

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Board of Elections and Ethics  
441 4th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

D, MICHAEL BENNETT, Board Chairman  
MICHAEL D. GILL, Board Member

9:44 a.m. to 9:51 a.m.  
Monday, April 18, 2016

One Judiciary Square  
441 4th Street, N.W., Room 280 North  
Washington, D.C.

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PRESENT:

Board of Elections and Ethics:

MICHAEL BENNETT, Board Chairman

MICHAEL D. GILL, Board Member

Board of Elections and Ethics Staff:

KENNETH J. MCGHIE, Office of General Counsel

TERRI D. STROUD, Acting Executive Director

Other District of Columbia Employees:

TERRICA JENNINGS

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

2 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay. Good morning.  
3 My name is Michael Bennett, Chair of the Board of  
4 Elections, and we are having a special meeting to  
5 consider polling place relocation.

6 Just for the record, Dionna Marie Lewis  
7 is unable to attend, however we do have a quorum  
8 with myself and Michael Gill as the other member.

9 Introduce folks on the podium. Michael  
10 Gill to my far right, board member to my  
11 immediate right, Mr. Ken McGhie, general counsel.

12 And to my immediate left, Terri Stroud, Acting  
13 Executive Director.

14 And what I'd like to do, just to move  
15 forward unless there's any other business I need  
16 to cover, as to D.C. Is to move the director to  
17 the proposed polling place relocation.

18 Ms. Stroud?

19 MS. STROUD: Good morning. At the  
20 Board's March meeting board staff proposed that  
21 Precinct 92 be relocated from Kenilworth  
22 Elementary School, the auditorium there which is

1 located at 1300 44th Street Northeast, to Cesar  
2 Chavez PSC Parkside Campus from the gymnasium --  
3 to the gymnasium in that facility.

4 This was due to a scheduled renovation at  
5 Kenilworth Elementary. Both the affected  
6 advisory neighborhood commissions, 7D and the  
7 Kenilworth Civic Association disapproved of the  
8 proposed relocation and requested that the  
9 precinct be relocated instead to Zion Baptist  
10 Church Eastland, which is located at 1234  
11 Kenilworth Avenue Northeast.

12 I'm going to have Ms. Terrica Jennings,  
13 our Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator  
14 present in Mr. Arlin Budoo's stead. He was not  
15 able to make it this morning and so she's going  
16 to present on our findings with respect to our  
17 review of Zion Baptist Church Eastland.

18 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Great. Thank you.

19 MS. JENNINGS: Good morning, everyone.  
20 Again, my name is Terrica Jennings for the  
21 record.

22 As mentioned we were previously having

1 our elections at Kenilworth Elementary School,  
2 but that location will be under construction  
3 during our election period.

4 I did go to Mount Zion Baptist Church,  
5 which was the location that was proposed by the  
6 local Kenilworth Civic Association. I did that  
7 survey that -- or accessibility survey with ODR,  
8 which is the Office of Disability Rights. When  
9 we did that I found out there were some issues  
10 that I thought we should address before the next  
11 election; some issues with the ramp and the  
12 route.

13 DGS, which is the Department of General  
14 Services, which is the department under the Mayor  
15 that does all the renovations and technical, I  
16 guess, restructuring of buildings for the Mayor  
17 for the Mayor's office, they will be doing the  
18 work to make that site accessible. They have  
19 confirmed those changes with us. They sent us an  
20 e-mail letting us know that they will be fixing  
21 the ramp and fixing the pathway, so we do think  
22 this will be a good fit and it will work for our

1 June elections.

2 I do believe that Kenilworth might be up  
3 and running again by November, but for right now  
4 we're proposing the change for the June election.

5 And DGS is going to be making the changes. We  
6 won't be making the changes.

7 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: So how are those  
8 changes to fixing existing structures or adding  
9 new structures, or what are things that they need  
10 to do in general?

11 MS. JENNINGS: Well, at this time the  
12 location does have a ramp.

13 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Uh-huh.

14 MS. JENNINGS: However, the ramp I found  
15 was not ADA compliant because of the threshold  
16 levels.

17 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Uh-huh.

18 MS. JENNINGS: Those issues can be fixed  
19 with minor modifications. You can simply just  
20 add cement, or in some cases wood, which is not  
21 permanent, so cement would make those -- would  
22 make the existing ramp accessible. DGS did say

1 that if they found that it would be in the best  
2 interest of the structure to redo the entire ramp  
3 they would do that, but as of right now the  
4 proposed modification is just --

5 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Just going to do some  
6 short modifications.

7 MS. JENNINGS: -- to fix the ramp.  
8 They're going to be having their engineers out  
9 and do a more technical survey of what needs to  
10 be done to fix the ramp. Same thing with the  
11 church. The church does have double doors so it  
12 is accessible for someone, for example, in a  
13 wheelchair.

14 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Uh-huh.

15 MS. JENNINGS: However, the threshold  
16 level again, is too high. So that can be fixed  
17 by adding mats to cover that area, or simply  
18 again, adding some cement just to make that area  
19 level for someone who needs to get through that  
20 door.

21 So it's not major things, but we won't  
22 know the extent of the work that needs to be done



1 until their engineers go out there.

2 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Yeah. That was the  
3 basic core of the question. I mean, the initial  
4 assessment is, you're talking about very minor --

5 MS. JENNINGS: Yes. Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: -- things that need to  
7 be done.

8 MS. JENNINGS: There's already a ramp so  
9 they can just fix the ramp that's there.

10 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay. Great. Have  
11 any questions --

12 MR. GILL: No.

13 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: -- Mr. Gill? Any  
14 other items that you need to connect with?

15 MS. JENNINGS: That's it.

16 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay. Ms. Stroud.

17 MS. STROUD: Okay. So in light of the  
18 information provided and in light of the written  
19 agreement that we had from the Department of  
20 General Services, if they will take care of the  
21 modifications in advance of the June primary, I  
22 would request that the Chair entertain a motion

1 to adopt the proposed relocation as final on an  
2 emergency basis due to time constraints. We need  
3 to finalize the polling places so that we can  
4 notify the public of where they're going to be  
5 voting in June in time for that to happen. So --

6 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: And you're comfortable  
7 that you're fine with regard to notifying the  
8 public and --

9 MS. STROUD: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: -- being able to do  
11 that in a timely way?

12 MS. STROUD: Yes. We are going to be  
13 publishing our voter guide very soon and we're  
14 going to put it up on our splash page which will  
15 go up on our website that is designated for the  
16 June election, and so I think the public will  
17 have adequate notice if we act timely.

18 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: And then if somebody  
19 went to the old place they'll have a notice of --

20 MS. STROUD: There will be notice up  
21 there.

22 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Notice that says go to

1 the new place.

2 MS. STROUD: Uh-huh. Yes, absolutely.

3 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay. Great.

4 MS. STROUD: So, yeah, we'll post the  
5 relocation in the D.C. Register and send  
6 notification, post cards to affected voters.  
7 We'll also post notice of the relocation and our  
8 voter guide on our website. And so at this  
9 juncture I would request that the chair entertain  
10 a motion to adopt the proposed relocation as  
11 final on an emergency basis.

12 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay. Any questions,  
13 Mr. Gill? Can I get a motion from you, sir?

14 MR. GILL: A motion to accept the  
15 recommendation to move the polling place.

16 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay. I'll second,  
17 and the -- question?

18 [Vote taken.]

19 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: So motion is carried.

20 MS. STROUD: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN BENNETT: Okay. Thank you. No  
22 items on the agenda, that adjourns the meeting.

1 Thank you.

2 [Whereupon, at 9:51 a.m., the Special  
3 Board Meeting was adjourned.]

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