GOVERNMENT

OF

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

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MONDAY

AUGUST 31, 2020

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

BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEMBERS PRESENT:

MICHAEL BENNETT, Chair

MIKE GILL, Member

BOARD OF ELECTIONS STAFF PRESENT:

TERRI STROUD, General Counsel

KAREN F. BROOKS, Registrar of Voters

CONTENTS

Agenda Items	Page
1) Call to Order	3
2) Ascertainment of Quorum	3
3) Nominating Petition Challenge Hearing	ngs
A. Tiffany Brown v. David Brooks Candidate for Advisory Neighborho Commissioner, Single Member District 7B02	-
B. Lorraine Stanislaus v. Regina Candidate for Advisory Neighborho Commissioner, Single Member	- -
District 8C04	
4) Adverse Preliminary Determination He Mr. D'Andre Phillips	<u> </u>
5) Adjournment	54

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 2 (10:08 a.m.) 3 CHAIR BENNETT: Let me get started. 4 I call this meeting to order, Special Meeting of 5 the Board of Elections in order to hear matters associated with the ballot access. 6 7 It's after 10:00, 10:08 so we're eight 8 minutes behind and should be relatively 9 efficient. What I'm going to do is a call the 10 meeting to order, which I have just done. Let's 11 12 see if we have a quorum. We need to have at 13 least two Board members present for a quorum then 14 Mr. Gill, can I get to acknowledge your presence. MEMBER GILL: Mr. Chairman, this is 15 16 Mike Gill, Board Member, and I am here. CHAIR BENNETT: Good. And I believe 17 Ms. Greenfield is not able to be here today but 18 19 I'm here, Michael Bennett, Board Chair, so there of the three Board Members here so we have a 20

This meeting is to specifically to

quorum so the meeting can open.

21

hear nominating petition challenges and from that, what I'll do is I'll turn it over to Ms. Stroud. She will walk through the process with you and I thank the petitioners for joining us.

My apologies with regard -- I guess I shouldn't apologize for having to use Webex.

We're all trying to be safe and we're still in that mode at this point.

So your patience is appreciated and I know that most of you have probably been doing this a lot, if not weekly, certainly daily, well, not daily, certainly weekly.

So we appreciate us trying to get this together. So with that I'll turn to Ms. Terri Stroud, who is our General Counsel and walk us through the process.

CHAIR BENNETT: Good morning,
everyone. My name is Terri Stroud. As Mr. Chair
said, I'm the General Counsel to the Board. And
what we're going to do is we're going to hold two
nominating petition challenge hearings and then
also have an adverse preliminary determination

hearing this morning.

And so the first hearing is Tiffany
Brown versus David Brooks II, who is a candidate
for Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in Single
Member District 7B02.

And the second hearing is Lorraine Stanislaus versus Regina Pixley, candidate for Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in Single Member District 8C04.

And so what we'll do with respect to each hearing is that I'll have both of the parties in Single Member identify themselves for the record and you'll state your names and addresses for the record.

Then we will hear the Registrar of

Voters Report regarding this challenger. The

Registrar has examined the challenges. She will

give her Preliminary Determination Report. The

parties will have an opportunity to respond to

that report which lists the findings with respect

to the challenge.

And then based on the Registrar's

1	Report and the information given by the parties,
2	I will make a recommendation to the Board as to
3	the ruling and then the Board will either rule or
4	we can go onto Executive Session to deliberate as
5	to how the matter should be resolved.
6	So with that I will call, I will have
7	the parties (audio interference).
8	MS. STROUD: Thank you. So Ms. Brown,
9	are you on the call?
LO	MS. BROWN: I am on the call.
L1	MS. STROUD: Okay. If you could state
L 2	your name and address for the record, please, and
L3	spell it for the court reporter?
L 4	MS. BROWN: Sure. It's Tiffany L.
L5	Brown, T-I-F-F-A-N-Y, middle initial L, last name
L6	B-R-O-W-N. My address is 2918 Akron Place, A-K-
L7	R-O-N, Southeast, Washington, DC, 20020.
L8	MS. STROUD: And Mr. Brooks, are you
L9	on?
20	(Audio interference.)
21	MR. BROOKS: D-A-V-I-D, Brooks, B-
22	R-O-O-K-S. I live at 1741 28th Street.

1	Southeast, Apartment 203, Washington, DC, 20020.
2	MS. STROUD: Okay. So if the
3	representative from the Voter Services Division
4	could identify herself?
5	MS. SMITH: Yes. My name is Deanna
6	Smith, Registrar's Office.
7	MS. STROUD: So Ms. Smith will read
8	the Registrar of Voters Determination Report for
9	the record.
10	MS. STROUD: Thank you. On August
11	5th, 2020, David Brooks II, submitted a
12	nominating petition to be put on the ballot, as a
13	candidate for 2020 General election for the
14	Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for
15	Single Member District 7B02.
16	The minimum requirement to obtain
17	valid access for this office is ten signatures
18	from district voters who are duly registered in
19	the state SMD as a candidate.
20	The petition contains 17 signatures.
21	Of the 17 signatures submitted only 13 were
22	timely submitted. Accordingly, the additional

four signatures were not accepted.

The petition was posted for public inspection for ten days as required by law. The petition was challenged on August 10th, 2020, by Tiffany L. Brown, a registered voter in the District of Columbia.

Ms. Brown filed challenges to five of the 13 timely submitted signatures, enumerated by line and page number on individual challenge sheets filed for each petition page.

The signatures were challenged to titled 3 DCMR Section 1607.1 of the Board's regulations on the following grounds.

By review of the challenge in the case that all five challenges are valid, the challenges are invalid because the signer is not registered to vote at the address listed on the petition at the time the petition was signed.

Two are invalid because the signer is an inactive voter and one is invalid because the signature and the printed name are illegible.

This left the candidate's nominating

petition with eight signatures, two signatures below the number required for ballot access.

The Registrar of Voters timely received four change of address forms from David Brooks II, on Tuesday, August 18th, 2020.

Only one of these forms could be accepted because the two other forms were, I'm sorry, because two of the forms from voters were not registered and one was probably older because the signer was inactive at the time of signing.

Accordingly, Candidate Brooks was credited with one signature that had initially been determined to be invalid.

This left the candidate's nominating petition with nine signatures, one signature below the number required for ballot access.

After additional review of the challenge, the Registrar of Voters (audio interference) that had been initially been determined to be invalid was in fact valid.

Therefore, Mr. Brooks was credited with one additional signature. This leaves the

1	candidate's nominating petition with ten
2	signatures, the number required for a ballot
3	access. Thank you.
4	MS. STROUD: Okay. Was everyone able
5	to hear the Registrar of Voters Report?
6	MR. BROOKS: Yes.
7	MS. BROWN: Yes.
8	MS. STROUD: Okay. Ms. Brown, do you
9	have any response?
LO	MS. BROWN: Yes, I would like to know
L1	which voters were deemed to be eligible based on
L2	the report and which ones were deemed not to be
L3	eligible?
L 4	MS. STROUD: The Registrar of Voters
L5	will so indicate for the record.
L6	(Audio interference.)
L7	MS. BROOKS: On Page 2, Wayne Quibley,
L8	Line 1. Page 2, Line 2, Francis Smith. Page 2,
L9	Line 3, Athena Bembridge. And Page 2, Line 4,
20	Avenyo T. Miles.
21	MS. BROOKS: My name is Karen Brooks.
22	I'm the Registrar of Voters. K-A-R-E-N, B-R-O-O-

1	K-S.
2	MS. BROWN: I didn't hear clearly the
3	names that she said. So I'm, maybe I didn't ask
4	the question clearly. Of the petition challenge,
5	which, I submitted five and some were deemed to
6	be eligible. And my question is which ones were
7	deemed to be eligible?
8	MS. BROOKS: The one who is going to
9	be eligible from the one that is challenged by
10	the initial one.
11	MS. BROWN: So I submitted five names.
12	MS. BROOKS: Yes.
13	MS. BROWN: Right. And so of those
14	five they were, some were now being deemed to be
15	eligible to be voted, eligible voters. Which
16	ones are those?
17	(Audio interference.)
18	MS. BROOKS: Okay. So on the
19	challenge sheet the one that's good now will be
20	Arthur Brooks on Line 1.
21	MS. BROWN: Okay.
22	MS. BROOKS: And the two that will

1	still be invalid would be Gregory Smithwick's and
2	number the one that he gave credit for is
3	Wayne Quibley on Page 2 on Line 1. That's the
4	one that was not counted in the issues.
5	MS. BROWN: Page 2
6	MS. BROOKS: So, Page 2 will be Wayne
7	Quibley who was not included in the initial
8	count.
9	MS. BROWN: That one also wasn't
10	challenged so.
11	MS. BROOKS: They're being challenged
12	now but it was a miscount on the numbers
13	previously submitted. He actually submitted 14
14	signatures which would mean that he would have
15	enough signatures facing a challenge anyway, once
16	he secured the one which was Arthur Scott.
17	MS. BROWN: Okay. I see that.
18	MS. BROOKS: Yes.
19	MS. BROWN: All right. So Arthur Scott
20	and then Wayne Quibley because he was not counted
21	before?
22	MS. BROOKS: Yes.

1	MS. BROWN: Okay. That's all.
2	MS. STROUD: Okay. So Ms. Brown, do
3	I understand you to mean that you are fine with
4	the Registrar's Report and have no issues with
5	Mr. Brooks obtaining ballot access?
6	MS. BROWN: No.
7	MS. STROUD: Okay. Thank you. So I
8	would recommend to the Board that Mr. Brooks be
9	granted ballot access in the contest for Advisory
10	Neighborhood Commissioner in Single Member
11	District 7B02.
12	CHAIR BENNETT: And can I get a motion
13	from Mr. Gill to accept the General Counsel's
14	recommendation?
15	MEMBER GILL: I'm sorry?
16	CHAIR BENNETT: Can I get a motion
17	from Mr. Gill to accept the General Counsel's
18	recommendation? Mr. Gill, are you on mute?
19	Mr. Gill, I'm sorry, you were on mute.
20	MEMBER GILL: So I make a motion to
21	accept the General Counsel's recommendation that

<pre>been properly moved and seconded. Can I get a voice vote, Mr. Gill? MEMBER GILL: Aye. CHAIR BENNETT: And aye as well. I unanimous based on a quorum. So Mr</pre>	t's
MEMBER GILL: Aye. 5 CHAIR BENNETT: And aye as well. I	t's
5 CHAIR BENNETT: And aye as well. I	t's
_	t's
6 unanimous based on a quorum. So Mr	
7 MS. STROUD: Brooks.	
8 CHAIR BENNETT: Brooks is provid	led
9 ballot access. Thanks so much to the parties.	
MR. BROOKS: Thank you.	
MS. BROWN: Thank you.	
12 CHAIR BENNETT: Ms. Stroud?	
MS. STROUD: The next matter is	
14 Lorraine Stanislaus versus Regina Pixley,	
candidate for Advisory Neighborhood Commissione	e r
and Single Member District AC04.	
17 Ms. Stanislaus?	
MS. STANISLAUS: I'm here.	
19 MS. STROUD: Okay. If you could st	ate
and spell your name for the record and list you	ır
21 address, state your address?	
MS. STANISLAUS: Okay. Lorraine, L	ı-O-

1	R-R-A-I-N-E, Stanislaus, S-T-A-N-I-S-L-A-U-S,
2	3221 8th Street Southeast, Washington DC, 20032,
3	Number 45, Apartment 15.
4	MS. STROUD: Okay. And Ms. Pixley,
5	are you on the line?
6	MS. PIXLEY: Yes, good morning.
7	MS. STROUD: Good morning. If you
8	could state and spell your name for the record
9	and state your address?
10	MS. PIXLEY: Regina, R-E-G-I-N-A,
11	Sharlita, S-H-A-R-L-I-T-A, Pixley, P-I-X-L-E-Y.
12	My address is 211 Savannah Street Southeast,
13	Apartment Number 8, Washington, DC, 20032.
14	MS. STROUD: Okay. Thank you. So as
15	a preliminary matter, Ms. Pixley, is your
16	attorney present?
17	MS. PIXLEY: I'm checking.
18	MS. STROUD: Ms. Pixley, is your
19	attorney present on the line?
20	MS. PIXLEY: I'm checking now.
21	MR. THERESA: Hello, I'm on the line.
22	I need to be unmuted. I just sent a chat message

1	to everyone.
2	MS. STROUD: Okay. We can hear you.
3	MR. THERESA: Okay. All right. Thank
4	you.
5	MS. STROUD: So as a preliminary
6	issue, Ms. Pixley has indicated that the Board
7	does not have jurisdiction over this matter and
8	Mr. Theresa, if you could explain your position?
9	(Audio interference.)
LO	Ms. STROUD: Mr. Theresa?
L1	(Audio interference.)
L 2	MS. STROUD: Okay, Mr. Theresa?
L3	MR. THERESA: On mute, it won't allow
L 4	me to unmute.
L5	MS. STROUD: You're calling. You're
L6	not muted.
L7	MR. THERESA: I'm on Cisco Webex.
L8	Okay. All right. Yes. So in explaining Ms.
L9	Pixley's position, statute DCMR 31606.2 requires
20	a qualified elector pose a challenge to a
21	petition and qualified electors need to file in
22	person.

And at the time they need to have their address on their challenge and Ms.

Stanislaus didn't have an address on the challenge that would qualify her as a qualified elector.

Furthermore, when Ms. Stanislaus did present or purportedly gave an address that would qualify her as a qualify, that would qualify her as a qualified elector, it was not until the deadline which was after the ten day period, the ten day posting period required under 31606.2 DCMR.

MS. STROUD: Okay. So your position is that Ms. Stanislaus was not a qualified elector at the time that she filed the challenge which was timely filed?

MR. THERESA: Well, the challenge was filed. It wasn't properly filed in that, yes, there was no certification that she was a qualified elector and so the hearing shouldn't even have been took up.

MS. STROUD: Okay.

1	Ms. Stanislaus?
2	MS. STANISLAUS: Yes?
3	MS. STROUD: Are you a qualified
4	elector in the District of Columbia?
5	MS. STANISLAUS: I am and I have been
6	for quite a few, over (audio interference) years.
7	MS. STROUD: Okay.
8	Ms. Brooks, did you make a
9	determination as to whether or not Ms. Stanislaus
10	was in fact a qualified elector at the time that
11	she filed?
12	MS. BROOKS: Yes.
13	MS. STROUD: You did? And what's her
14	address according to the Board's records?
15	MS. BROOKS: According to the Board's
16	records, Ms. Stanislaus (audio interference).
17	MR. THERESA: I guess our argument is
18	she may or may not be a qualified elector but at
19	the time of filing her challenge, there's no way
20	that the Board could have known that because when
21	she filed the challenge (audio interference) she

1	elector and therefore there should have never
2	been a hearing to have commenced.
3	MS. STROUD: Okay. Mr. Theresa, one
4	moment.
5	Yes, please.
6	MS. BROOKS: Ms. Stanislaus lists her
7	address as 3221 8th Street Southeast according to
8	the Board's records.
9	MS. STROUD: And was this address
10	provided on the challenge sheet?
11	MS. BROOKS: The address provided on
12	the challenge sheet was 200 I Street Southeast.
13	MS. STROUD: And Ms. Stanislaus, what
14	address is the one that you provided on the
15	challenge form?
16	MS. STANISLAUS: My work address.
17	MS. STROUD: Okay. But you are a
18	registered qualified elector in the District of
19	Columbia?
20	MS. STANISLAUS: Yes, I am.
21	MS. STROUD: And Ms. Brooks, was the
22	challenge timely filed?

1 MS. BROOKS: Yes. 2 MS. STROUD: Okay. So according to our statute, Mr. 3 4 Theresa, the Board is, any registered qualified 5 elector, and this is on 1-1008, 1001.8, 01 of the 6 Board's election statute, not regulations, but 7 statute. 8 And it provides that any registered 9 qualified elector may within the ten day period challenge the validity of any petition by a 10 11 written statement by the challenger and filed 12 (audio interference) testified concisely the 13 alleged defects in the petition. 14 And so based on the Registrar of 15 Voters' testimony as well as Ms. Stanislaus's 16 information, she appears to be a qualified 17 elector who filed the challenge within the ten 18 day period. 19 CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Theresa, this is 20 Michael Bennett, Board Chair. Can you hear me 21 okay, sir?

MR. THERESA:

I can hear you.

CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Great. So your position is that the law or the regulations require that the challenger had to place their address on the challenge?

MR. THERESA: Right. And also that the regulation provides for your sort of certification to be made in person, that it has to be submitted in person and that their address has to be that of a qualified elector at the time of filing the challenge. That's our position.

CHAIR BENNETT: But does the -- is your position that the regs or the statute requires that the challenger's address be on the challenge? Is that what you're saying? I'm trying to make sure I'm clear about your position.

MR. THERESA: That the regulation requires that it be filed, signed, and submitted in person by a qualified elector. And I don't know how that would be verified if there was no qualified elector address given to the Board.

I don't know under what authority the

Board proceeded. It may turn out that the Board 1 2 was right about this but it wasn't based on anything that the qualified elector submitted to 3 4 the Board. This is post facto, after the fact. CHAIR BENNETT: 5 Okay. MS. STROUD: All right. 6 So Ms. 7 Brooks, could you testify as to the circumstances 8 surrounding the filing of the challenge and how 9 you determine that it was properly filed? MS. BROOKS: The challenge was properly 10 filed. She did file in person on August 14, at 11 12 8:59 a.m. in the morning and I checked her voter 13 record and she is a qualified registered voter. 14 MS. STROUD: And that determination was made when? At a later --15 16 MS. BROOKS: No. On the day she filed 17 the petition, the challenge. 18 MS. STROUD: Okay. So you determined 19 when the petition or the challenge was filed --20 MS. BROOKS: Yes. 21 MS. STROUD: -- that she was, Ms. 22 Stanislaus was a registered qualified elector of

1	the District?
2	MS. BROOKS: That's correct.
3	MS. STROUD: And the challenge was
4	timely filed?
5	MS. BROOKS: Yes.
6	MS. STROUD: So you did not make the
7	determination after the fact, you made it when
8	she at the time of the filing?
9	MS. BROOKS: Correct.
10	MS. STROUD: Okay. It would be my
11	recommendation that the Board
12	MR. THERESA: May I insert one more
13	objection, please?
14	CHAIR BENNETT: Sure.
15	MR. THERESA: It seems like, you know,
16	there's a space on the challenge for an address.
17	I still don't know, I'm having a difficult time
18	understanding that requirement if it's on the
19	Board to proactively determine the address for
20	themselves and to figure out if the person is a
21	qualified elector.
22	It seems that that would be a

1 requirement that the actual challenger put that 2 on their challenge and that the Board just go by what the challenger says and not take it upon 3 themselves to do research, whether it's before or 4 5 after the hearing. 6 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Is there, well, I guess two things. One is does the -- who is it 7 8 that filed the challenge. 9 (Simultaneous speaking.) 10 CHAIR BENNETT: Ms. Stanislaus, is she 11 going to respond to that? 12 MS. STROUD: Ms. Stanislaus, do you, 13 would you like to respond to Mr. Theresa's 14 argument? 15 MS. STANISLAUS: No. 16 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Mr. Theresa, do 17 you have any other arguments you want us to 18 consider? 19 MR. THERESA: Just that the entire 20 process, if there's a space for an address and it 21 needs to be certified in person, then there's no 22 point to having it if the Board is just going to

conduct its own research. 1 2 I mean, whether or not, you know, she ends up being a qualified elector or not is 3 irrelevant to the analysis, at least under 4 5 1606.2. So Mr. Gill, do 6 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. 7 you have any questions? 8 MEMBER GILL: Sorry, Michael. You're 9 asking me if I have a question? 10 CHAIR BENNETT: Yes, sir. 11 MEMBER GILL: No. I mean, I'm 12 following along with your argument here. I 13 guess, you know, as the Board we try to strive to 14 not, I think the attorney is arguing a technicality that's never really been accepted as 15 16 a, I mean, it's a technicality the statute says 17 needs to be a qualified elector. 18 MR. THERESA: It's a regulation. 19 MEMBER GILL: And there's no, I quess 20 I'm struggling to see the connection between 21 being a qualified elector and the address that's

put on the form as being determinate of that.

I don't have any questions, that's just what I'm struggling with.

MS. STROUD: So based upon the requirement of the election statute that provides that any registered qualified elector may within the ten days period challenge the validity of any petition by a written statement signed by the challenger and filed with the Board and specified concisely the alleged defects in the petition, I would recommend that the Board allow the matter to go forward.

CHAIR BENNETT: I have unreadiness and so I'd like to take the argument under consideration and take a look at the documents and then in Executive Session have discussion with Mr. Gill and then respond to the arguments (audio interference).

MEMBER GILL: Michael, I'm good with that. Should we make a motion to put this into Executive Session?

CHAIR BENNETT: Well, not at this point. I want to hear the rest of the arguments.

But we'll go onto Executive Session after we hear 1 2 the other matter. I think we have one more 3 matter. 4 MS. STROUD: We do. So we can go to 5 the third item on the agenda and then we'll go to 6 Executive Session. Yes. Then we'll go to 7 CHAIR BENNETT: 8 Executive Session and consider it. Thank you. 9 MEMBER GILL: All right. All right. 10 CHAIR BENNETT: And what 11 we'll do, the way this will work, Ms. Stanislaus 12 and Mr. Theresa --13 MS. STROUD: And Ms. Pixley. 14 CHAIR BENNETT: -- and Ms. Pixley, is 15 we will hear the next matter. We'll vote to go into Executive Session and then we'll come back 16 and take a voice vote relative to the 17 18 recommendation of the General Counsel. 19 Understood. MS. STANISLAUS: 20 CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you so much. 21 All right. Ms. Stroud, next matter? 22 The next matter is an MS. STROUD:

1	Adverse Preliminary Determination Hearing and the
2	party is Mr. D'Andre Phillips.
3	Mr. Phillips was a candidate seeking
4	to be a candidate in the Office of Advisory
5	Neighborhood Commissioner in Single Member
6	District ANC5C06.
7	My understanding in the Registrar of
8	Voters position and address this is that Mr.
9	Phillips did not timely file his ballot access
10	materials in order to be a candidate in this
11	contest. He's (audio interference).
12	MS. BROOKS: We received Mr.
13	Phillips's documents on August 10th after the
14	filing deadline by mail.
15	(Audio interference.)
16	CHAIR BENNETT: The filing deadline
17	was what?
18	MS. BROOKS: August the 5th.
19	CHAIR BENNETT: Five days tardy?
20	MS. BROOKS: Yes (audio interference).
21	MS. STROUD: Okay. So Mr. Phillips,
22	if you could explain to the Board why you should

be granted ballot access despite not having 1 2 timely filed your ballot access documents? 3 MR. PHILLIPS: Sure. Sure, should I 4 spell my name and state my address for the 5 record? 6 CHAIR BENNETT: Yes, sir. MR. PHILLIPS: 7 Okay. Name D'Andre 8 Phillips, D-A-N-D-R-E, last name, P-H-I-L-L-I-P-9 My address is 2240 16th Street Northeast, Washington, DC, 20018. 10 11 Yes, I wanted to thank the Board for entertaining my appeal this morning. Just due to 12 13 the ripple effects of the current pandemic where 14 all things being, I was unable to submit my information in a timely manner due to being a 15 16 caretaker for a couple of elderly members in my family which have now, are really experiencing 17 18 the effects of COVID. 19 So I've had to travel by car to 20 Pennsylvania multiple times and also to Michigan 21 to take care so, to take care of my grandparent.

So to that end, yes, I was unable to

1	get my form in on time. After receiving the
2	preliminary information and petition signed,
3	signers from the community just due to this small
4	hiccup, it was, I was unable to submit my forms
5	in a timely manner.
6	So I am, requesting from the Board
7	that they that you all still allow for my
8	candidacy to go forward and allow my name on the
9	petition for, or excuse me, on the ballot for
10	November 3rd. Thank you.
11	CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Gill? Mr. Gill,
12	Do you have any questions, Mr. Gill?
13	MEMBER GILL: No, I don't have any
14	questions, Michael.
15	CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. And so what I'd
16	like to do is to we haven't even spoken to
17	MS. STROUD: No.
18	CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Phillips, did you
19	mail the petition prior to the deadline?
20	MR. PHILLIPS: Yes, I put it in the
21	mailbox on our street or within my neighborhood.
22	I'm not sure if it's one that is checked

1	regularly but it's just a blue box mailbox.
2	CHAIR BENNETT: No, I'm did you
3	mail it before August 5th?
4	MR. PHILLIPS: Did I mail it before
5	August 10th? No. I mailed it on August, I want
6	to say 8th when I arrived back to D.C.
7	CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. All right.
8	Thanks. And what I'd like to do is to deal with
9	this in Executive Session as well.
10	So can I get a motion, Mr. Gill, to
11	move this to Executive Session? And Mr.
12	Phillips, we'll give you a ruling when we come
13	back. It won't take long, I promise, sir.
14	Mr. Gill, can I get a motion to go
15	into Executive Session?
16	MEMBER GILL: I move that we move into
17	Executive Session.
18	CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. It's been
19	properly moved. I second that. It's been
20	properly moved and seconded. All in favor? Mr.
21	Gill?
22	MEMBER GILL: Aye.

1 CHAIR BENNETT: And aye for me as 2 well. So we are now going into Executive Session and we will be back. 3 4 And one more? 5 MS. STROUD: Yes. Oh, we're going into 6 CHAIR BENNETT: 7 Executive Session, I'm sorry, to deliberate the 8 matter associated with the challenge. 9 MR. THERESA: Hold on one second. Can 10 I speak? 11 Sir, I'm actually, CHAIR BENNETT: 12 we're actually going to the Executive Session 13 now. But I'll hear you. 14 Oh, okay. Thank you. MR. THERESA: 15 Yes, and so I mean, along these same lines, so my 16 client submitted a petition and there were some 17 dates missing and it was empty. At the top there 18 was a date, at the bottom it was a date. 19 I mean, if the Board took the same 20 initiative to keep some person on the ballot as 21 they took to challenge the ballot, then they

could easily infer what the dates were and that's

a technicality as well. 1 2 So I mean, it just seems like, you know, that both the petition had like some 3 4 missing entries in there and the challenge had a 5 missing entry in there. And both of them, you know --6 7 MS. STROUD: So, let me just say, 8 okay, go ahead. 9 No, no, go ahead, sir. CHAIR BENNETT: Yes, and so if you're 10 MR. THERESA: 11 being even-handed as an agency, you know, it 12 seems a little bit unfair for the Board to take the initiative to validate a challenge but not 13 14 take the initiative to validate a petition 15 because both of these things that we're talking 16 about are technicalities here. 17 CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Theresa, I'm 18 sorry, go ahead, I shouldn't have allowed you to 19 keep speaking but, Ms. Stanislaus? 20 MS. STANISLAUS: To Mr. Theresa's 21 point, at our preliminary hearing Ms. Pixley

stated that the Board pointed out to her that the

dates were missing.

So when he talked about some level of proactiveness on the side of the Board in terms of assisting, I guess it's what he's assuming that is happening, the Board did point it out to her what she, she stated the Board pointed out to her when she submitted her paperwork that the dates were missing when they did not have to do that.

CHAIR BENNETT: All right. Thank you.

We're in Executive Session so we're going to

close it down here and we'll get back to you in

about 15 minutes.

MS. STANISLAUS: Thank you.

CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 10:45 a.m. and resumed at 11:08 a.m.)

CHAIR BENNETT: All right. Can I get a motion from you, Mr. Gill, to leave Executive Session and go back into the meeting?

22 MEMBER GILL: I make a motion that we

exit Executive Session and go back to the public 1 2 meeting. 3 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. So properly 4 moved, I second. Can I get a voice vote, Mr. 5 Gill? 6 MEMBER GILL: Aye. 7 CHAIR BENNETT: Aye as well. It's 8 unanimous. We're back into the regular meeting 9 now. So we, I want to deal with two things. 10 One is if I could get a recommendation from Ms. 11 12 Stroud with regard to Mr. Phillips? Based on the fact that 13 MS. STROUD: 14 Mr. Phillips did not timely submit his ballot 15 access documentation to the Board and did not 16 mail it until after the deadline for the receipt 17 of ballot access documents, I would recommend 18 that the Board not grant Mr. Phillips ballot 19 access. 20 CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Can I get a 21 motion, Mr. Gill, with regard to that recommendation? 22

MEMBER GILL: I make a motion to 1 2 accept the General Counsel's recommendation that the candidate be denied ballot access. 3 4 CHAIR BENNETT: As has been properly 5 moved, I second. A vote, Mr. Gill? 6 MEMBER GILL: Aye. 7 CHAIR BENNETT: And aye as well. It's 8 Mr. Phillips, I understand your unanimous. 9 hardships and I actually personally feel very bad about it. However, the Board decided not to 10 11 provide ballot access. Thanks for your time 12 today. 13 We're going to move back to Stanislaus 14 versus Pixley with regard to the challenge. And 15 can I get a recommendation with regard to the 16

acceptance of the challenge, Ms. Stroud?

MS. STROUD: Based on the statute which I read into the record, as well as the regulation which also provides that the challenge has to be filed by a qualified elector, I would recommend that the challenge be allowed to be heard by the Board.

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1	CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Can I get a
2	motion, Mr. Gill, with regard to hearing the
3	challenge?
4	MEMBER GILL: I make a motion we
5	accept the General Counsel's recommendation that
6	the challenge be allowed to proceed.
7	CHAIR BENNETT: It's been properly
8	moved, I second. Could I get a voice vote, Mr.
9	Gill?
LO	MEMBER GILL: Aye.
L1	CHAIR BENNETT: And aye as well. It's
L2	unanimous. The challenge we'll allow it to
L3	proceed.
L 4	So at this point, Ms. Stanislaus and
L5	Ms. Pixley and Mr. Theresa, I think what we want
L6	to do is to hear the, on your presentations like
L 7	with regard to the challenge, substance of the
L8	challenge itself.
L9	Ms. Stroud, do you want to
20	MS. STROUD: Yes. You stated your,
21	just to be clean, let's have, Mr. Theresa, did
22	you state your name, your address for the record?

1 MR. THERESA: 1604 V Street Southeast, 2 Washington, DC, 20020. Okay. So I believe we 3 MS. STROUD: 4 heard the names and addresses for the challenger 5 and the candidate. So what we'll have now is Ms. Brooks will read her Preliminary Determination 6 Report with respect to the challenge. 7 8 On July 2nd, 2020, Regina MS. BROOKS: 9 Pixley submitted a nomination petition to appear on the ballot as a candidate in the November 3rd, 10 11 2020, General Election for the Office of Advisory 12 Neighborhood Commissioner for Single Member District AC04. 13

The (audio interference) ballot access with this office (audio interference) of district voters who are duly registered in the same SMD as the candidate.

The petition contained 22 signatures.

The petition was posted for prior inspection for ten days as required by law. The petitioner challenged on August 14, 2020, by Lorraine

Stanislaus, a resident voter in the District of

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Columbia. 1 2 Ms. Stanislaus filed charges for 16 out of the 22 signatures demanding enumerated in 3 the line and page number on individual challenges 4 5 she filed with (audio interference). The challenger challenged Title 3, 6 7 DCMR, Section 1607.1 of the Board's regulations. 8 Those challenges indicated that 14 of 9 the 16 challenges valid, nine are challenged because the signatures were not dated. 10 One was 11 filed but the signature did not include the 12 address of the signer, three are not registered and one is valid because the signature and the 13 14 name and the printed name are illegible. This 15 leaves the candidate's nominating petition with 16 eight signatures (audio interference) on the 17 ballot. 18 MS. STROUD: Now Ms. Pixley or Mr. 19 Theresa, your response?

Theresa, your response?

MR. THERESA: I'm going to allow Ms.

Pixley to speak first.

MS. STROUD:

Ms. Pixley?

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MS. PIXLEY: Yes, so the last statement that Ms. Stanislaus made is not accurate.

When I turned in and submitted my
petition, it was not brought to my attention by a
representative of the Board who verified my
petition that I was missing dates. If so, I
would have actually put the date so that's not
true.

Also, I would like for you guys to know it's a pandemic. A person usually sit at the table. When I did this two years ago, the person sat at the table side by side. We went over everything, cross all the T's dotted the I's. Because of social distancing that did not take place. Same thing with some of the seniors not putting in the dates.

Also as the person who's being challenged, because Ms. Stanislaus put her government work address, I had no idea that she was even a registered elector, it's the word that you all use, because when I looked up that

address it's a government building. So I had no 1 2 way of knowing that. And you argued over a technicality. 3 This is the same technicality that some of the 4 5 seniors did not put in the date. So I think in fairness, the Board 6 7 shouldn't pick and choose on what they're going 8 to accept as one technicality and not accept as 9 another one. 10 MS. STROUD: Okay. So --11 MS. PIXLEY: And as you can see, they 12 all came from the same address which is 114 Wayne 13 Place. 14 And again, like I said because of the pandemic I was practicing social distancing. 15 16 Like usually you stand over the person with your 17 clipboard saying do this, do that. 18 Because we were practicing social 19 distancing because I wanted to make sure they 20 were safe as well as myself is safe, they were on 21 one side of the room, I was on the other side.

And so just for the

MS. STROUD:

record, did you receive the chapter of the Board's regulations concerning the challenge process?

MS. PIXLEY: I received it but I didn't receive it, I received it once. I received the email which is on the 20th and I came down to the office and said, hey, I just received this challenge by email. I didn't know I was being challenged.

And they said, well, the last day to challenge the challenge was on Monday. I said, oh, well, today is Wednesday. I had no idea because I would have come in and put the date.

Because I clearly received a letter from the Board stating that I had made the ballot.

MS. STROUD: Well, actually --

MS. PIXLEY: So I just continued.

MS. STROUD: I'm actually asking about the Board's regulations concerning what constitutes a good signature and what renders a signature invalid on a nominating petition. Were you given those regulations?

I was given those 1 MS. PIXLEY: 2 regulations once I came in on last Friday when I asked about the challenge. I was given those. 3 And clearly it says that a person has 4 5 to be a registered elector but by her putting her work address how would I know that? 6 MS. STROUD: 7 I'm actually talking 8 about the signatures on the nominating petition, 9 not the challenge form. So the regulations provide that in 10 11 order for signatures to be counted as valid they 12 have to meet certain requirements such as the 13 signatures, the signer has to be an active voter 14 as opposed to an inactive voter. They have to be registered in the same 15 16 Single Member District or electoral jurisdiction 17 that the candidate resides in. The signatures 18 have to be dated. So were you --19 Yes. I received that on MS. PIXLEY: 20 Wednesday when I came down. Yes, ma'am, I did 21 receive it on Wednesday when I came down.

Then you had an --

MS. STROUD:

1	MS. PIXLEY: It was way after the
2	challenge.
3	MS. STROUD: Okay. So just wanted to
4	make sure that you were clear on what the
5	requirements were and that, you know, the
6	signatures had to be dated under the regulations.
7	MS. PIXLEY: I was, yes. I received
8	it after the challenge and after the date that
9	the challenge had been challenged. I didn't get
10	that in the beginning. I got that on that day.
11	It was handed to me by I think her name was Myia,
12	who works there.
13	She gave me a regulation. I have it
14	right here in my hand. She gave me the D.C.
15	Codes and Regulations. I was given on that day.
16	It wasn't given to me prior before.
17	MS. STROUD: Okay. So and you had not
18	seen them on the Board's website?
19	MS. PIXLEY: No, ma'am. I didn't go
20	on the Board. I came in to do everything in
21	person. When I came to pick up my petitions I
22	came in in person to turn in my petition.

1 MS. STROUD: Okay. And so --2 MS. PIXLEY: I don't have access to the internet, that's why. 3 Because I was told 4 that, or I called, they said it's going to open 5 on June the 12th, you can come in or you can go 6 I said, I don't have access to the online. 7 internet. So they said, okay, well, you can come 8 And that's when I had an appointment to come in. 9 in, pick up my petitions, get the necessary paperwork, fill out everything, and then I turned 10 11 it back in on June 26th. 12 MS. STROUD: And so --13 MS. PIXLEY: Then I get this -- I'm 14 sorry. 15 And you did not get the MS. STROUD: 16 regulations when you came into the office is what 17 you're saying? 18 MS. PIXLEY: No. I was handed it to 19 my hand once I came in on Wednesday, last 20 Wednesday to find out what was going on with the 21 challenge. I received this in my hand.

holding it now, with the D.C. codes and all the

It was given to me in my hand then. 1 regulations. 2 MS. STROUD: Okay. And so your, how many signatures on your petition were not dated? 3 4 MS. PIXLEY: I believe they said they 5 were 16 which would leave me only nine valid 6 signatures. 7 MS. STROUD: Okay. 8 But I collected 24 MS. PIXLEY: 9 altogether. 10 MS. STROUD: Okay. Thank you. 11 Mr. Theresa? 12 MR. THERESA: Well, I would like to 13 speak on the executive decision and place another 14 objection and say that the ultimate decision 15 violates DCMR 5202.4 which states a member or 16 employee of the Board should not use his or her 17 status as a member to directly or indirectly 18 attempt to influence any decision of the District 19 government relating to any action that is not 20 within the Board's purview. 21 And I would argue that it's against 22 the Board's purview to correct an address of a

challenger.

CHAIR BENNETT: Mr. Theresa, you're cutting in and out, sir, I'm sorry.

MR. THERESA: Basically that the decision of the executive, the executive decision violates 5202, DCMR 5202.4 which states a member or employee of the Board shall not use his or her status as a member to directly or indirectly attempt to influence any decision of the District government relating to any action that is not within the Board's purview.

And I would argue that it's against the Board's purview to correct a challenger's address.

The challenger had to submit in person and be a qualified elector in person and there's no way that you would know that unless the Board took it upon themselves to give an address different from the one that the challenger gave and so that this violates the Board's ethics of regulations on ethics, ethical conduct.

CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Did you want to

make any points, thank you. Do you want to make any points with regard to the actual substance of the challenge itself?

MR. THERESA: Well, I would just piggyback on what Ms. Pixley has said, that there's good cause for there not being dates on certain addresses, or certain signature lines.

Because Ms. Pixley was practicing social distancing and I would just say that the normal flow of collecting signatures was disturbed and, you know, that this is a technicality that should not remove her from the ballot, especially considering that the address for many of the people was from the same address and one other person had the date and she was only one short.

So I think that considering, all things being considered, the fact that, you know, that there's this ethical rule, the fact that one party benefitted from the Board's proactivity, another suffered from it, I would say that Ms. Pixley should be allowed to remain on the ballot.

1	CHAIR BENNETT: Thank you. Ms.
2	Stanislaus?
3	MS. STANISLAUS: Thank you. I just
4	wanted to point out that Ms. Pixley did just
5	state that she did not witness the signatures
6	being signed onto the petition.
7	She said she was a one side of the
8	room and whoever the signers were on another side
9	of the room. So she, on the bottom of the
LO	petition it also states that you have to witness
L1	the person signing them.
L 2	MR. THERESA: I object. I object to
L3	that.
L 4	CHAIR BENNETT: She was talking about
L5	being here. She was, I'm sorry, Mr. Theresa. I
L6	think she was referring to her in-person visit to
L 7	the Board of Elections not with regard to the
L8	persons that were signing the petition.
L9	MR. THERESA: Okay.
20	CHAIR BENNETT: That's what I heard.
	CHAIR BENNETT. That S what I heard.
21	MR. THERESA: I thought she was

1	petition.
2	MS. STANISLAUS: We can move on.
3	CHAIR BENNETT: All right. Is there
4	anything else, Ms. Stanislaus?
5	MS. STANISLAUS: No.
6	CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. Anything else,
7	Mr. Theresa?
8	MR. THERESA: No, sir.
9	CHAIR BENNETT: Okay. We're going to
10	vote to go into Executive Session again and I
11	hoping we'll be out sooner versus than the last
12	time.
13	Mr. Gill, can I get a motion to go
14	into Executive Session to consider, to deliberate
15	on the matters associated with Stanislaus versus
16	Pixley?
17	MEMBER GILL: I move that we go to
18	Executive Session to deliberate on the above
19	mentioned matters.
20	CHAIR BENNETT: And I second it. It's
21	been properly moved and seconded. Mr. Gill, your
22	vote?

	MEMBER GILL: Aye.
2	CHAIR BENNETT: And I vote aye as
3	well. We're going to go into Executive Session
4	and we'll resume the meeting in probably ten or
5	15 minutes. All right. Thank you.
6	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
7	went off the record at 11:24 a.m. and resumed at
8	11:32 a.m.)
9	MEMBER GILL: Michael, I'm here also.
10	It's Mike Gill.
11	CHAIR BENNETT: Can I get a motion
12	from Mr. Gill to come out of Executive Session?
13	MEMBER GILL: I move that we come out
14	of Executive Session back to the public hearing.
15	CHAIR BENNETT: And I second. It's
16	been properly moved and seconded. Mr. Gill,
17	voice vote to come out of Executive Session?
18	MEMBER GILL: Aye.
19	CHAIR BENNETT: And aye as well, so
20	unanimous for coming out of Executive Session and
21	back in the regular meeting.
22	(Audio interference) that the parties

are present. Ms. Pixley, I see Mr. Theresa, I 1 2 don't hear Ms. Pixley. Is Ms. Pixley present? MS. PIXLEY: Ms. Pixley is present. 3 CHAIR BENNETT: And Ms. Stanislaus, is 4 Ms. Stanislaus still present? 5 6 MS. STANISLAUS: Yes, I am. 7 CHAIR BENNETT: Great. Can I get a 8 motion, can I get recommendation from the General 9 Counsel? 10 MS. STROUD: Sure. First, I want to just state for the record that Mr. Theresa cited 11 a regulation, 5202.4, and I want to state for the 12 13 record that, that regulation applies to the Board 14 of Ethics and Government Accountability and not the Board of Elections. 15 16 And so with respect to the actionable 17 challenge, I would recommend that based on prior 18 precedence of the Board, I move that the Board 19 waive the formal error with respect to the nine 20 undated signatures and allow Ms. Pixley ballot 21 access.

CHAIR BENNETT:

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Okay. Mr. Gill, can

1	I get a motion with regard to the General
2	Counsel's recommendation?
3	MEMBER GILL: I make a motion to
4	accept the General Counsel's recommendation.
5	CHAIR BENNETT: And it's been properly
6	approved and I second the General Counsel's
7	recommendation to allow Ms. Pixley ballot access.
8	Can I get a voice vote, Mr. Gill?
9	MEMBER GILL: Aye.
LO	CHAIR BENNETT: And aye as well,
L1	Unanimous.
L2	Thank you to the parties. Ms. Pixley
L3	is allowed ballot access.
L 4	And that concludes this hearing. Also
L5	that there are no more matters on the Board's
L6	agenda for this meeting. Can I get a motion to
L7	adjourn the meeting, Mr. Gill?
L8	MEMBER GILL: I make a motion we
L9	adjourn.
20	CHAIR BENNETT: That's properly moved.
21	I second. Voice vote, Mr. Gill? Do you vote to
22	adjourn the meeting?

1	MEMBER GILL: Aye.
2	CHAIR BENNETT: And aye as well. This
3	meeting is hereby adjourned. Thanks so much to
4	the parties.
5	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
6	went off the record at 11:34 a.m.)
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21	
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Α A-K-6:16 a.m 1:12 3:2 22:12 34:17,18 51:7,8 54:6 able 3:18 10:4 above-entitled 34:16 51:6 54:5 **AC04** 14:16 38:13 accept 13:13,17,21 36:2 37:5 41:8,8 53:4 acceptance 36:16 accepted 8:1 9:7 25:15 access 3:6 7:17 9:2,16 10:3 13:5,9,22 14:9 28:9 29:1,2 35:15,17 35:19 36:3,11 38:14 45:2,6 52:21 53:7,13 Accountability 52:14 accurate 40:3 acknowledge 3:14 action 46:19 47:10 actionable 52:16 **active** 43:13 actual 24:1 48:2 additional 7:22 9:17,22 address 6:12,16 8:17 9:4 14:21,21 15:9,12 17:2,3,7 18:14,22 19:7,9,11,14,16 21:4 21:8,13,21 23:16,19 24:20 25:21 28:8 29:4 29:9 37:22 39:12 40:20 41:1,12 43:6 46:22 47:14,18 48:13 48:14 addresses 5:14 38:4 48:7 adjourn 53:17,19,22 adjourned 54:3 Adjournment 2:13 adverse 2:11 4:22 28:1 **Advisory** 2:7,9 5:4,8 7:14 13:9 14:15 28:4 38:11 **agency** 33:11 agenda 2:2 27:5 53:16 ago 40:12 ahead 33:8,9,18 **B** 2:9 **Akron** 6:16 alleged 20:13 26:9 allow 16:13 26:10 30:7 30:8 37:12 39:20 52:20 53:7 allowed 33:18 36:21 37:6 48:22 53:13 altogether 46:9 analysis 25:4 10:2 13:5,9,22 14:9 ANC5C06 28:6

anyway 12:15 **Apartment** 7:1 15:3,13 apologies 4:5 apologize 4:6 appeal 29:12 appear 38:9 appears 20:16 **applies** 52:13 appointment 45:8 appreciate 4:13 appreciated 4:9 approved 53:6 argue 46:21 47:12 argued 41:3 arguing 25:14 argument 18:17 24:14 25:12 26:13 arguments 24:17 26:16 26:22 arrived 31:6 Arthur 11:20 12:16,19 **Ascertainment** 2:4 **asked** 43:3 asking 25:9 42:18 assisting 34:4 associated 3:6 32:8 50:15 assuming 34:4 **Athena** 10:19 attempt 46:18 47:9 attention 40:5 attorney 15:16,19 25:14 **audio** 6:7,20 9:18 10:16 11:17 16:9,11 18:6,16 18:21 20:12 26:17 28:11,15,20 38:14,15 39:5,16 51:22 **August** 1:9 7:10 8:4 9:5 22:11 28:13,18 31:3,5 31:5 38:21 authority 21:22 **Avenyo** 10:20 aye 14:4,5 31:22 32:1 35:6,7 36:6,7 37:10 37:11 51:1,2,18,19 53:9,10 54:1,2 В

B- 6:21 **B-R-O-O-** 10:22 **B-R-O-W-N** 6:16 back 27:16 31:6,13 32:3 34:12,21 35:1,8 36:13 45:11 51:14,21 **bad** 36:9 **ballot** 3:6 7:12 9:2,16

28:9 29:1,2 30:9 32:20,21 35:14,17,18 36:3,11 38:10,14 39:17 42:15 48:13,22 52:20 53:7,13 based 5:22 10:11 14:6 20:14 22:2 26:3 35:13 36:17 52:17 Basically 47:4 beginning 44:10 **believe** 3:17 38:3 46:4 Bembridge 10:19 benefitted 48:20 Bennett 1:12,15 3:3,17 3:19 4:17 13:12,16 14:1,5,8,12 20:19,20 21:1,11 22:5 23:14 24:6,10,16 25:6,10 26:12,21 27:7,10,14 27:20 28:16,19 29:6 30:11,15,18 31:2,7,18 32:1,6,11 33:9,17 34:10,15,19 35:3,7,20 36:4,7 37:1,7,11 47:2 47:22 49:1,14,20 50:3 50:6.9.20 51:2.11.15

53:10,20 54:2 **bit** 33:12 **blue** 31:1 **Board** 1:4,6,11,13,18 3:5,13,16,19,20 4:19 6:2,3 13:8 16:6 18:20 20:4,20 21:21 22:1,1 22:4 23:11,19 24:2,22 25:13 26:8,10 28:22 29:11 30:6 32:19 33:12,22 34:3,5,6 35:15,18 36:10,22 40:6 41:6 42:15 44:20 46:16 47:7,17 49:17 52:13,15,18,18

51:19 52:4.7.22 53:5

Board's 8:12 18:14,15 19:8 20:6 39:7 42:2 42:19 44:18 46:20,22 47:11,13,20 48:20 53:15

bottom 32:18 49:9 **box** 31:1 **Brooks** 1:21 2:6 5:3 6:18,21,21 7:11 9:5 9:11,21 10:6,17,21,21 11:8,12,18,20,22 12:6 12:11,18,22 13:5,8,22 14:7,8,10 18:8,12,15 19:6,11,21 20:1 22:7 22:10,16,20 23:2,5,9 28:12,18,20 38:6,8

brought 40:5 **Brown** 2:6 5:3 6:8,10,14 6:15 8:5,7 10:7,8,10 11:2,11,13,21 12:5,9 12:17,19 13:1,2,6 14:11 building 41:1

C call 2:3 3:4,10 6:6,9,10 called 45:4 calling 16:15 candidacy 30:8 candidate 2:7,9 5:3,7 7:13,19 9:11 13:22 14:15 28:3,4,10 36:3 38:5,10,17 43:17 candidate's 8:22 9:14 10:1 39:15 car 29:19 care 29:21,21 caretaker 29:16 case 8:14 **cause** 48:6 certain 43:12 48:7,7 **certainly** 4:11,12 certification 17:19 21:7 certified 24:21 **Chair** 1:12,15 3:3,17,19 4:17.18 13:12.16 14:1 14:5,8,12 20:19,20 21:1,11 22:5 23:14 24:6,10,16 25:6,10 26:12,21 27:7,10,14 27:20 28:16,19 29:6 30:11,15,18 31:2,7,18 32:1,6,11 33:9,17 34:10,15,19 35:3,7,20 36:4,7 37:1,7,11 47:2 47:22 49:1,14,20 50:3 50:6,9,20 51:2,11,15 51:19 52:4,7,22 53:5 53:10,20 54:2 Chairman 3:15

challenge 2:5 4:21 5:21 8:9,14 9:18 11:4,19 12:15 16:20 17:2,4,15 17:17 18:19,21 19:10 19:12,15,22 20:10,17 21:4,10,14 22:8,10,17 22:19 23:3,16 24:2,8 26:6 32:8,21 33:4,13 36:14,16,19,21 37:3,6 37:12,17,18 38:7 42:2 42:8,11,11 43:3,9 44:2,8,9 45:21 48:3 52:17

challenged 8:4,11 11:9

12:10.11 38:21 39:6.9 40:19 42:9 44:9 **challenger** 5:16 20:11 21:3 24:1,3 26:8 38:4 39:6 47:1,15,19 challenger's 21:13 47:13 **challenges** 4:1 5:17 8:7 8:15,16 39:4,8,9 change 9:4 chapter 42:1 charges 39:2 **chat** 15:22 **checked** 22:12 30:22 **checking** 15:17,20 choose 41:7 circumstances 22:7 **Cisco** 16:17 cited 52:11 **clean** 37:21 clear 21:15 44:4 clearly 11:2,4 42:14 43:4 **client** 32:16 clipboard 41:17 **close** 34:12 codes 44:15 45:22 collected 46:8 collecting 48:10 **Columbia** 1:2,11 8:6 18:4 19:19 39:1 come 27:16 31:12 42:13 45:5,7,8 51:12 51:13,17 coming 51:20 commenced 19:2 Commissioner 2:7,10 5:4,8 7:14 13:10 14:15 28:5 38:12 community 30:3 concerning 42:2,19 concisely 20:12 26:9 concludes 53:14 conduct 25:1 47:21 connection 25:20 consider 24:18 27:8 50:14 consideration 26:14 considered 48:18 considering 48:13,17 constitutes 42:20 contained 38:18 contains 7:20 **CONTENTS** 2:1 contest 13:9 28:11 continued 42:17 convened 1:11 **correct** 23:2,9 46:22

47:13
Counsel 1:20 4:15,19
27:18 52:9
Counsel's 13:13,17,21
36:2 37:5 53:2,4,6
count 12:8
counted 12:4,20 43:11
couple 29:16
court 6:13
COVID 29:18
credit 12:2
credited 9:12,21
cross 40:14
current 29:13
cutting 47:3

D D'Andre 2:12 28:2 29:7

D-A-N-D-R-E 29:8

D-A-V-I-D 6:21

D.C 31:6 44:14 45:22 daily 4:11.12 date 32:18,18 40:8 41:5 42:13 44:8 48:15 dated 39:10 43:18 44:6 46:3 dates 32:17,22 34:1,8 40:7,17 48:6 **David** 2:6 5:3 7:11 9:4 day 17:10.11 20:9.18 22:16 42:10 44:10,15 days 8:3 26:6 28:19 38:20 **DC** 6:17 7:1 15:2,13 29:10 38:2 **DCMR** 8:12 16:19 17:12 39:7 46:15 47:6 deadline 17:10 28:14 28:16 30:19 35:16 deal 31:8 35:10 Deanna 7:5 decided 36:10 decision 46:13,14,18 47:5,5,9 deemed 10:11,12 11:5 11:7,14 defects 20:13 26:9 deliberate 6:4 32:7 50:14,18 demanding 39:3 denied 36:3 despite 29:1 determinate 25:22 determination 2:11 4:22 5:18 7:8 18:9 22:14 23:7 28:1 38:6 **determine** 22:9 23:19 determined 9:13,20

different 47:19 difficult 23:17 directly 46:17 47:8 discussion 26:15 distancing 40:15 41:15 41:19 48:9 **district** 1:2,11 2:8,10 5:5,9 7:15,18 8:6 13:11 14:16 18:4 19:18 23:1 28:6 38:13 38:15,22 43:16 46:18 47:9 disturbed 48:11 Division 7:3 documentation 35:15 documents 26:14 28:13 29:2 35:17 **doing** 4:10 **dotted** 40:14 **due** 29:12,15 30:3 duly 7:18 38:16

22:18

Е

easily 32:22 **EDT** 1:12 effects 29:13.18 efficient 3:9 eight 3:7 9:1 39:16 either 6:3 elderly 29:16 election 7:13 20:6 26:4 38:11 **Elections** 1:4,11,13,18 3:5 49:17 52:15 **elector** 16:20 17:5,9,15 17:20 18:4,10,18 19:1 19:18 20:5,9,17 21:9 21:19,21 22:3,22 23:21 25:3,17,21 26:5 36:20 40:21 43:5 47:16 electoral 43:16 electors 16:21 eligible 10:11,13 11:6,7 11:9,15,15 email 42:6,8 **employee** 46:16 47:7 empty 32:17 ends 25:3 entertaining 29:12 **entire** 24:19 entries 33:4 **entry** 33:5 enumerated 8:8 39:3 error 52:19 especially 48:13 ethical 47:21 48:19

ethics 47:20,21 52:14 even-handed 33:11 examined 5:17 excuse 30:9 executive 6:4 26:15,20 27:1,6,8,16 31:9,11 31:15,17 32:2,7,12 34:11,20 35:1 46:13 47:5,5 50:10,14,18 51:3,12,14,17,20 exit 35:1 experiencing 29:17 explain 16:8 28:22 explaining 16:18

F

F 1:21 **facing** 12:15 fact 9:20 18:10 22:4 23:7 35:13 48:18,19 facto 22:4 fairness 41:6 **family** 29:17 favor 31:20 feel 36:9 figure 23:20 file 16:21 22:11 28:9 **filed** 8:7,10 17:15,16,18 17:18 18:11,21 19:22 20:11.17 21:18 22:9 22:11,16,19 23:4 24:8 26:8 29:2 36:20 39:2 39:5,11 filing 18:19 21:10 22:8 23:8 28:14,16 fill 45:10 find 45:20 findings 5:20 fine 13:3 first 5:2 39:21 52:10 **five** 8:7,15 11:5,11,14 28:19 flow 48:10 **following** 8:13 25:12 form 19:15 25:22 30:1 43:9 formal 52:19 forms 9:4,6,7,8 30:4 forward 26:11 30:8 four 8:1 9:4 **Francis** 10:18 **Friday** 43:2 Furthermore 17:6

G

General 1:20 4:15,19 7:13 13:13,17,21 27:18 36:2 37:5 38:11

52:8 53:1,4,6 **Gill** 1:16 3:14,15,16 13:13,15,17,18,19,20 14:3,4 25:6,8,11,19 26:16,18 27:9 30:11 30:11,12,13 31:10,14 31:16,21,22 34:20,22 35:5,6,21 36:1,5,6 37:2,4,9,10 50:13,17 50:21 51:1,9,10,12,13 51:16,18 52:22 53:3,8 53:9,17,18,21 54:1 give 5:18 31:12 47:18 given 6:1 13:22 21:21 42:22 43:1,3 44:15,16 46:1 **government** 1:1 40:20 41:1 46:19 47:10 52:14 grandparent 29:21 grant 35:18 granted 13:9 29:1 Greenfield 3:18 Gregory 12:1 grounds 8:13 guess 4:5 18:17 24:7 25:13.19 34:4 Н hand 44:14 45:19,21 46:1

handed 44:11 45:18 happening 34:5 hardships 36:9 hear 3:5 4:1 5:15 10:5 11:2 16:2 20:20,22 26:22 27:1,15 32:13 37:16 52:2 heard 36:22 38:4 49:20 hearing 2:11 5:1,2,6,11 17:20 19:2 24:5 28:1 33:21 37:2 51:14 53:14 hearings 2:5 4:21

hearings 2:5 4:21 Hello 15:21 hey 42:7 hiccup 30:4 hold 4:20 32:9 holding 45:22 hoping 50:11

I's 40:15 idea 40:20 42:12 identify 5:12 7:4 II 2:6 5:3 7:11 9:5 illegible 8:21 39:14 in-person 49:16

inactive 8:20 9:10 43:14 **include** 39:11 included 12:7 indicate 10:15 indicated 16:6 39:8 **indirectly** 46:17 47:8 individual 8:9 39:4 infer 32:22 influence 46:18 47:9 information 6:1 20:16 29:15 30:2 initial 6:15 11:10 12:7 initially 9:12,19 **initiative** 32:20 33:13 33:14 insert 23:12 **inspection** 8:3 38:19 interference 6:7,20 9:19 10:16 11:17 16:9 16:11 18:6,16,21 20:12 26:17 28:11,15 28:20 38:14,15 39:5 39:16 51:22 internet 45:3.7 invalid 8:16.19.20 9:13 9:20 12:1 42:21 irrelevant 25:4 **issue** 16:6 **issues** 12:4 13:4 item 27:5 Items 2:2

J joining 4:4 July 38:8 June 45:5,11 jurisdiction 16:7 43:16

K

K-A-R-E-N 10:22 K-S 11:1 Karen 1:21 10:21 keep 32:20 33:19 knowing 41:2 known 18:20

L 6:14,15 8:5 L-O- 14:22 law 8:3 21:2 38:20 leave 34:20 46:5 leaves 9:22 39:15 left 8:22 9:14 let's 3:11 37:21 letter 42:14 level 34:2 line 8:9 10:18,18,19,19

L

11:20 12:3 15:5,19,21 39:4 lines 32:15 48:7 list 14:20 listed 8:17 lists 5:20 19:6 little 33:12 live 6:22 long 31:13 look 26:14 looked 40:22 Lorraine 2:9 5:6 14:14 14:22 38:21 lot 4:11

M ma'am 43:20 44:19 mail 28:14 30:19 31:3,4 35:16 mailbox 30:21 31:1 mailed 31:5 manner 29:15 30:5 materials 28:10 matter 6:5 14:13 15:15 16:7 26:10 27:2,3,15 27:21,22 32:8 34:16 51:6 54:5 matters 3:5 50:15,19 53:15

mean 12:14 13:3 25:2 25:11,16 32:15,19 33:2 meet 43:12

meet 43.12 meeting 1:6 3:4,4,11,21 3:22 34:21 35:2,8 51:4,21 53:16,17,22 54:3 member 1:16 2:7 10

member 1:16 2:7,10 3:15,16 5:5,9,12 7:15 13:10,15,20 14:4,16 25:8,11,19 26:18 27:9 28:5 30:13 31:16,22 34:22 35:6 36:1,6 37:4,10 38:12 43:16 46:15,17 47:6,8 50:17 51:1,9,13,18 53:3,9 53:18 54:1

members 1:13 3:13,20 29:16

29:16 mentioned 50:19 message 15:22 Michael 1:12,15 3:19 20:20 25:8 26:18 30:14 51:9 Michigan 29:20

middle 6:15 Mike 1:16 3:16 51:10 Miles 10:20

minimum 7:16 minutes 3:8 34:13 51:5 miscount 12:12 missing 32:17 33:4,5 34:1,8 40:7 mode 4:8 moment 19:4 Monday 1:8 42:11 morning 4:17 5:1 15:6 15:7 22:12 29:12 motion 13:12,16,20 26:19 31:10,14 34:20 34:22 35:21 36:1 37:2 37:4 50:13 51:11 52:8 53:1,3,16,18 move 31:11,16,16 36:13 50:2,17 51:13 52:18 moved 14:2 31:19,20 35:4 36:5 37:8 50:21 51:16 53:20 multiple 29:20 mute 13:18,19 16:13 **muted** 16:16 Myia 44:11

N name 4:18 6:12,15 7:5

8:21 10:21 14:20 15:8 29:4.7.8 30:8 37:22 39:14,14 44:11 names 5:13 11:3,11 38:4 necessary 45:9 need 3:12 15:22 16:21 17:1 needs 24:21 25:17 neighborhood 2:7,9 5:4 5:8 7:14 13:10 14:15 28:5 30:21 38:12 never 19:1 25:15 nine 9:15 39:9 46:5 52:19 nominating 2:5 4:1,21 7:12 8:22 9:14 10:1 39:15 42:21 43:8 nomination 38:9 **normal** 48:10 Northeast 29:9 notice 1:12 November 30:10 38:10 **number** 8:9 9:2,16 10:2 12:2 15:3.13 39:4

12:2 15:3,13 39:4 numbers 12:12

object 49:12,12 **objection** 23:13 46:14

obtain 7:16 obtaining 13:5 office 7:6,14,17 28:4 38:11,15 42:7 45:16 older 9:9 once 12:15 42:5 43:2 45:19 ones 10:12 11:6,16 **online** 45:6 open 3:21 45:4 opportunity 5:19 **opposed** 43:14 order 2:3 3:4,5,11 28:10 43:11 Ρ

P-H-I-L-I-P- 29:8 P-I-X-L-E-Y 15:11 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 3:1 page 2:2 8:9,10 10:17 10:18,18,19 12:3,5,6 39:4 pandemic 29:13 40:11 41:15 paperwork 34:7 45:10 parties 5:12,19 6:1,7 14:9 51:22 53:12 54:4 party 28:2 48:20 patience 4:9 Pennsylvania 29:20 **people** 48:14 49:22 period 17:10,11 20:9,18 person 16:22 21:7,8,19 22:11 23:20 24:21 32:20 40:11,13,18 41:16 43:4 44:21,22 47:15,16 48:15 49:11 personally 36:9 **persons** 49:18 petition 2:5 4:1,21 7:12 7:20 8:2,4,10,18,18 9:1,15 10:1 11:4 16:21 20:10,13 22:17 22:19 26:7,9 30:2,9 30:19 32:16 33:3,14 38:9,18,19 39:15 40:5 40:7 42:21 43:8 44:22 46:3 49:6,10,18 50:1 petitioner 38:20 petitioners 4:4 **petitions** 44:21 45:9 **Phillips** 2:12 28:2,3,9 28:21 29:3,7,8 30:18 30:20 31:4,12 35:12 35:14,18 36:8

pick 41:7 44:21 45:9 piggyback 48:5 **Pixley** 2:9 5:7 14:14 15:4,6,10,11,15,17,18 15:20 16:6 27:13,14 33:21 36:14 37:15 38:9 39:18,21,22 40:1 41:11 42:4,17 43:1,19 44:1,7,19 45:2,13,18 46:4,8 48:5,8,22 49:4 50:16 52:1,2,2,3,3,20 53:7,12 **Pixley's** 16:19 41:13 46:13

place 6:16 21:3 40:16 **please** 6:12 19:5 23:13 point 4:8 24:22 26:22 33:21 34:5 37:14 49:4 **pointed** 33:22 34:6 **points** 48:1,2 **pose** 16:20 position 16:8,19 17:13 21:2,10,12,16 28:8 post 22:4 posted 8:2 38:19 posting 17:11

48:8 precedence 52:18 preliminary 2:11 4:22 5:18 15:15 16:5 28:1 30:2 33:21 38:6 presence 3:14

practicing 41:15,18

present 1:13,18 3:13 15:16,19 17:7 52:1,2 52:3.5 presentations 37:16

presiding 1:12 previously 12:13 **printed** 8:21 39:14 **prior** 30:19 38:19 44:16 52:17

proactively 23:19 proactiveness 34:3 proactivity 48:20 probably 4:10 9:9 51:4 **proceed** 37:6,13 proceeded 22:1 process 4:3,16 24:20 42:3

promise 31:13 properly 14:2 17:18 22:9,10 31:19,20 35:3 36:4 37:7 50:21 51:16 53:5,20

provide 36:11 43:10 provided 14:8 19:10,11 19:14

provides 20:8 21:6 26:4 36:19 **public** 8:2 35:1 51:14 purportedly 17:7 pursuant 1:12 purview 46:20,22 47:11 47:13 put 7:12 24:1 25:22 26:19 30:20 40:8,19 41:5 42:13

Q

putting 40:17 43:5

qualified 16:20,21 17:4 17:9,14,20 18:3,10,18 18:22 19:18 20:4,9,16 21:9,19,21 22:3,13,22 23:21 25:3,17,21 26:5 36:20 47:16 qualify 17:4,8,8,8 question 11:4,6 25:9 questions 25:7 26:1 30:12,14 Quibley 10:17 12:3,7,20 **quite** 18:6 quorum 2:4 3:12,13,21 14:6

R

R-E-G-I-N-A 15:10

R-O-N 6:17

R-O-O-K-S 6:22 R-R-A-I-N-E 15:1 read 7:7 36:18 38:6 receipt 35:16 receive 42:1,5 43:21 received 9:4 28:12 42:4 42:5,6,8,14 43:19 44:7 45:21 receiving 30:1 recommend 13:8 26:10 35:17 36:21 52:17 recommendation 6:2 13:14,18,21 23:11 27:18 35:11,22 36:2 36:15 37:5 52:8 53:2 53:4.7 record 5:13,14 6:12 7:9 10:15 14:20 15:8 22:13 29:5 34:17 36:18 37:22 42:1 51:7 52:11,13 54:6 records 18:14,16 19:8 referencing 49:22 referring 49:16 regard 4:5 35:12.21 36:14,15 37:2,17 48:2 49:17 53:1

regarding 5:16 Regina 2:9 5:7 14:14 15:10 38:8 registered 7:18 8:5,17 9:9 19:18 20:4,8 22:13,22 26:5 38:16 39:12 40:21 43:5,15 Registrar 1:21 5:15,17 7:8 9:3,18 10:5,14,22 20:14 28:7 **Registrar's** 5:22 7:6 13:4 regs 21:12 regular 35:8 51:21 regularly 31:1 regulation 21:6,17 25:18 36:19 44:13 52:12.13 regulations 8:13 20:6 21:2 39:7 42:2,19,22 43:2,10 44:6,15 45:16 46:1 47:21 relating 46:19 47:10 relative 27:17 relatively 3:8 remain 48:22 remove 48:12 renders 42:20 report 5:16,18,20 6:1 7:8 10:5,12 13:4 38:7 reporter 6:13 representative 7:3 40:6 requesting 30:6 require 21:3 required 8:3 9:2,16 10:2 17:11 38:20 **requirement** 7:16 23:18 24:1 26:4 requirements 43:12 44:5 requires 16:19 21:13,18 research 24:4 25:1 resident 38:22 resides 43:17 resolved 6:5 respect 5:10,20 38:7 52:16,19 respond 5:19 24:11,13 26:16 response 10:9 39:19 rest 26:22 **resume** 51:4 resumed 34:17 51:7 review 8:14 9:17 **ripple** 29:13 room 41:21 49:8,9

Phillips's 28:13

rule 6:3 48:19

ruling 6:3 31:12

S **S** 29:9 S-H-A-R-L-I-T-A 15:11 S-T-A-N-I-S-L-A-U-S 15:1 **safe** 4:7 41:20,20 **sat** 40:13 Savannah 15:12 saying 21:14 41:17 45:17 **says** 24:3 25:16 43:4 **Scott** 12:16,19 **second** 5:6 14:1 31:19 32:9 35:4 36:5 37:8 50:20 51:15 53:6,21 seconded 14:2 31:20 50:21 51:16 **Section** 8:12 39:7 secured 12:16 seeking 28:3 seen 44:18 seniors 40:16 41:5 **sent** 15:22 Services 7:3 **Session** 6:4 26:15,20 27:1,6,8,16 31:9,11 31:15,17 32:2,7,12 34:11,21 35:1 50:10 50:14,18 51:3,12,14 51:17,20 Sharlita 15:11 **sheet** 11:19 19:10,12 **sheets** 8:10 **short** 48:16 **side** 34:3 40:13,13 41:21,21 49:7,8 sign 49:22 **signature** 8:21 9:12,15 9:22 39:11,13 42:20 42:21 48:7 signatures 7:17,20,21 8:1,8,11 9:1,1,15 10:2 12:14,15 38:18 39:3 39:10,16 43:8,11,13 43:17 44:6 46:3,6 48:10 49:5 52:20 signed 8:18 21:18 26:7 30:2 49:6 signer 8:16,19 9:10 39:12 43:13 **signers** 30:3 49:8 signing 9:10 49:11,18 Simultaneous 24:9 **Single** 2:7,10 5:4,8,12 7:15 13:10 14:16 28:5 38:12 43:16 sir 20:21 25:10 29:6 31:13 32:11 33:9 47:3

50:8 sit 40:11 **small** 30:3 **SMD** 7:19 38:16 **Smith** 7:5,6,7 10:18 Smithwick's 12:1 social 40:15 41:15,18 48:9 sooner 50:11 **sorry** 9:8 13:15,19 25:8 32:7 33:18 45:14 47:3 49:15 sort 21:6 **Southeast** 6:17 7:1 15:2,12 19:7,12 38:1 **space** 23:16 24:20 speak 32:10 39:21 46:13 speaking 24:9 33:19 **Special** 1:6 3:4 specifically 3:22 specified 26:8 spell 6:13 14:20 15:8 29:4 **spoken** 30:16 **STAFF** 1:18 stand 41:16 Stanislaus 2:9 5:7 14:14,17,18,22 15:1 17:3,6,14 18:1,2,5,9 18:16 19:6,13,16,20 22:22 24:10,12,15 27:11,19 33:19,20 34:14 36:13 37:14 38:22 39:2 40:2.19 49:2,3 50:2,4,5,15 52:4,5,6 Stanislaus's 20:15 started 3:3 **state** 5:13 6:11 7:19 14:19,21 15:8,9 29:4 37:22 49:5 52:11,12 **stated** 33:22 34:6 37:20 statement 20:11 26:7 40:2 states 46:15 47:6 49:10 stating 42:15 status 46:17 47:8 **statute** 16:19 20:3,6,7 21:12 25:16 26:4 36:17 street 6:22 15:2,12 19:7 19:12 29:9 30:21 38:1 strive 25:13 **Stroud** 1:20 4:3,15,18 6:8,11,18 7:2,7,10 10:4,8,14 13:2,7 14:7 14:12,13,19 15:4,7,14

15:18 16:2,5,10,12,15 17:13,22 18:3,7,13 19:3,9,13,17,21 20:2 22:6,14,18,21 23:3,6 23:10 24:12 26:3 27:4 27:13,21,22 28:21 30:17 32:5 33:7 35:12 35:13 36:16,17 37:19 37:20 38:3 39:18,22 41:10,22 42:16,18 43:7,22 44:3,17 45:1 45:12,15 46:2,7,10 52:10 **struggling** 25:20 26:2 submit 29:14 30:4 35:14 47:15 **submitted** 7:11,21,22 8:8 11:5,11 12:13,13 21:8,18 22:3 32:16 34:7 38:9 40:4 **substance** 37:17 48:2 suffered 48:21

surrounding 22:8

Т **T** 10:20 **T's** 40:14 **T-I-F-F-A-N-Y** 6:15 **table** 40:12.13 talked 34:2 talking 33:15 43:7 49:14 tardy 28:19 technicalities 33:16 technicality 25:15,16 33:1 41:3,4,8 48:12 Teleconference 1:11 ten 7:17 8:3 10:1 17:10 17:11 20:9,17 26:6 38:20 51:4 terms 34:3 Terri 1:20 4:14,18 testified 20:12 testify 22:7 testimony 20:15 thank 4:4 6:8 7:10 10:3 13:7 14:10,11 15:14 16:3 27:8,20 29:11 30:10 32:14 34:10,14 34:15 46:10 48:1 49:1 49:3 51:5 53:12

Thanks 14:9 31:8 36:11 54:3
Theresa 15:21 16:3,8 16:10,12,13,17 17:17 18:17 19:3 20:4,19,22 21:5,17 23:12,15 24:16,19 25:18 27:12

32:9,14 33:10,17 37:15,21 38:1 39:19 39:20 46:11,12 47:2,4 48:4 49:12,15,19,21 50:7,8 52:1,11 **Theresa's** 24:13 33:20 things 24:7 29:14 33:15 35:10 48:18 third 27:5 thought 49:21 three 3:20 39:12 **Tiffany** 2:6 5:2 6:14 8:5 timely 7:22 8:8 9:3 17:16 19:22 23:4 28:9 29:2,15 30:5 35:14 times 29:20 **Title** 39:6 titled 8:12 today 3:18 36:12 42:12 **told** 45:3 top 32:17 travel 29:19 true 40:9 try 25:13 trying 4:7,13 21:15 Tuesday 9:5 turn 4:2,14 22:1 44:22 turned 40:4 45:10 two 3:13 4:20 8:19 9:1,7 9:8 11:22 24:7 35:10 40:12

U

ultimate 46:14 unable 29:14.22 30:4 unanimous 14:6 35:8 36:8 37:12 51:20 53:11 **undated** 52:20 **understand** 13:3 36:8 understanding 23:18 28:7 Understood 27:19 unfair 33:12 **unmute** 16:14 **unmuted** 15:22 unreadiness 26:12 use 4:6 40:22 46:16 47:7 usually 40:11 41:16

v 2:6,9 38:1 valid 7:17 8:15 9:20 39:9,13 43:11 46:5 validate 33:13,14 validity 20:10 26:6 verified 21:20 40:6

I		
versus 5:3,7 14:14	1-1008 20:5	5
36:14 50:11,15	10:00 1:12 3:7	
Video 1:11	10:08 3:2,7	5 2:13
violates 46:15 47:6,20	10:45 34:17	5202 47:6
		5202.4 46:15 47:6 52:12
visit 49:16	1001.8 20:5	54 2:13
voice 14:3 27:17 35:4	10th 8:4 28:13 31:5	5th 7:11 28:18 31:3
37:8 51:17 53:8,21	11:08 34:18	
vote 8:17 14:3 27:15,17	11:24 51:7	6
35:4 36:5 37:8 50:10	11:32 51:8	6 2:8
50:22 51:2,17 53:8,21	11:34 54:6	02.0
53:21	114 41:12	7
voted 11:15	12th 45:5	
voter 7:3 8:5,20 22:12	13 7:21 8:8	7B02 2:8 5:5 7:15 13:11
22:13 38:22 43:13,14	14 2:10 12:13 22:11	
		8
voters 1:21 5:16 7:8,18	38:21 39:8	8 15:13
9:3,8,18 10:5,11,14	15 15:3 34:13 51:5	8:59 22:12
10:22 11:15 28:8	16 39:2,9 46:5	8C04 2:10 5:9
38:16	1604 38:1	8th 15:2 19:7 31:6
Voters' 20:15	1606.2 25:5	
	1607.1 8:12 39:7	
W	16th 29:9	
waive 52:19	17 7:20,21	
walk 4:3,15	1741 6:22	
wanted 29:11 41:19	18th 9:5	
	10011 9.5	
44:3 49:4	2	
Washington 6:17 7:1		
15:2,13 29:10 38:2	2 2:4 10:17,18,18,18,19	
wasn't 12:9 17:18 22:2	12:3,5,6	
44:16	200 19:12	
way 18:19 27:11 41:2	20018 29:10	
44:1 47:17	20020 6:17 7:1 38:2	
Wayne 10:17 12:3,6,20	20032 15:2,13	
41:12	2020 1:9 7:11,13 8:4 9:5	
Webex 4:6 16:17		
	38:8,11,21	
website 44:18	203 7:1	
Wednesday 42:12	20th 42:6	
43:20,21 45:19,20	211 15:12	
weekly 4:11,12	22 38:18 39:3	
went 34:17 40:13 51:7	2240 29:9	
54:6	24 46:8	
witness 49:5,10	26th 45:11	
word 40:21	28th 6:22	
work 19:16 27:11 40:20	29 2:12	
43:6	2918 6:16	
works 44:12	2nd 38:8	
	ZIIU 30.0	
written 20:11 26:7	2	
	3	
X	3 2:3,4,5 8:12 10:19	
	39:6	
Y	31 1:9	
years 18:6 40:12	31606.2 16:19 17:11	
l	3221 15:2 19:7	
	3rd 30:10 38:10	
	0.00.10 00.10	
0	4	
01 20:5	4 2:11 10:19	
	45 15:3	
11		
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<u>C E R T I F I C A T E</u>

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Special Board Meeting

Before: DCBOE

Date: 08-31-20

Place: teleconference

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

Court Reporter

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