

GOVERNMENT
OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY

MAY 5, 2021

+ + + + +

The District of Columbia Board of Elections convened via Video Teleconference, pursuant to notice at 10:30 a.m. EST, 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
CECILY COLLIER-MONTGOMERY, Director of

the Office of Campaign Finance

WILLIAM SANFORD, General Counsel of the
Office of Campaign Finance

TERRI F. STROUD, General Counsel

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

2 10:36 a.m.

3 Call to Order

4 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Good morning. As
5 I said earlier, this is the May meeting of the --
6 2021 meeting of the D.C. Board of Elections.

7 We've got a relatively short agenda, so we'll get
8 started on that. I call the meeting to order.

9 The first thing I want to do even before checking
10 a quorum, is a court reporter present and can
11 they hear okay?

12 COURT REPORTER: I am present, and I
13 can hear you.

14 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay great, thank you.
15 So my name is Michael Bennett. I'm chair of the
16 Board of Elections, and I want to ascertain a
17 quorum. So if I could get Ms. Greenfield to
18 acknowledge her presence by --

19 MEMBER GREENFIELD: I'm here.

20 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay, great. Can I
21 get Mr. Gill to acknowledge his presence?

22 MEMBER GILL: And I'm here. Mike

1 Gill's here.

2 CHAIR BENNETT: Great, okay. So we
3 have a quorum. I'm Michael Bennett, so all three
4 Board members are here. The adoption of the
5 agenda and the approval of the minutes from the
6 last Board meeting. Can I get a motion from Mr.
7 Gill relative to the adoption of today's agenda
8 and the approval of the minutes from the last
9 meeting?

10 MEMBER GILL: I move that we adopt to
11 this agenda and the minutes from the previous
12 meeting.

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

15 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yes, I second.

16 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. It's been
17 properly moved and seconded. Voice vote. Ms.
18 Greenfield?

19 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

20 CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Gill?

21 MEMBER GILL: Aye.

22 CHAIR BENNETT: Aye from me as well,

1 and so it's unanimous. The agenda for today and
2 the minutes from the last meeting are adopted.

3 Any Board matters? Mr. Gill?

4 MEMBER GILL: I have no Board matters.

5 CHAIR BENNETT: Ms. Greenfield.

6 MEMBER GREENFIELD: I don't have any
7 either.

8 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay, and no Board
9 matters from me as well. So we will move to the
10 report from the Office of Campaign Finance, Ms.
11 Cecily Montgomery.

12 MS. MONTGOMERY: Yes.

13 CHAIR BENNETT: Can you check your mic
14 and make sure it's on? It's been so long. There
15 you go.

16 MS. MONTGOMERY: Good morning. First,
17 I would like to report that the Office of
18 Campaign Finance continues to operate under a
19 modified status. Again, all of our services are
20 being provided remotely via email and telephone
21 at 202-671-0547. All candidates and committees
22 (audio interference) required deadline (audio

1 interference) instructions concerning the
2 registration process.

3 CHAIR BENNETT: Everybody, and if you
4 can mute yourself that would be great. All
5 right. Go ahead, Ms. Montgomery.

6 MS. MONTGOMERY: Okay. In the Fair
7 Elections Program during the month of April, I
8 would report that as of April the 30th, 2021, the
9 total sum of \$4,016,797.64 has been dispersed
10 from the Fair Elections Fund, in base amount and
11 matching payments to the 36 candidates who
12 certified, who are certified by the agency and
13 the Fair Elections Program to participate in the
14 November 3rd, 2020 general election, the June
15 2nd, 2020 primary election, and the June 16th
16 2020 special election.

17 The 2020 election cycle closed on
18 November the 3rd, 2020, and the 2020 special
19 election cycle closed on June the 16th, 2020.
20 During the month of April 2021, there were no
21 disbursements authorized for base amount and
22 matching payments from the Fair Elections Fund.

1 In the division in terms of the audit
2 process, the Fair Elections Division conducted 11
3 desk reviews of termination and amended reports
4 of receipts and expenditures which were filed
5 with the agency. It also issued six requests for
6 additional information from committees as a
7 result of the desk reviews.

8 With respect to remitted funds, as of
9 April the 30th, 2020, total funds of \$132,148.07
10 from at least 16 participating candidates in the
11 June 16th, 2020 special election, the June 2nd,
12 2020 primary election and the November the 3rd,
13 2020 general election have been remitted for
14 deposit in the Fair Elections Fund from their
15 campaign operations.

16 The exact amounts and the names of the
17 candidates are listed in our report. Our report
18 will be placed at the OCF website by the close of
19 business today for further review.

20 During the month of April 2021, the
21 Office of Campaign Finance did not receive any
22 further remission payments. There are 34 ongoing

1 post-election audits in the Fair Elections
2 Branch, and basically the audits are being
3 conducted of the campaign operations of those
4 candidates who participated again in the primary
5 election, the general election and the special
6 election.

7 The status of the post-election audit
8 is also contained in my -- in the Office of
9 Campaign Finance report, and that information
10 again will be available at the OCF website at the
11 close of business today.

12 In our Public Information and Records
13 Management Division, during the month of April
14 there were five deadlines for the filing of
15 reports of receipts and expenditures. The first
16 was by our Constituent Service Programs. The
17 report was due on April the 1st, 2021. There
18 were eight compliant filings all timely filed,
19 and they electronically filed their reports.

20 With respect to our
21 Senator/Representative files, April 1st was also
22 the deadline for the filing of their reports of

1 receipts and expenditures. There are three
2 required filings. All three timely filed and
3 they electronically filed their reports.

4 With our Legal Defense Committee, the
5 15th report of receipts and expenditures was due
6 on Monday, April the 1st, 2021. There's one
7 required filing. They timely filed and also
8 electronically filed their report.

9 With our Political Action Committees,
10 April the 10th was the deadline for the filing of
11 their report of receipts and expenditures.

12 Because the 10th fell on the weekend, the first
13 business day was Monday, April the 12th, 2021.
14 There were 51 required filings, 50 timely filed.
15 We had one filer who requested an extension and
16 the request was granted, and all 50 of the timely
17 filers electronically filed their reports.

18 With our Independent Expenditure
19 Committees, also April the 10th was the deadline
20 for the filing of their report of receipts and
21 expenditures. Again because of the weekend, the
22 due date fell on Monday, April the 12th, 2021.

1 There were three required filings. All three
2 timely filed and electronically filed their
3 reports.

4 I'm going to now update you on the
5 filing of the ANC candidates who were required to
6 file their financial summary statement on Friday,
7 March the 26th, 2021. There were 426 required
8 filings. 363 timely filed. There were two
9 extensions granted for late filing. There were
10 60 failures to file. There were 60 referrals to
11 the general counsel for the failure to file, and
12 all 364 of the candidates who timely filed and
13 also for whom an extension was granted
14 electronically filed their reports.

15 During April 2021, we had three
16 candidates and committees who registered with our
17 office. The first was a Fair Elections
18 candidate, Ryan Jones. Ryan Jones for Attorney
19 General registered on April the 25th, 2021.
20 Statehood Fund Committee Oye Owolewa as the U.S.
21 Shadow representative registered on April the
22 23rd, 2021.

1 We have a New Initiative Committee.
2 Elizabeth Davis Education Equity Pathway Policy
3 Act of 2022 registered on April the 23rd, 2021.
4 We also had one candidate who completed the OCF
5 entrance conference presentation during March,
6 and that was Ryan Jones, candidate Ryan Jones for
7 AG. And actually I believe that should be April,
8 but I will check on the date.

9 Again, we referred on the PIRM, the
10 Public Information Records Management Division
11 referred 60 candidates for the Office of ANC
12 Commissioner to the Office of the General Counsel
13 for the failure to timely file their ANC
14 financial summary statement. The names of those
15 candidates are listed in the report, and may be
16 reviewed at our website.

17 In our report's Analysis and Audit
18 Division, and that is the Audit Division for our
19 traditional program, during the month of April
20 the Audit Division desk reviewed 96 reports of
21 receipts and expenditures which had been filed
22 with the agency. They also issued 13 -- I'm

1 sorry. They resolved 13 cases in which there had
2 been outstanding requests for additional
3 information.

4 The report of Analysis and Audit
5 Division also issued two audits during the month
6 of April. The first was ABC, a Metro Washington
7 PAC, and that was issued on April the 15th, 2021,
8 and the Ward 3 Constituent Service Fund, which
9 was issued on April the 23rd, 2021. Those were
10 compliance audits and the audits are available at
11 our website for review by members of the public.

12 I would also add that when I report to
13 the Board concerning the financial reports that
14 are electronically filed on any due date, that
15 those are available in real time for review by
16 members of the public as well.

17 That concludes my report, but I would
18 ask that the general counsel for the Office of
19 Campaign Finance, William SanFord, provide the
20 report of the General Counsel's Office.

21 CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you, Ms.
22 Montgomery. Mr. SanFord.

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CHAIR BENNETT: Can you unmute, Bill?

MR. SANFORD: Good morning.

CHAIR BENNETT: Good morning.

MR. SANFORD: Good morning, Mr.

Chairman and distinguished Board members. This is William SanFord, general counsel for the Office of Campaign Finance. During the month of April 2021, the Office of the General Counsel receives 61 referrals of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner candidates who failed to timely file. One was subsequently withdrawn, leaving the total to 60. The Office completed 14 informal hearings and issued 14 orders, which included (audio interference).

Three orders were issued in which no fines were imposed, and 11 orders were issued in which fines that totaled \$15,750 were imposed. During the month of April 2021, the Office of the General Counsel imposed fines against the following respondents:

A fine of \$100 was imposed against

1 2020 Elect Dorothy Douglas principal campaign
2 committee. A fine of \$2,450 was imposed against
3 Citizens to Elect Bill Lewis 2020 principal
4 campaign committee. A fine of \$1,500 was imposed
5 against Kishan for DC 2020 principal campaign
6 committee. A fine of \$500 was imposed against
7 Dorothy Douglas At Large State Board of Education
8 principal campaign committee.

9 A fine of \$1,600 was imposed against
10 Fred for Ward 4 principal campaign committee. A
11 fine of \$2,050 was imposed against John Fanning
12 for Ward 2, the primary election principal
13 campaign committee, and a fine of \$2,500 was
14 imposed against John Fanning for Ward 2 Special
15 Election principal campaign committee.

16 A fine of \$1,000 was imposed against
17 Patrick Kennedy for Ward 2 Special Election. A
18 fine of \$2,150 was imposed against the Committee
19 to Elect Stuart Anderson principal campaign
20 committee. A fine of \$750 was imposed against Ed
21 Lazere for D.C. Council at Large principal
22 campaign committee, and finally a fine of \$1,150

1 was imposed against the Committee to Elect Chris
2 Edu Tech principal campaign committee.

3 During the month of April 2021, there
4 were no open investigations. There were no
5 requests for interpretive opinions, and no show
6 cause proceedings were conducted. That sir
7 concludes my report.

8 CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you, Mr.
9 SanFord. Anything else, Ms. Montgomery? Okay.
10 Do I have any questions from Ms. Greenfield?

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

13 CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Gill?

14 MEMBER GILL: No questions. Thanks
15 Williams, thanks Cecily.

16 CHAIR BENNETT: I have none as well.
17 Thank you both as well. Next on the agenda is
18 the report from the executive director, Board of
19 Elections, Ms. Alice Miller.

20 MS. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 Just an update. As I reported last month, we are
22 in the middle of the biennial canvass. Creation

1 of canvass cards are in the process, and we're
2 updating those accordingly based on the data that
3 we received back. As of now, the cards are
4 coming back in in one way or another, coming back
5 in slowly.

6 Undeliverables, we've received 4,562.
7 953 cards have come as (audio interference) and
8 40 deceased. So we appreciate everyone's
9 continued cooperation with returning the updated
10 information as the cards are received at your
11 home. It's very important for the maintenance of
12 the voter rolls.

13 So we would just ask that as this
14 process is labor intensive and takes months to
15 complete, given the procedures that we're
16 required by statute to follow. But again if you
17 receive a canvass card at your home where the
18 name of the person whom the card is addressed
19 does not live there, please follow the
20 instructions on the card and return it back to
21 the Board's office with the appropriate
22 information and updated as required.

1 Cards have been mailed to all voters
2 at the address on the Board's records of those
3 individuals who chose not to vote in the 2020
4 election. With respect to voter ID cards,
5 individuals who have updated or moved within the
6 District for the month of April, we've mailed out
7 5,146 new or updated voter ID cards during last
8 month.

9 I want to talk a little bit about our
10 VR system, our new voter registration system. As
11 you know, we've been working on updating our old
12 voter registration system with the new system.
13 The updated system, which was contracted -- the
14 contract was approved in February of 2019, was
15 put on hold last year with the challenges
16 associated with conducting the election.

17 We picked up the project beginning in
18 February of this year. We've been performing
19 testing for the system with each division in
20 order to determine the implementation and
21 functionality of the system. At this point,
22 testing has been going well. We are scheduled to

1 test the election worker portal tomorrow, that's
2 Thursday.

3 The targeted goal is to have the full
4 mock election of all units ready to be tested by
5 mid-June. It's set to go live with the new
6 system by September, so that would be in plenty
7 enough time for next year's elections. Just so
8 the new VR system is a major overhaul. It has
9 been a long time in the planning process.

10 Once this system is successfully in
11 place and implemented, it will be the first time
12 that the voter registration has been updated in
13 over 20 years.

14 As you may know, we're currently
15 working from a Pascal programming language model
16 with some tweaks along the way that allowed for
17 us to function in the world of current
18 technology. This system brings ideally current
19 updated processes based on the latest technology
20 (audio interference), with front end and back end
21 data, a base platform for our business needs and
22 will eliminate many of the challenges that we

1 currently face but are able to manage with the
2 old system through band-aids and patches here and
3 there.

4 With respect to our Voter Education
5 Outreach Division, they've been -- we have begun
6 engaging District residents about voter
7 registration requirements and voting in the
8 District of Columbia (audio interference) events.
9 On March 9th, there is a virtual Back to Work
10 D.C. Back to Work D.C., a job seeker resource
11 fair with D.C. Department of Employment Services,
12 and on April 30th, (audio interference) a vendor
13 supervision agency who sells (audio
14 interference).

15 April was (audio interference) Second
16 Chance Month and a virtual forum, a guide to
17 inform criminal justice-involved citizens of
18 rights and resources that empower reentry success
19 from VOE's end. We remind the participants there
20 that they should feel empowered as a returning
21 citizens in the District because they have rights
22 most returning citizens do not have, such as the

1 right to register and vote.

2 They should, and that they should
3 register or update their voter registration
4 information if their address has changed since
5 their release from confinement. And as you all
6 know, we did host, excuse me, two town hall
7 meetings last month, interacting with voters
8 about their voter experience from the general
9 November 2020 election.

10 The Board was interested in obtaining
11 voters' opinions on what worked for the general
12 election such as the all mail ballots, mail drop
13 boxes, vote centers, our messaging pushing
14 election week versus election day at our Super
15 Vote Centers, ballot tracking and other issues.
16 Voters were generally appreciative of the time
17 the Board took to host the meetings.

18 We received a lot of good feedback for
19 the Board to consider and discuss for our
20 planning for the 2022 election cycle. I believe
21 there's some conversation in consideration for
22 scheduling another town hall in the future.

1 Just from a personal perspective, I
2 want to indicate that I was a panelist on the
3 Carter-Baker Commission, which was hosted on
4 April 28th, where I was asked to discuss, along
5 with the Secretary of State from Washington
6 State, Kim Wyman; the director for the state
7 election directors in Colorado, Judd Choate;
8 Tammy Patrick, who was associated with the
9 Democracy Fund; and Doug Chapin, who moderated
10 the panel.

11 We talked about mail voting 15 years
12 later after the Carter-Bacon Commission had
13 reviewed this process. And so that is actually
14 streamed. I think it's online and you can watch
15 the whole panel discussion, and again it's the
16 Carter-Bacon Commission. It was the April 28th
17 panel discussion. That concludes our report.

18 CHAIR BENNETT: Great. Any questions
19 from Ms. Greenfield?

20 MEMBER GREENFIELD: No, I don't have
21 any questions. I do want to say I'm glad about
22 the voter registration system, the fact that

1 we'll have a new one by September.

2 CHAIR BENNETT: Great. Mr. Gill?

3 MEMBER GILL: Again, no questions.

4 That's good news, Alice.

5 CHAIR BENNETT: Great. I do have a
6 request actually, and that is just to talk a
7 little bit more about the process by which we're
8 trying to -- we go through all the time to update
9 the voter registration rolls, the voter rolls.
10 One of the things that we heard in the town halls
11 consistently was questions around how we, you
12 know, make sure that we have as a -- to use a
13 term somebody used, a cleaner voter registration
14 rolls as possible.

15 I think a lot of people really don't
16 know the extensive process we go through in these
17 off years to try and, you know, make sure that we
18 clean up the voter rolls as much as possible.
19 However that said, there's not much we can do
20 that goes a whole lot further than -- that does
21 not include voter feedback and voter
22 participation in the process to clean up the

1 rolls.

2 So it's important, knowing that we're
3 going through the process, to reach out to
4 voters, but also that voters reach out back to us
5 too. Just as a comment, one of the things that
6 states like Washington and Oregon have had great
7 success at, and that is creating a relationship
8 with voters similar to the ones that most states
9 have with their persons that hold driver's
10 permits.

11 So when you move and you have a
12 driver's permit, one of the first things you do
13 is to make sure that you correct your driver's
14 license. Well in voting, we need to make sure
15 that we have relationships with registered
16 voters, such that they are, you know, constantly
17 thinking about making sure that their voter
18 registration is up to date in terms of addresses
19 and going forward really, email addresses as
20 well.

21 So anyway, if you could just talk
22 about that just a little bit more Ms. Miller,

1 relative to the basic things that we're doing and
2 that we always do.

3 MS. MILLER: Yeah. So by law we are
4 required to canvass individuals who chose not to
5 vote in the previous general election. That
6 would be our November 2020 election. So we mail
7 a card out to those individuals and request that
8 they confirm their voter registration
9 information.

10 If the card does not come back, then
11 we assume that they are registered to vote. If
12 the card comes back to us, then we send a second
13 notice, which is affordable, affordable card. We
14 send two cards back. It involves two multiple
15 mailers. One is affordable as required by law,
16 request the voter to update and return the card
17 back to us.

18 Again, it's part of the list
19 maintenance procedure. We cannot just remove
20 someone from the rolls because they chose not to
21 vote. We have to receive some kind of positive
22 information from the voter that indicates or from

1 someone who's living at the address, the last
2 address that we have on file for that voter that
3 indicates that the voter no longer lives there
4 before the voter can be removed and put or placed
5 in inactive status.

6 It's a long and enduring process. It
7 generally takes about six to eight months to
8 complete just the canvass process, and that's how
9 we ask our voters to help us, participate with us
10 and work with us to get this done. We do not
11 have the authority to just remove someone from
12 the voter roll.

13 CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you. Well with
14 that, then I'll just move on to the next item on
15 the agenda, and that is General Counsel Report,
16 Ms. Terri Stroud.

17 MS. STROUD: Good morning everyone.
18 Right now the Board or the Office of General
19 Counsel is in a rare space, where there is no
20 active litigation. We are working on rulemaking
21 but have none to present at today's meeting. We
22 have been busy processing FOIA requests and

1 providing general support to the administrative
2 support to the agency as well as answering the
3 candidate inquiries, as well as queries from
4 individuals who are interested in filing valid
5 access measures.

6 I would like to note that on April
7 17th, the home going service for the Board's
8 former senior staff attorney Rudolph McGann was
9 held on April 17th and it was a beautiful
10 service, which was a celebration of his wonderful
11 life and legacy. That is all I have.

12 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay, go ahead.

13 MS. MILLER: I just want to add an
14 addendum to what I said. Removal from the voter
15 roll can occur if we receive mail back from the
16 post office that indicates that a voter no longer
17 lives here, and we have done the due diligence
18 that we need to do with return -- with respect to
19 that process, to make sure that the voter will
20 receive official mail indicating that there is no
21 one at the address. We want to make sure that
22 that process, you know, is clear.

1 CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you. Any
2 questions for Mr. Stroud? Ms. Greenfield.

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

5 CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Gill?

6 MEMBER GILL: No questions. Thanks
7 Terri.

8 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. I just wanted
9 to add that with regard to Rudy McGann, one he is
10 missed even now, and the celebrations that were
11 held to celebrate his life were actually
12 beautiful and I think very supportive of the
13 family. Those of you knew him and know the
14 family, you also know that, you know, this
15 process is not one that comes and goes in a
16 matter of a couple of weeks.

17 So anything that people can do reach
18 out and if nothing else give an encouraging word
19 to the family and his friends and loved ones
20 would be sure appreciated by all. We know how
21 close he was to many people here, and we will
22 continue to support those persons here who have

1 to walk that journey of missing him as well. So
2 hats off again to Counsel Rudolph, our attorney
3 Rudy McGann.

4 With that, since there are no more
5 questions for Ms. Stroud, I'd like to turn over
6 to public matters. We have a few people here
7 from the public. If you are on a computer, if
8 you could raise your hand on the computer. If
9 you're on a cellphone or on a phone, you just
10 press *9 and you will be acknowledged and
11 recognized. So Andy, if you can open that up.

12 MS. BRIZILL: Hi. This is Dorothy
13 Brizill. I'd like to speak to the Board.

14 CHAIR BENNETT: Yes, Ms. Brizill, you
15 are recognized. If you could give, as you know,
16 your name and address, and make your comments,
17 ma'am.

18 MS. BRIZILL: Okay. My name is
19 Dorothy Brizill, B-R-I-Z-I-L-L. I am head of
20 D.C. Watch. Our address is 1327 Girard Street,
21 N.W. I would like to get further details
22 regarding the upgrade to the voter registration

1 computer system at the Board. Could Ms. Miller
2 explain the scope of the upgrade? Is it solely
3 focused on voter registration?

4 MS. MILLER: Yes. It's a voter
5 registration system, that's it.

6 CHAIR BENNETT: So is it -- I'm sorry,
7 Ms. Brizill, go ahead.

8 MS. BRIZILL: So solely focused on
9 voter registration?

10 MS. MILLER: Yes. It's just a voter
11 registration system.

12 MS. BRIZILL: So what about the
13 systems, the computer systems used in the Board
14 of Elections that tabulate votes and everything?
15 Those computer systems and other IT issues are
16 not being addressed in this upgrade?

17 MS. MILLER: That was not the scope
18 for this procurement. The scope for this
19 procurement was solely to update the voter
20 registration system.

21 MS. BRIZILL: Are there any plans on
22 the book to update the other computer systems the

1 Board of Elections relies on, such as those used
2 to tabulate the votes?

3 MS. MILLER: We have IT enhancement
4 requests in. We will get information on that
5 once the budget has been finalized, yes.

6 MS. BRIZILL: Can I get further
7 clarification about this upgrade of the voter
8 registration system? Is it the direct results of
9 the June 2016 report by the D.C. Auditor, part of
10 the D.C. voter file, compliance with the law and
11 best practices that was issued on July 26, 2016?
12 If that upgrade the direct result of the
13 auditor's criticism of the voter registration
14 system at the Board of Elections?

15 MS. MILLER: I do not believe it has
16 anything to do with that, Ms. Brizill.

17 CHAIR BENNETT: No that -- I'm
18 familiar with the audit you're talking about.
19 But no. The audit was -- we were, have been on a
20 path to update, upgrade our voter registration
21 system for a while, and this is the culmination.
22 We had hoped that the system would have been in

1 place for the 2020 election.

2 However, there were some issues that
3 caused us to not want to have that system online,
4 you know, during a presidential election.

5 MS. BRIZILL: So the fact that a
6 finding in that 2016 audit report by the D.C.
7 Auditor, reviewing and criticizing the D.C. voter
8 registration files at the Board of Elections, and
9 recommending that the computer system of the
10 Board of Elections needed to be upgraded, was not
11 what precipitated this computer update at the
12 Board of Elections?

13 CHAIR BENNETT: No. The
14 recommendation that came from the audit was
15 consistent with what we had intended to do
16 anyway. It wasn't a recommendation that was
17 ignored, Ms. Brizill. It kind of feels like
18 that's what you're implying. The recommendation
19 was consistent with what we had intended to do
20 anyway.

21 MS. BRIZILL: I would prefer if you
22 didn't imply or suggest that I was implying

1 anything. What I'm trying to do is understand
2 how a 2016 report by the D.C. Auditor highly
3 critical of the voter rolls of the Board of
4 Elections comes full circle to this upgrade,
5 which several years later in the (audio
6 interference).

7 And moreover, I would also add if I
8 could get an idea of why there was this 2016
9 report. There was a decision by the Council to
10 provide the Board of Elections with \$3 million in
11 2017 to upgrade the voter registration system,
12 and you're saying that that system will not be
13 upgraded and in place until September 2021? Why
14 the long delay?

15 CHAIR BENNETT: There's no delay, Ms.
16 Brizill. It just takes time. I mean these are
17 not, you don't just pop one in and pull one out
18 and pop another one in if you have issues around
19 one procurement. But the other thing, the really
20 big drivers are trying to make sure you have
21 clear specifications as to what you want in your
22 system.

1 And again, I'm not sure how else I can
2 answer except the audit report was consistent
3 with what we believed, going forward. We
4 weren't, you know, just kind of reacting to the
5 audit report. The audit reports are helpful in
6 many instances, and certainly that one was as
7 well, to confirm what we already had intended to
8 do. But no, there's no delay. It just takes
9 time to put these systems in place.

10 This is a huge overhaul of the voter
11 registration system. We want to make sure that
12 the IT and the system, the new system, is
13 consistent and compatible with current technology
14 and where we want to go.

15 MS. BRIZILL: Who oversaw the
16 procurement process for this new computer system,
17 someone at Board of Elections or someone at the
18 Office of Contracts and Procurement?

19 CHAIR BENNETT: Office of Contracts
20 and Procurement. We don't have procurement
21 authority at the D.C. Board of Elections.

22 MS. BRIZILL: But you do have a staff

1 person who presumably would work with Contracts
2 and Procurement to write the specifications or at
3 least educate them as regards to what kind of
4 system and what the system needed to do that
5 would be put in place, right?

6 CHAIR BENNETT: We had a number of
7 people, including myself, that reviewed the
8 system requirements and made sure that we were
9 clear regarding what our needs were.

10 MS. BRIZILL: And it's being tested
11 now?

12 CHAIR BENNETT: I'm sorry?

13 MS. BRIZILL: It's being tested now?

14 CHAIR BENNETT: I didn't understand
15 what you said. Yeah. It's being tested now,
16 yes.

17 MS. BRIZILL: And who at the Board of
18 Elections is overseeing the testing?

19 CHAIR BENNETT: I don't know the
20 specific person, Ms. Brizill.

21 MS. MILLER: It's going to each
22 division, each registration division. They're

1 testing it along with the selected vendor.

2 MS. BRIZILL: Is the IT section at
3 Board of Elections the principal person or entity
4 overseeing the --

5 MS. MILLER: Yeah. All the IT staff
6 is involved, along with the unit divisions are
7 involved. The Registration division is involved.

8 CHAIR BENNETT: Everybody who actually
9 touches the system and uses the system will need
10 to make sure that the system can provide the
11 support.

12 MS. BRIZILL: Okay.

13 CHAIR BENNETT: All right, thank you
14 Ms. Brizill. Is there any other public comments?
15 As I said, raise your hand on your computer or *9
16 on your -- do you see anybody else Mandy? Can
17 you unmute everybody just in case? We have
18 unmuted everybody, so if you have for some reason
19 either in place, hit *9 for -- if you did not,
20 don't know how to raise your hand on the
21 computer, which I oftentimes don't, you have the
22 -- you just unmute yourself.

1 All right. With that, I will thank
2 you for this meeting, and I'd like to get a
3 motion to adjourn the meeting from Mr. Gill.

4 MEMBER GILL: I make a motion that we
5 adjourn the meeting.

6 CHAIR BENNETT: All right. Can I get
7 a second from Ms. Greenfield?

8 MEMBER GREENFIELD: I second.

9 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. It's been
10 properly moved and seconded, and I can get a
11 voice vote. Ms. Greenfield.

12 MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

13 CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Gill.

14 MEMBER GILL: Aye.

15 CHAIR BENNETT: Very well. This
16 meeting is adjourned. Thanks so much.

17 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
18 went off the record at 11:16 a.m.)

19

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21

22

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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: Regular Board Meeting

Before: DC Board of Elections

Date: 05-05-2021

Place: videoconference

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