

City of Richmond



CHERLYN STARLET STEVENS
SECRETARY

JAMES M. NACHMAN
CHAIR

JOYCE KING SMITH
VICE-CHAIR

Electoral Board

Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2021

"SIC ITUR AD ASTRA"

SUCH IS THE WAY OF THE STARS

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Nachman. Those attending the meeting included Joyce Smith, Vice-Chair; C. Starlet Stevens, Secretary; Jerry Richardson, Acting General Registrar; Lisa Cosby, Office Manager and Adriene Davis, Senior Exec. Asst. to the Electoral Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Barbara Zedler commented that there was no official investigation in the allegations reported by Ames Russell of the serious unlawful irregularities of the Richmond Electoral Board and was never questioned. Chairman Nachman said that he and Vice Chair Smith contacted Mr. Russell.

Ms. Jennie Anderson wanted to speak on items not on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Secretary Stevens motioned to approve the April 9, 2021 meeting minutes, Vice Chair Smith second. All were in favor. Motion to approve the minutes passed.

JUNE ELECTION ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING:

- ✚ Mrs. DeNay Harris provided folders containing a list of confirmed satellite locations showing hours of operation and a list of officers that will staff each satellite precinct. Mrs. Harris made arrangements with the city's DIT (Department of Information Technology) on April 19th to test and confirm that the locations were WIFI ready.
- ✚ The Acting Registrar, Jerry Richardson reported that renovations at City Hall would not permit an early voting satellite to remain there. Mrs. Harris organized with RPS (Richmond Public Schools) to secure MLK (Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School) as a satellite precinct. In light of the pending demolition of Thompson Middle School, Huguenot High School will be the new site for precinct 410 during the June Primary.

CLOSED SESSION: Personnel Matters concerning Ames Russell and Selection of the new General Registrar

Ms. Stevens read the motion to go into the closed session pursuant to [Section 2.2-3711\(A\)\(1\)](#) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss the new General Registrar for the City of Richmond. An additional discussion will include revisiting the dismissal of Ames Russell as Chief of precinct 115.

Ms. Stevens read the Certification to go back into open session pursuant to [Section 2.2-3712](#) of the Virginia Freedom of information Act. All members unanimously certified the closed session with a response of “yes”.

Mr. Ames Russell will be invited to attend the next meeting. Secretary Stevens nominated by motion to have Mr. Keith Balmer as the next General Registrar. There being no other nominations, Chairman Nachman second. Motion carried 2 to 1 to elect Keith Balmer as the new General Registrar for the City of Richmond. Chairman Nachman thanked all that applied.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The Board will meet April 28, 2021 at 4:00 PM.

OTHER BUSINESS

Acting General Registrar Richardson assured the Board that machine testing and certification will be completed before early voting starts on April 23, 2021. Also, Alan Bartlette created a diagram to show a better flow of election night returns.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ms. Elizabeth Butler reminded the Board that notices of the machine testing should be sent to party Chairs. Ms. Butler requested periodic lists of new election officers. Ms. Jenny Anderson stated that she did not receive an email nor a phone call to sign up for new officer training.

There being no further business, Chairman Nachman called to adjourn the meeting.