
12 Counsel received a complaint from Chuck Thies,  
13 alleging that the respondent Anthony Lorenzo  
14 Green, who was a candidate for Ward 7 Council,  
15 had inappropriately used government resources.

16 That complaint is also pending.

17 And finally, on June 12, 2020, the  
18 Office of the General Counsel received a  
19 complaint from Laura Wolfe against Brooke Pinto,  
20 or currently Council member Brooke Pinto,  
21 alleging that candidate Brooke Pinto failed to  
22 report extensive contributions.



1                   That matter is under review.

2                   During the month of June 2020, the  
3 Office of the General Counsel did not receive any  
4 requests for interpretive opinions, and there  
5 were no show-cause proceedings conducted.

6                   And that should conclude my report.

7                   CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Sanford. Ms. Montgomery?

9                   (Simultaneous speaking.)

10                  MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes?

11                  CHAIR BENNETT: Does that conclude  
12 your report? I've got two calls on mute.

13                  (Simultaneous speaking.)

14                  MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Yes, that  
15 concludes the report of the Office of Campaign  
16 Finance for the month of June.

17                  CHAIR BENNETT: Okay, great. Are  
18 there any questions from the board members? Ms.  
19 Greenfield?

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

22                  CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Gill, any

1 questions?

2 MEMBER GILL: No questions. Bill and  
3 Cecily again, tour de force. Lots of info.  
4 Thank you very much.

5 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay.

6 MS. COLLIER-MONTGOMERY: Thank you.

7 CHAIR BENNETT: And none from me.

8 Thanks, Ms. Montgomery.

9 We're going to move to Item Number 6,  
10 and that's the report from the executive  
11 director, Ms. Miller.

12 MS. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 For the status of the board for this  
14 time, I want to report that we are currently  
15 working on the names associated with the November  
16 general election.

17 We're focusing on the idea of super  
18 vote centers, that is at least a minimum of  
19 possibly ten larger facilities, to able to offer  
20 capacity to more voters at the same time for  
21 processing.

22 We reached out to Events DC, which

1 oversees the Convention Center and the Armory.  
2 We know that those facilities are probably not  
3 available.

4 The Convention Center at this time is  
5 dedicated to operating as a hospital unit for  
6 COVID patients.

7 And the National Guard has the D.C.  
8 Armory, and is not in a position to share it with  
9 anyone at this point.

10 So, we're still working with Events  
11 DC.

12 As you know, we're also trying to  
13 reach out to the Capital One Sports Arena, and  
14 possibly the sports entertainment center, which  
15 is operated by -- that one is, anyway, operated  
16 by Events DC.

17 Again, those are large-capacity arenas  
18 and event facilities, which would allow us to  
19 have a larger process and operate additional  
20 polling places within the larger arena, and have  
21 more people processed through those places as we  
22 also have our regular vote centers.

1           So, that would be in addition to the  
2           vote centers, which would be doubled from what we  
3           did from the primary, by a minimum of 40 for this  
4           general election.

5           We're also working to identify a mail  
6           house that will send a ballot to every voter for  
7           the November election, and our requirement to  
8           mail has to be able to provide tracking  
9           information with the intelligent mail barcode for  
10          both outbound and inbound mail.

11          This will provide voters access to the  
12          location of their ballot via the mail process  
13          once it hits the mail system.

14          The intelligent mail barcode provides  
15          ability for the voter to track every piece of  
16          mail that is sent.

17          We'll also be mailing a postcard in  
18          advance of the election to ensure voters an  
19          opportunity to update information as to where  
20          they want their ballots sent.

21          We've procured equipment for this  
22          election, additional equipment, with additional

1 90 BODs have (audio interference) for the  
2 additional vote centers and super vote centers,  
3 as well as the larger-capacity mail ballot  
4 sorting equipment to help process return ballots  
5 and verify signatures in an expedited fashion  
6 with less human and manual interaction.

7 We are, at this point, with respect to  
8 our re-entry process, still in the process of  
9 working with minimal staff in Phase 2 of the  
10 mayor's re-entry plan, and that is, we are  
11 continuing to work remotely wherever possible,  
12 with social distancing measures in place, our  
13 business operations continue to allow for  
14 telework to the greatest extent possible.

15 Our current operation allows for no  
16 more than 17 staff members in place, according to  
17 the modified plan that we have.

18 We also are allowing registered voters  
19 to come in by appointment, who are interested in  
20 filing their candidate nominating petitions, or  
21 going through the petition process if they are  
22 unable to do it remotely through an online

1 process that we have set up.

2 They are scheduling appointments  
3 through the registrar's office to come in and do  
4 that daily.

5 And continuing with our meetings that  
6 you mentioned earlier, we are having outreach  
7 meetings with community members, ANCs, and  
8 members of various parties' advocates in our  
9 senior community of D.C. registered voters to  
10 incorporate their suggestions, wherever possible,  
11 and to the planning for the November cycle.

12 And I just want to mention we are  
13 trying to recruit as many as 4,000 poll workers  
14 for this election.

15 It is a heavy-lift under the current  
16 health situation, and we realize that the  
17 challenges associated with that recruitment is a  
18 heavy goal, but the outreach is ongoing and  
19 hopefully we'll be able to do that.

20 Our poll worker training is scheduled  
21 to begin early next month.

22 A person interested in serving as a

1 poll worker can call the board's office, or can  
2 go online and fill out an application.

3 The 727-2525 number is available for  
4 anyone who wants to reach out and sign up as a  
5 poll worker.

6 That's it.

7 CHAIR BENNETT: All right. Thanks,  
8 Ms. Miller. Any questions from Mr. Gill?

9 MEMBER GILL: No -- well, one  
10 question, Alice. On the Armory, you said the  
11 National Guard isn't in a position.

12 I know some states have used the  
13 National Guard to help with the elections.

14 You know, they can't train up to run  
15 the polls, but they have been used to help with  
16 crowd control, and all sorts of other things.

17 I don't think we need that. I know  
18 you've got lots of folks that are interested in  
19 helping in November, but I'm surprised they  
20 wouldn't allow us to use the Armory.

21 You know, I feel like we should bump  
22 that up a level.

1                   The Armory seems like a perfectly  
2                   great place to have social distancing, but we can  
3                   get enough people through that we wouldn't have  
4                   the same problems.

5                   So, I'll come back offline, but I  
6                   think we should raise that a level.

7                   I think the National Guard leadership  
8                   would be shocked to learn that they turned us  
9                   down.

10                  CHAIR BENNETT:  There's a --

11                  (Simultaneous speaking.)

12                  CHAIR BENNETT:  I'm sorry, go ahead.

13                  MEMBER GILL:  Oh, I was just going to  
14                  say, that's my only comment, Alice.

15                  And so, we should follow up and see if  
16                  we can try again on that front.

17                  CHAIR BENNETT:  Okay.  We actually  
18                  talked to the CEO of Events DC, and I can provide  
19                  some additional background, but the upshot was  
20                  that the National Guard, you know, they were  
21                  concerned about sharing the space with the  
22                  activities that they have to perform, and if



1 indeed there was voting going on, and they had to  
2 spread out and use the facility for other  
3 activities that were last minute, then they were  
4 concerned that they wouldn't be able to perform.

5 So, but we can certainly have a  
6 conversation about it, but --

7 (Simultaneous speaking.)

8 MEMBER GILL: Well, the only thing  
9 they're going to need to do on election day is  
10 control the riots if the lines are too darn long.  
11 So, I would tell them --

12 (Simultaneous speaking.)

13 CHAIR BENNETT: Anyway --

14 (Simultaneous speaking.)

15 MEMBER GILL: Be proactive up-front.

16 All right, thanks Michael.

17 CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you. Karyn  
18 Greenfield, Member Greenfield, do you any  
19 questions?

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

22 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay, thanks. And I

1 don't have any, Ms. Miller.

2 Next on the agenda is the general  
3 counsel report. Ms. Stroud?

4 MS. STROUD: Hi, good morning  
5 everyone. The only item on my agenda is  
6 litigation status.

7 The first case is William V. Hunt v.  
8 the board.

9 This matter was filed in the United  
10 States District Court for D.C. on October 18 of  
11 2018, and it was a complaint regarding the  
12 counting of write-in votes cast in the November  
13 2018 general election.

14 The board's motion to dismiss in this  
15 case was granted on March 10 of this year.

16 Mr. Hunt appealed to the D.C. Court of  
17 Appeals on April 16, which was beyond the 30-day  
18 period for appealing under the federal rules.

19 The court gave Mr. Hunt until May 22  
20 to show cause why the case should not be  
21 dismissed as untimely, and subsequently extended  
22 that deadline to July 1.

1           While Mr. Hunt did file a brief on  
2 June 25, it did not address the question of why  
3 the appeal should not be dismissed.

4           So, we are awaiting the court's  
5 decision in that matter.

6           The second matter is Graham v. Board  
7 of Elections.

8           This matter involves the board's  
9 appeal of a permanent injunction entered by the  
10 D.C. Superior Court on December 12, 2018, which  
11 prohibited the board from taking any action on  
12 the Referendum 8 petition.

13           Oral argument in this case had been  
14 set for April 21, but it was canceled by an order  
15 of the chief judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals  
16 because of the public health emergency, and the  
17 court (audio interference) oral argument.

18           The third and fourth matters are  
19 Philip Hammond v. the Board and Robin Marlin v.  
20 the Board.

21           These cases were consolidated and they  
22 both involve appeals of board orders upholding

1 the resolutions of ANC 7B, which found no vacancy  
2 in Single Member Districts 7B04 and 7B05.

3 These resolutions were upheld on the  
4 basis that Mr. Hammond and Ms. Marlin did not  
5 meet the burden of proving that the ANC  
6 commissioners in 7B04 and 7B05 did not meet the  
7 residency requirements necessary to serve as ANC  
8 commissioners in those single member districts.

9 We expect the court to decide the  
10 merits of that case on the paper shortly.

11 The final case is Robinson v. the  
12 Board of Elections.

13 That matter was filed in the United  
14 States District Court for D.C. on May 21, and it  
15 began with a complaint for declarative  
16 relief alleging that the board's placement of the  
17 three Ward 8 vote centers and its alleged failure  
18 to conduct targeted outreach for Ward 8 residents  
19 constituted a violation of Section 2 of the  
20 Voting Rights Act.

21 And they also filed a motion for a  
22 preliminary injunction.

1                   On June 30, the parties filed a joint  
2 motion to dismiss with prejudice, and the motion  
3 was granted on that date, so that matter has been  
4 resolved. For now.

5                   And that concludes my report.

6                   CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Any questions  
7 for Ms. Stroud? Mr. Gill?

8                   MEMBER GILL: No -- well I guess,  
9 okay, see, I have one.

10                   When it comes to these ANC, sort of,  
11 redistricting, do we do a census at any point and  
12 look at things and make adjustments, or we wait  
13 for the petition to us?

14                   MS. STROUD: There is a process for  
15 that.

16                   There will be after the census is  
17 completed, a redistricting process, and we do  
18 play a role in that, but that's primarily a  
19 counsel activity, but there is a role for the  
20 board to play.

21                   MEMBER GILL: Oh, okay, thank you.

22                   CHAIR BENNETT: Any other questions?

1 MEMBER GILL: No more questions.

2 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay, thanks. Ms.  
3 Greenfield?

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

6 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. None for me,  
7 Ms. Stroud.

8 Next on the agenda is public matter,  
9 so let me do this. And we've got 26 persons on  
10 the line.

11 And what I'm going to do -- and please  
12 help me with regard to order -- and I'm looking  
13 at our technical person now.

14 What I'm going to do is to ask is to  
15 unmute everyone, and the person that I did hear  
16 earlier, if she's still on the line -- Ms.  
17 Dorothy Brizill, I'm going to ask you to go  
18 first.

19 We're going to limit --

20 MS. BRIZILL: Okay.

21 CHAIR BENNETT: And everybody has put  
22 themselves on mute.

1                   And we're going to limit the comments  
2                   or questions to three minutes, as best possible.

3                   And then, after Ms. Brizill, after you  
4                   go, then I'm going to unmute everybody and ask  
5                   for persons to identify themselves, and please  
6                   let's try to have a little bit of order.

7                   And I know this may be a little  
8                   difficult.

9                   I think if we're still in this mode  
10                  next month, we probably will try to go to Zoom  
11                  versus just this, and make sure everybody has an  
12                  opportunity to -- that connect by video and/or  
13                  audio, but this is kind of what we have right  
14                  now.

15                  So, Randy, if you could unmute  
16                  everybody, and Ms. Brizill, if you would start  
17                  talking so we can identify your number?

18                  MS. BRIZILL: Okay.

19                  CHAIR BENNETT: And then, I'll ask  
20                  everyone else to -- I'm sorry, go.

21                  MS. BRIZILL: This is Dorothy Brizill,  
22                  and my number's 202-234-6982.

1 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. And then, could  
2 you hold on one second, Ms. Brizill? We've got  
3 you identified.

4 And if everyone else could mute  
5 themselves, Ms. Brizill, you can get started.

6 Can you just identify yourself again,  
7 and your credentials, ma'am?

8 MS. BRIZILL: Okay. This is Dorothy  
9 Brizill, I'm executive director of D.C. Watch.

10 And I wanted to ask the board a couple  
11 of questions. What is the status of the BOE  
12 office?

13 I understand it is still closed. Why  
14 is it still closed, and when will it be opening?

15 MS. MILLER: We are working as the  
16 mayor's phase in process, and that requires us to  
17 phase.

18 Right now it's Phase 2 based on the  
19 emergency process that the mayor has in place.

20 So, that requires us to phase in  
21 slowly, and we are now at 50 percent capacity.

22 No more than 17 employees are allowed



1 in based on the social distancing requirements  
2 that are still in place.

3 And so, she has not yet -- offices for  
4 example. For example, we are in the  
5 same building with DCHR. There are no  
6 individuals --

7 MS. BRIZILL: Okay.

8 MS. MILLER: At DCH --

9 MS. BRIZILL: Okay, so the answer is  
10 no, and you don't know when you'll be opening.

11 Can you answer, Mr. Bennett, what is  
12 the status of the BOE investigation of the June 2  
13 primary in terms of the issues that arose, and  
14 are you going to do a full report, more than the  
15 executive summary you issued before Mr. Allen's  
16 hearing?

17 And if so, who is investigating the  
18 myriad of complaints that I know you've received,  
19 and how are those investigations being conducted?

20 CHAIR BENNETT: I'll ask. And we'll  
21 start backwards, and Ms. Stroud can answer at  
22 least the last part of the question.

1 MS. STROUD: Yes, Ms. Brizill, we've  
2 not received any formal complaints, and there was  
3 no litigation with respect to the June 2 primary  
4 election or the June 16 one.

5 And we're answering queries that we've  
6 received on an ongoing basis as they come in, and  
7 certainly when individuals have raised issues  
8 with the conduct of the election, we've responded  
9 to those queries and concerns that were raised,  
10 but there have been no official complaints filed.

11 MS. BRIZILL: I think, Ms. Stroud,  
12 you're parsing words in terms of a formal -- you  
13 and I know what a formal complaint is, and  
14 essentially it's a document in which someone has  
15 notarized.

16 I'm saying that I know.

17 I know, and I am in possession of  
18 several complaints and issues that were raised on  
19 June 2, June 3, June 4 with the board in terms of  
20 observations people made regarding irregularities  
21 at the polling sites.

22 How are those being investigated in

1 terms of -- you usually do after an election an  
2 after-action report in which you investigate  
3 issues and problems that arose, without a so-  
4 called formal complaint.

5 CHAIR BENNETT: Could I --

6 MS. STROUD: We are doing an  
7 after-action report, Ms. Brizill, and while we're  
8 not required to do one after the primary  
9 elections, we are doing one as we have with  
10 respect to every primary election, although we  
11 are not required to under law.

12 So that is forthcoming, and we'll  
13 issue -- we try to do that within the parameters  
14 that are set for the after-action that is due  
15 after the general election, which is 90 days  
16 after.

17 So there will be one completed and  
18 filed. It won't take that long, but we will  
19 issue one.

20 CHAIR BENNETT: And with regard to  
21 your --

22 (Simultaneous speaking.)

1 MS. BRIZILL: But who is conducting  
2 the investigations?

3 CHAIR BENNETT: And Ms. Brizill, like  
4 what I committed to after the June 2 election was  
5 a review of the things that happened in those,  
6 and that review is currently ongoing with  
7 individual items.

8 And, you know, and we're trying to  
9 address those.

10 The letters that we received and the  
11 comments we received after the June 2 election,  
12 most of them have been answered, and we've been  
13 just answering those individually.

14 For instance, we got letters from  
15 several council people, we got letters from ANCs.  
16 And the other thing that we're doing, which is  
17 happening -- one of the things is happening at  
18 12:30 today -- is we are having community  
19 meetings to try and address some of the concerns  
20 that we have, and others in the community, but  
21 also to just to increase the communication, to  
22 make sure people understand and know what we're

1 doing, and getting input on various things.

2 MS. BRIZILL: The reason, Mr. Bennett,  
3 I'm asking this question is, I have been in  
4 contact with several people in Ward 4 who not  
5 only personally witnessed irregularities at the  
6 poll with poll worker staff, for example, but  
7 also have photographs, and they sent a complaint  
8 to you. You did not respond. They resent it a  
9 few days ago.

10 They got a response back by someone  
11 who identifies herself as the senior BOE policy  
12 manager down there, and she never -- she wrote a  
13 response back to this complaint, but she never  
14 contacted the person to say, can I see your  
15 photograph, can you provide me with additional  
16 witnesses?

17 She just wrote what was almost --  
18 something you could write -- you know, just a  
19 generic response, oh, we've looked into it. We  
20 don't think there were any irregularities.

21 Oh, we sent additional staff up there  
22 to deal with the problem. But, there were

1 serious, specific concerns that more than one  
2 person identified at Ida B. Wells.

3 And you consider this an  
4 investigation. I don't. She just wrote a  
5 generic response back to this person, saying  
6 essentially, go away. There was nothing there.

7 CHAIR BENNETT: Ms. Brizill, I'm  
8 familiar with the -- I think, anyway, at least as  
9 you describe it -- the letter that was received  
10 in that regard and the pictures.

11 And as I'm aware, we have taken a look  
12 at that, and either a response has been provided  
13 or a response is forthcoming.

14 So, but anyway, Ms. Stroud, do you  
15 have any updates on that?

16 MS. STROUD: A response was provided,  
17 and we received responses to that response, so  
18 we're dealing with that.

19 CHAIR BENNETT: Ms. Brizill?

20 MS. BRIZILL: So this is how you're  
21 going to handle complaints from members of the  
22 public as regard to irregularities they see at

1 the polling sites?

2 CHAIR BENNETT: Ms. Brizill, I think  
3 we responded to your question on that matter. Do  
4 you have anything else, ma'am? Because you've  
5 gone past your three minutes.

6 MS. BRIZILL: No. You've enlightened  
7 me as what I can expect and what people can  
8 expect from the BOE.

9 CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you, Ms.  
10 Brizill. We're going to open up the lines and  
11 see if there's any other public comments.

12 So, one, two. Can you open up  
13 everybody and -- okay. If anybody else has got  
14 any additional public comments or matters?

15 MS. WHITING: I would like to speak.

16 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay.

17 MR. SINDRAM: I would too, as well,  
18 Mr. Chair.

19 (Simultaneous speaking.)

20 CHAIR BENNETT: The young lady opened  
21 up first. Can I get your telephone number and  
22 name?

1 MS. WHITING: Yes, my name is Cherita  
2 Whiting. I'm the person who wrote the complaint  
3 in. And we just received a response yesterday.

4 CHAIR BENNETT: And can I get your  
5 phone number?

6 MS. WHITING: 202-487-5926.

7 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Great, thank  
8 you. Go ahead.

9 MS. WHITING: The night of the  
10 election, Mr. Bennett, I emailed you, I emailed  
11 Ms. Stroud -- I believe that's how you pronounce  
12 her last name --- and Ms. Miller.

13 (Simultaneous speaking.)

14 CHAIR BENNETT: But, my apologies for  
15 the record, but for the court reporter, can you  
16 identify yourself with your name and address for  
17 the record please, ma'am?

18 MS. WHITING: Cherita Whiting. 414  
19 Oneida Street Northeast, Washington, D.C., Ward 4  
20 resident.

21 CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you. Go ahead,  
22 I'm sorry.



1 MS. WHITING: As I was saying, I  
2 emailed you, Ms. Miller, and Ms. Stroud the night  
3 of the election, and the next morning, and Mr.  
4 Thompson, who I was on the phone with for several  
5 hours while I was at Ida B. Wells.

6 I sent him videos and still pictures.  
7 The pictures will show you that I was there from  
8 daylight until nighttime.

9 Nobody never called me. Nobody never  
10 emailed me back.

11 Nobody never inquired anything about  
12 any of my detailed writings that I took the time  
13 to write to you guys so you could see what was  
14 going on, and what I witnessed with my own eyes.

15 It was not secondhand information. No  
16 one did anything to contact me.

17 And so, after 30 days of no response,  
18 I then emailed all of you again to ask when was I  
19 going to receive a response, and then that's when  
20 I got a response on July 6 saying that I would  
21 get a response on July 7.

22 Then being told that you all were

1 having this board meeting, it's become quite  
2 clear why I would now get a response, so I guess  
3 I wouldn't be able to call in and say I didn't  
4 get a response.

5 But in my eyes, I still didn't get a  
6 response because I was told that what I saw I  
7 didn't see, as though I'm blind.

8 Okay? I was told that nobody was in  
9 the accessible line, there was not an accessible  
10 person, or that wasn't over the age of 55 or 65,  
11 whatever she wrote back in the email.

12 My own cousin, who is younger than me,  
13 and I'm 55, was sitting in the line to vote.

14 My own cousin received food and  
15 beverage from the person running, Janeese --  
16 George Lewis.

17 And several people said, oh, well, we  
18 know we're voting for you since you're feeding us  
19 while we're standing here.

20 I reported to Mr. Thompson about the  
21 guy who they ultimately around 9:00 removed that  
22 was going in and out of the back door, allowing

1 people to go in and out of the back door.

2 And through this back door Ida B.  
3 Wells I don't know which part of the school that  
4 is.

5 I recorded and took pictures of the  
6 campaign people being inside of there, standing  
7 at the election booths with the people while they  
8 were voting, in full campaign gear.

9 I've took pictures of them sitting on  
10 the steps outside of the back door helping  
11 residents fill out their ballot.

12 I took pictures of people who were  
13 supposed to be in cars, but were sitting at the  
14 picnic tables inside the fencing area, and  
15 sitting with campaign workers, filling out  
16 ballots.

17 I took pictures of all kinds of stuff  
18 that was going on for the many hours that I was  
19 there at Ida B. Wells, and nobody bothered to  
20 call me.

21 But instead of going to the press with  
22 this first, I decided to come to you all with

1 this, and nobody called me, and then the response  
2 that I get is that, well, basically, I didn't see  
3 what I saw.

4 MS. EVANS: Ms. Whiting?

5 MS. WHITING: And I guess my camera  
6 that has the time stamps on there that will show  
7 you -- and then, I was told that everybody was  
8 told they couldn't vote after 8:00.

9 At 9:13, the same guy that was walking  
10 people in and out the back door walked over to me  
11 and said, you want to vote? 9:13.

12 That's on video. 9:13 he walked up to  
13 me. I voted early. I voted early.

14 So, luckily I didn't. I probably  
15 should have said yes to see if I could've still  
16 went in and voted again.

17 So, I'm not here for this didn't  
18 happen, but I was there while it was happening.

19 MS. EVANS: Ms. Whiting, may we  
20 respond to your concerns?

21 CHAIR BENNETT: This is Monica Evans.

22 (Simultaneous speaking.)

1 MS. WHITING: More than 30 days later,  
2 you sure can.

3 MS. EVANS: Yes. You received a  
4 response based on the information we have thus  
5 far, the information we were able to confirm, and  
6 your response.

7 At no time did we indicate the  
8 investigation was closed and we were no longer  
9 looking into the matters.

10 You've requested a response. We got  
11 you the information we have to-date.

12 Some of the items we were not able to  
13 verify. Some we were able to verify.

14 And the response you received is where  
15 we are to-date.

16 MS. WHITING: I'm sorry, who is this  
17 that's speaking now so I know who's speaking?

18 MS. EVANS: I'm the one who responded  
19 to your request. This is Monica Evans.

20 MS. WHITING: I'm not sure what you  
21 can't find through (audio interference) from the  
22 picture or the videos.

1 CHAIR BENNETT: (Audio interference)

2 Thank you. Ma'am, can you --

3 MS. WHITING: I'm here. I said I'm  
4 not sure what you can't respond to from an actual  
5 picture in real time or an actual video in real  
6 time.

7 MS. EVANS: You were not the only one  
8 --

9 (Simultaneous speaking.)

10 MS. WHITING: And I was on the phone  
11 with Mr. Thompson reporting directly to him as  
12 things were going on, and showing him, FaceTiming  
13 him while it was going on.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes, Mr. Thompson --

15 MS. WHITING: And I was told that you  
16 all didn't have anybody available to send to Ida  
17 B. Wells.

18 MS. EVANS: That is correct. We did  
19 not have anyone available until after some of the  
20 other polling locations closed.

21 Mr. Thompson was briefed and  
22 interviewed, and he did review the response and

1 provided any details that he had available at the  
2 time.

3 As I said, at no time and nowhere in  
4 your response did we indicate the investigation  
5 was closing and that we would no longer look into  
6 the matter.

7 MS. WHITING: And nowhere in there did  
8 you indicate that you needed more information, or  
9 you were seeking to continue investigating,  
10 either.

11 So, I'm left to come up with my own  
12 conclusion.

13 You basically were telling me in your  
14 response that, like I said, and I'm going to say  
15 it for the last time, I didn't see what I saw.

16 But I have several other people. See,  
17 I wasn't the only person standing there taking  
18 pictures or with videos.

19 So, most people were waiting on me to  
20 get my outcome.

21 (Simultaneous speaking.)

22 MS. WHITING: I'm not finished yet.

1 Most people were waiting for me to give my  
2 outcome.

3 Now that I have my outcome, I'm going to let  
4 them know, and let them do what they want to do  
5 with their videos and their pictures, as well.

6 Because some people have pictures and  
7 videos before I even got there, of what was going  
8 on.

9 MS. EVANS: Okay, Ms. Whiting. Well,  
10 we did not receive pictures from other people or  
11 inquiries regarding your specific allegations.

12 However, I understand your concerns.  
13 We do not take concerns or issues lightly, and I  
14 appreciate you bringing these issues to our  
15 attention.

16 MS. WHITING: Well, why would it take  
17 for me to have to continuously email and ask when  
18 am I going to get a response, if you don't take  
19 it lightly?

20 It was over 30 days before I got a  
21 response.

22 MS. EVANS: It was one of those things



1 that slipped through, and once it was brought to  
2 my attention, it was addressed within 24 hours.

3 MS. WHITING: Slipped through? I  
4 emailed it to the chairperson, the director. How  
5 is it slipping through?

6 MS. EVANS: Once it was brought to my  
7 attention that there was no response provided, I  
8 responded within 24 hours.

9 I apologize for the delays, but thank  
10 you for your patience.

11 It was not something that was  
12 intentional, and we did not have any intent to  
13 delay the response.

14 As you know, we were dealing with  
15 several after-action items as a result of the  
16 election, and then the special election two weeks  
17 after that, as we've been in full planning mode  
18 for November.

19 But I promise you it was not an intent  
20 to not respond to the allegations that you  
21 brought to our attention.

22 CHAIR BENNETT: Ms. Whiting, I think

1 the answer is we will continue to investigate,  
2 and will provide additional response, and that is  
3 forthcoming.

4 Were there any other matters beyond  
5 that, Ms. Whiting?

6 MS. WHITING: I think that's quite  
7 enough, sir, don't you?

8 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay, thank you.

9 (Simultaneous speaking.)

10 CHAIR BENNETT: And so, Mr. Sindram,  
11 identify yourself and your number.

12 (Simultaneous speaking)

13 CHAIR BENNETT: And if Michael  
14 Sindram can identify yourself and your number?

15 MR. SINDRAM: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
16 Chair.

17 Michael Sindram, disabled veteran.  
18 Served our country more than most. How are you  
19 guys all doing?

20 CHAIR BENNETT: Good. Can you  
21 identify your number, Mr. Sindram?

22 MR. SINDRAM: Say again?

1 CHAIR BENNETT: Can you provide your  
2 telephone number so we can identify you?

3 MR. SINDRAM: Absolutely. Yeah.  
4 Michael Sindram, disabled veteran. Served our  
5 country more than most.

6 202 area code, 722-2281.

7 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Thank you.

8 MR. SINDRAM: And I'll be brief. I  
9 have one question and one comment.

10 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay.

11 MR. SINDRAM: My comment is regarding  
12 -- I think it's Ms. Montgomery that was talking  
13 about the investigation still pending with Karl  
14 Racine.

15 Does that sound about right?

16 CHAIR BENNETT: Yes.

17 MR. SINDRAM: Yeah, and do we have any  
18 kind of deadlines?

19 You know, and the reason I broach it,  
20 I know investigations are hard to pinpoint a date  
21 certain, but not unlike Jack Evans, it went on  
22 forever and ever and ever.

1                   We heard a litany of testimony from  
2 folks that said this is dilatory and whatnot.

3                   So, my question is regarding Karl  
4 Racine investigation.

5                   Will there be a date certain when  
6 we're going to get a resolution, a --

7                   CHAIR BENNETT: Can I ask Mr. Sanford  
8 if he can unmute himself and respond to that?

9                   MR. SINDRAM: Thank you.

10                  CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Sanford, I think  
11 you're unmuted here, so if you can unmute  
12 yourself?

13                  MR. SANFORD: Okay, hello. I'm  
14 unmuted here?

15                  CHAIR BENNETT: Yes, we can hear you.

16                  MR. SANFORD: I can respond to that,  
17 to Mr. Sindram's question.

18                  The complaint was received on the 19th  
19 of May.

20                  Our statute and regulations provide  
21 that we have 90 days to complete an  
22 investigation, so the investigation regarding Mr.

1 Racine must be completed on or before the 18th of  
2 August.

3 It's not likely that it will take  
4 until that date, but we have until that date to  
5 complete the investigation.

6 MR. SINDRAM: Great.

7 CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Sanford.

9 MR. SINDRAM: I appreciate that, thank  
10 you. And then, Mr. Gill, we need more than you,  
11 an elephant in the room.

12 Competition is good. As we know  
13 again, in the District of Columbia, we don't have  
14 an election.

15 We merely have a primary, which is the  
16 election.

17 And the candidate that prevails, and  
18 the obstinate donkey, democrat, is the one that's  
19 the candidate. Sad, but true.

20 But my comment -- and it's very  
21 disturbing as a disabled veteran -- to know that  
22 the D.C. Armory is not availing itself as a

1 voting precinct.

2 That ought not be.

3 And you guys may be aware that the  
4 mayor has dictated the Office of Veterans Affairs  
5 to have been involved in this recent -- for lack  
6 of a better word, election, but primary -- when  
7 they are taken away from duties earmarked for  
8 veterans.

9 So, I'm very much concerned that the  
10 Armory has shut us down, and I'm behind you, Mr.  
11 Gill, that we make noise, a lot of noise, to open  
12 that.

13 That's a more than adequate facility  
14 for voting, for what's ever going on. The powers  
15 that be can put that aside or find a substitute  
16 arena for it to happen.

17 And again, the good mayor has used the  
18 Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs -- I would add  
19 it's the mayor's office -- it's the Veterans'  
20 Office of Veterans Affairs -- to monitor the  
21 primary at various polling sites.

22 I know Sharade Wade was making mention

1 he was on Minnesota Avenue.

2 Pearson was another.

3 I even think the good director was  
4 given marching orders to come out there, and this  
5 is above and beyond the call of duty, and on.

6 But the point being is that the  
7 Veterans' Office of Veterans Affairs can weigh  
8 in, and monitor, and be at polling sites for the  
9 primary election, if you will. So be it for the  
10 D.C. Armory, as well.

11 And the mayor can make certain  
12 provision and accommodation for that to be. And I  
13 wanted to conclude -- and if there's any  
14 comments? Mr. Gill, or anybody else wanted to  
15 weigh in?

16 But it's disconcerting to remain free,  
17 and a lot of blood has been shed for that  
18 precious dominant -- if not predominant -- right  
19 to vote, as I'm sure you are aware, Mr. Chair.

20 And I wanted to conclude with the  
21 excerpt, it is the veteran.

22 It is the veteran, not preacher, who

1 has given us freedom of religion.

2 It is the veteran, not reporter who  
3 has given us freedom of the press.

4 It is the veteran, not poet, who has  
5 given us freedom of speech.

6 It is the veteran, not campus  
7 organizer, who has given us freedom to assemble.

8 It is the veteran, not lawyer, who has  
9 given us the right to a fair trial.

10 It is the veteran, not politician, who  
11 has given us the right to vote.

12 It is the veteran who salutes the  
13 flag, who serves under the flag. God bless  
14 America and our troops.

15 I'd be delighted to field any  
16 questions at the time, Mr. Chair.

17 CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you, Mr.

18 Sindram. We're going to move to the  
19 next, but I do want to put on the record that,  
20 you know, just because a facility is not  
21 available to us doesn't mean that there's not  
22 really important activities and work going there.



1                   (Audio interference) -- Leave this  
2 where we (audio interference) those facilities  
3 not being available.

4                   So, what I wanted to do was to go to  
5 another person. (Audio interference) -- people  
6 raise their hands, but we're going to unmute  
7 everybody, and so if I could hear one voice, I'd  
8 be most appreciative. Was that it?

9                   (No audible response.)

10                  CHAIR BENNETT: Is that -- Is there  
11 anyone there? So, we're going to mute everybody,  
12 and I apologize if for some reason we missed  
13 someone.

14                  But thank you for attending, and we  
15 are having a meeting with the D.C. Democrats at  
16 12:30, I believe, to talk about November and  
17 plans going forward.

18                  Again, we may close with indicating  
19 that we are in the processes of really looking at  
20 trying to hire a lot of people.

21                  So, if anyone has any thoughts or  
22 ideas, or just encourage folks to apply.

1           It's easy to go on the website and do  
2           that, so we would like for those persons to  
3           apply.

4           So could I get a motion to adjourn the  
5           meeting from Ms. Greenfield?

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

8           CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Could I get a  
9           second from Mr. Gill?

10          MEMBER GILL: Hi, this is Mike Gill.  
11          I second.

12          CHAIR BENNETT: It has been properly  
13          moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

14          And all in favor, Ms. Greenfield?

15          MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

16          CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Gill?

17          MEMBER GILL: Aye.

18          CHAIR BENNETT: And I concur. It's  
19          unanimous. The meeting is hereby adjourned.

20          Thank you.

21                         (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
22          went off the record at 11:38 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Board Meeting

Before: DCBOE

Date: 07-08-20

Place: teleconference

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



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Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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