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1	THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
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5	In Re: :
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7	Special Meeting. :
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11	May 24, 2021
12	PROCEEDINGS OF REMOTE MEETING OF THE
13	FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
14	VIA VIDEOCONFERENCING
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16	before Chairman Douglas J. Preisse, Director Antone White, Deputy Director David Payne, and Board
17	Members Kimberly E. Marinello, and Michael Sexton, on Monday, May 24, 2021, beginning at approximately
18	1:57 p.m., and concluding at approximately 2:47 p.m.
19	2.4/ p.m.
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21	
22	Higgins & Associates
23	Court Reporting - Legal Video - Videoconference 4889 Sinclair Road, Suite 102
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25	"OII. 903. DEEO (33/0) "000.244.1211

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1	APPEARANCES:	
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3	FRANKLIN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE Amy L. Hiers, Esquire Paul Theis, Esquire	
4	Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys 373 South High Street, 13th Floor	
5	Columbus, Ohio 43215,	
6	On behalf of the Board.	
7		
8	ALSO PRESENT:	
9	Erin Gibbons	
10	Jeff Mackey Suzy O'Brien	
11	Carla Patton Sara Ziemba	
12	Sara Zienba	
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1	Monday Afternoon Session May 3, 2021
2	1:57 p.m.
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4	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: This is
5	David Payne. And I'll remind the Board members
6	that they should identify themselves prior to
7	speaking so that Carla, our court reporter, can
8	attribute the right comments to the right Board
9	members.
10	I will take roll.
11	Kim Marinello.
12	MEMBER MARINELLO: Here.
13	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.
14	MEMBER SEXTON: Here.
15	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And Doug
16	Preisse.
17	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Here.
18	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We have a
19	quorum.
20	I'm going to turn this over to our
21	Board Chairman, Doug Preisse.
22	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you, David.
23	I'm sure that everyone has by now
24	heard the very sad news; and I did want to say a
25	few words about our colleague, Brad Sinnott.

respectful colleague; for Republicans, our long-time partner in politics, passionate partner, life-long in politics; for the citizens of Franklin County, a very conscientious public servant who took his duties and oath to the citizens to serve the voters as seriously as he took any charge in his life; and to me, my friend and confidente for nearly 40 years.

Sorry, guys.

And for the last 16 was essentially co-chairman of the Franklin County Republican
Party, which he also loved. Brad very much enjoyed his work with the Board and he respected his colleagues across the aisle and their service in party politics and public service.

We, of course, many, many times discussed Board matters together. And I'd like to let all Board employees know that he understood and respected and appreciated your commitment to your profession, your hard work, and your bipartisan civility, which he also was a great example of, necessary to get the job done for the voters. And I want to say he felt particularly strong about that sentiment as it relates to the current

directors, David and Antone. He really appreciated both your professionalism, your leadership, and your ability to work together.

We will miss his intelligence and his ability to provide insight and counsel to the Board and his artful ways to find reasonable paths forward. This first Board meeting without Brad here feels incomplete. And I can tell you I took extra care reviewing the agenda and the materials well in advance, knowing sadly that I would -- and yes, a little fearfully -- I would not have his shoulder to lean on or his intellect to rely on. I know we'll all miss him in many different ways. I know I will certainly, Director. Thank you very much.

MEMBER MARINELLO: Thanks, Doug.

That was beautiful.

CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you.

MEMBER SEXTON: Thank you,

20 Mr. Chairman.

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you, Mike.

MEMBER SEXTON: If I could just add a few words. You know, Brad and I obviously were of different political parties and we had some disagreements; but I always found Brad to be very civil and gracious and professional and usually with a smile on his face with dealing with the matters of the Board. And he had a -- was such a great political and legal mind and was really helpful to me when I was a new member a few years ago. And I was -- I was glad to have served with him over the past four years. I know we were able to come together on some major issues during the presidential election and the COVID pandemic that we're going through. And he was always very passionate about the issues of the Board and very willing to listen and talk and work on the issues. And my prayers are with him and his family at this time and may he rest in peace.

CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you very much.

MEMBER MARINELLO: I agree with that sentiment. I had so much respect for him and I listened to him. And I just -- I'm going to miss his expertise so much because, I mean, he was just -- he'll be missed so much by so many.

CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you, Kim.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: I believe that we have Suzy O'Brien, who is our liaison with the Ohio Secretary of State. I believe she has a

proclamation she'd like to read.

MS. O'BRIEN: I do. And I had planned on being on Zoom, but for some reason I can't Zoom in. So I apologize. I'd like to read what our Ohio Secretary of State, Frank LaRose, wrote for Brad.

extend my sincerest condolences to the family of Brad Sinnott. Brad was a loving husband, son, brother, and uncle. His leadership as Chairman of the Franklin County Republican Central Committee, member of the Franklin County Board of Elections, and many other organizations with which he was involved made a significant impact throughout Franklin County and Ohio. The respect his friends, family, and community have for him and the sorrow felt by those whose lives he touched are a testament to his legacy he has left behind.

Brad's passion for making a difference and changing lives inspired all those who met him, and his service to others made Ohio a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Brad Sinnott's life was filled with happiness through various relationships he built with those around him. And I extend my condolences to those

1	who had the privilege of knowing him, working with
2	him, and loving him. Frank LaRose.
3	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Thank you,
4	Suzy.
5	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you. Very
6	nice.
7	MS. O'BRIEN: And Secretary LaRose
8	really wanted to be with you, but had another
9	commitment.
LO	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Thank you,
11	Suzy.
12	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you, Suzy.
13	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Now if we
L 4	could join for a moment of silence for our friend
15	and Board member Bradley K. Sinnott.
16	(Moment of silence observed for
۱7	Board Member Bradley K. Sinnott.)
18	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Thank you.
19	The first item on the agenda is the
20	approval of the minutes of the April 5th, 2021,
21	meeting of the Franklin County Board of Elections.
22	Are there any questions or comments, additions or
23	deletions to the minutes?
24	If not, I would entertain a motion.
25	MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman,

1	Michael Sexton. I move that the Board approve the
2	minutes of the April 5th, 2021, meeting of the
3	Franklin County Board of Elections.
4	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Doug Preisse with
5	a second.
6	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
7	moved and seconded. I will take roll.
8	Kim Marinello.
9	MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.
LO	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.
11	MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.
12	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And Doug
13	Preisse.
L 4	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.
15	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
16	carries.
17	The next item on the agenda is the
18	provisional ballots, and I will turn that over to
19	Sara Ziemba, who is our supervisor of Voter
20	Services, to walk us through that.
21	MS. ZIEMBA: Good afternoon
22	everyone. I just want to also extend my
23	condolences to all the Board members and Brad's
24	family and all his friends. Just a tremendous loss
25	and I just hope that everyone can find peace and

1 know that our prayers and thoughts are with 2 everyone.

I also want to say a thank you to my co-worker Jim Bubutiev, who was the Democrat counterpart for the provisional ballot process as our manager of the division. Mel Fuhrman was out on medical leave in this election. As usual, our staff here in the Voter Services Department worked really hard to -- in bipartisan teams to process all of our provisionals this time. Thankfully, is was a much smaller number than in November.

We had a total of 84 provisional ballots that were cast. And Voter Services is going to recommend that the Board accept 80 provisional ballots who had all of the correct information filled out on their provisional ballot affirmation statement. They had all the required information and were registered. So we recommend that the Board approve those 80 provisional ballots.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Thank you, Sara.

I think what we'll do is approve those 80, if the Board so sees fit, and then we'll have Sara explain why she would recommend that four

1	of those not be accepted. So if I could have a
2	motion to accept those 80 provisional ballots.
3	MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman,
4	this is Kim Marinello. I move that the Board
5	approve the counting of 80 provisional ballots and
6	that all provisional ballots deemed valid will be
7	counted and included in the official canvass
8	results for the May 4 Special Election.
9	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: This is Doug
10	Preisse with a second.
11	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
12	moved and seconded. I will take roll.
13	Kim Marinello.
14	MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.
15	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.
16	MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.
17	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And Doug
18	Preisse.
19	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.
20	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
21	carries.
22	Again, I will turn this over to Sara
23	Ziemba to explain the four provisional ballots that
24	she is recommending that the Board not accept.
25	MS. ZIEMBA: Thank you, David. Sara

Ziemba, again, supervisor in Voter Services
Department.

And we are recommending that four of the ballots that did not meet requirements, we recommend that the Board reject those. Three of these provisional ballots, the individuals who cast them were not registered in the state of Ohio anywhere, either in Franklin County or any other county in the state. Therefore, we recommend those three be rejected for not being registered. And then we had one voter who cast a provisional after he had already cast an absentee by mail ballot. So his absentee by mail was already counted and we recommend that the Board rejects counting his provisional ballot because he already had voted once. And so for that grand total there are four that we recommend the Board reject today.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Are there any questions for Sara regarding the four provisional ballots that she's recommending that the Board not accept?

If not, I'd entertain a motion to reject those four provisional ballots.

MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman,
Michael Sexton. I move that the Board reject the

1	counting of four provisional ballots as identified
2	by category in Exhibit A and that all provisional
3	ballots rejected will not be counted or included in
4	the official canvass results of the May 4, 2021
5	Special Election.
6	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: This is Doug
7	Preisse with a second.
8	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
9	moved and seconded. I'll take role.
10	Kim Marinello.
11	MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.
12	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.
13	MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.
14	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And Doug
15	Preisse.
16	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.
17	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
18	carries.
19	The next item on the agenda would be
20	for approval for Sara and her team to extract the
21	80 provisional ballots. And if we can get that
22	done, we'll start them doing that right now. Is
23	there a motion for that?
24	MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman,
25	Michael Sexton. I move that the Board authorize

1	the staff to extract the approved provisional
2	ballots.
3	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: This is Doug
4	Preisse Never mind.
5	MEMBER MARINELLO: I second. Kim
6	Marinello.
7	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
8	properly moved and seconded. I'll take roll.
9	Kim Marinello.
LO	MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.
11	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.
12	MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.
13	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And Doug
L 4	Preisse.
15	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.
16	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
۱7	carries.
18	The next item on the agenda would be
19	to give authorization to the staff to remake any of
20	the provisional ballots if they will not be able to
21	be scanned and that there's no assuming that
22	there's no voter intent. If there is voter intent
23	questions, we will bring those back to the Board.
24	MEMBER MARINELLO: All right.
25	Mr. Chairman, this is Kim Marinello. I move that

1	the Board authorize the staff to remake provisional
2	ballots and that these remade ballots shall be
3	tabulated and included in the official canvass of
4	the results for the May 4th, 2021 Special Election,
5	with a report to be made to the Board later today.
6	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Is there a
7	second?
8	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: This is Doug
9	Preisse with a second.
10	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
11	properly moved and seconded. I'll take roll.
12	Kim Marinello.
13	MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.
14	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.
15	MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.
16	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And Doug
17	Preisse.
18	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.
19	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
20	carries.
21	The next item on the agenda is the
22	certification of candidates to the August 3rd
23	special congressional primary election. And I'll
24	turn that over to Jeff Mackey for an explanation.
25	MR. MACKEY: This is Jeff Mackey.

1	The deadline for filing a petition for the special
2	congressional primary election in the 15th
3	Congressional District to replace Steve Stivers was
4	May 17th. The Board received timely filed
5	petitions from 14 potential candidates, both
6	Democrats both 2 Democrats and 12 Republicans.
7	All these petitions were reviewed by staff from the
8	various boards of election in the 15th
9	Congressional District all 14 petitions were found
10	to be valid and sufficient.
11	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Are there
12	any questions for Jeff regarding the 14 candidates
13	that circulated petitions and are attempting to be
14	the next Congressman from the 15th Congressional
15	District?
16	MEMBER SEXTON: I just had a
17	question. Were all of the candidates recommended
18	to be certified?
19	MR. MACKEY: Yes. All 14 that filed
20	petitions were valid.
21	MEMBER SEXTON: Okay. Mr. Chairman,
22	Michael Sexton. I move that the Board certify to
23	the August 3rd Special Congressional Primary
24	Election ballot those candidates listed on
25	Exhibit B and that these petitions were filed

1	timely and found to be valid and sufficient.
2	MEMBER MARINELLO: This is Kim
3	Marinello. I second.
4	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
5	properly moved and seconded. I will take roll.
6	Kim Marinello.
7	MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.
8	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.
9	MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.
10	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And Doug
11	Preisse.
12	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.
13	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
14	carries.
15	So we had considered the possibility
16	that a candidate might not make it, but that is not
17	the case and all 14 candidates have the proper
18	signature requirements.
19	So we will now move to the hiring of
20	a new employee, and I'll turn that over to our
21	Director, Antone White, for an explanation of that.
22	DIRECTOR WHITE: Good afternoon.
23	This is Director White.
24	I just wanted to take a moment to
25	extend my condolences to the friends and family of

Brad Sinnott. He will be missed. And I think what we should point out here is that here at the Franklin County Board of Elections, the Board and staff, we were very -- I think politics aside we get things done and we're going to miss Brad, we're going to miss his counsel and all he's done for the Board and for the people of Franklin County. So, again, I just wanted to say my condolences to his friends and his family.

CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you,
Antone.

DIRECTOR WHITE: For the purposes of -- We've had a void at our front section area since the retirement of long-time staff member Debbie Roberts, and we've recently been filling that void with Tara Miller-Gnann. And Tara has been with us on a seasonal basis since last year. She worked in our absentee call center.

Tara has been just a great fit for the Board. She has been an outstanding employee. She's extremely professional. She represents the Franklin County Board of Elections very well in terms of a front-facing role. She greets customers, she interacts on the phone, and she's really just done an outstanding job.

1 And so, with that, we wanted to 2 bring her on into a full-time roll here at the 3 Franklin County Board of Elections into a customer 4 service coordinator so she can continue to serve in 5 a front-facing position working with the public, 6 interacting with voters on the phone, and just 7 being an office assistant. 8 And so, with that, I'd like to take 9 a moment to have Tara come and just introduce 10 herself to the Board and then I'll ask for a 11 motion. 12 So Tara, you want to come on over. 13 MS. MILLER-GNANN: Hello. My name 14 is Tara Miller-Gnann. I have been with the Board 15 since the general election. And I know it was 16 extremely crazy, but I have loved every minute of I know that sounds insane, but I really have 17 18 enjoyed every minute being here. 19 And thank you for your kind words, 20 Director. 21 DIRECTOR WHITE: Thank you. 22 So unless there are any questions, I 23 would ask for a motion to approve the hiring of 24 Tara Miller-Gnann at a rate of \$15.50 per hour. 25 I would just DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE:

1	echo what our Director said about Tara. We put a
2	real premium on customer services, and I don't
3	believe we could have found a better person to
4	represent and front-face at the Board of Elections
5	more so than Tara. So I look forward to her
6	working here and her continued great customer
7	service.
8	MEMBER MARINELLO: That sounds
9	great.
LO	Mr. Chairman, I move that the
L1	Franklin County Board of Elections hire Tara
12	Miller-Gnann as a customer service coordinator in a
13	full-time position beginning Monday, May 24th,
L 4	2021, at a rate of \$15.50 per hour.
15	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: This is Doug
16	Preisse with a second.
L 7	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
18	properly moved and seconded. I'll take roll.
19	Kim Marinello.
20	MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.
21	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.
22	MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.
23	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And Doug
24	Preisse.
25	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

1	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Fantastic.
2	Motion carries.
3	Right now what I'd like to do is go
4	back and check on how we're doing with provisional
5	ballots. And if we could have a recess and then
6	we'll report back. Or maybe I should go back right
7	now and just find out how long of a recess we'll
8	actually need.
9	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yeah, why don't
10	you do that. That would be good.
11	(Discussion off the record.)
12	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Can I have a
13	motion to recess until 2:45, then?
14	MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman
15	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Do we have to
16	vote on that or do we just declare we're in recess?
17	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: You know
18	what, I think you're right. My parliamentary
19	procedure went out the door there. I think we just
20	need to recess.
21	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I think I can say
22	we are in recess, right, without objection?
23	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Yes.
24	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. We'll talk
25	to everybody at 2:45.

1	(Recess taken.)
2	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So we'll come out
3	of recess.
4	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Erin, do we
5	have everybody back?
6	MS. GIBBONS: We do.
7	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: It's 2:45. So
8	that's what we had told people.
9	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All right.
10	And the Chairman just brought us back out of
11	recess.
12	I am going to turn this over to
13	Carla Patton, who is our manager of Operations.
14	Carla, are you on?
15	MS. PATTON: Yeah. Yeah, I'm here.
16	Can you hear me?
17	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We can.
18	MS. PATTON: Good afternoon, members
19	of the Board.
20	So for all the departments in
21	bipartisan team manner everyone has gone through
22	and canvassed the votes. We have pulled in all the
23	results that we accepted today to include in the
24	official canvass as well as reviewing and
25	canvassing the votes that were cast during the

early vote through absentee and on election day.

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2 So we have a results report to show 3 This is the detail that will show where the vou. 4 80 ballots were cast through the provisionals and two additional mail absentees that were included 5 6 that were received by the deadline. So we ask that 7 you certify these results. Out of 35,000 some 8 voters, there were 9,916 ballots that were cast for 9 a turnout of 27.96 percent. None of the races fall 10 within recount. They were all handily either 11 passed or failed. So we ask that you certify the 12 results as they appear before you in the report 13 presented.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Are there any questions or comments for Carla?

If not, I'd entertain a motion to certify the May 4th Special Election results.

MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman, this is Michael Sexton. I move that the Board certify and declare as final the official canvass of the votes cast at the May 4th, 2021, Special Election as submitted by staff.

CHAIRMAN PREISSE: This is Doug Preisse with a second.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been

1	moved and seconded. I will take roll.
2	Kim Marinello.
3	MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.
4	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.
5	MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.
6	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And Doug
7	Preisse.
8	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.
9	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
10	carries.
11	That's the end of the items
12	on our for our Board meeting today.
13	If there aren't any other items to
14	come before the Board, I'd entertain a motion to
15	adjourn.
16	MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I
17	move to adjourn. This is Kim Marinello.
18	MEMBER SEXTON: Michael Sexton.
19	I'll second.
20	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
21	moved and seconded. I'll take roll.
22	Kim Marinello.
23	MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.
24	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.
25	MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.

1	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And Doug	26
2	Preisse.	
3	CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.	
4	DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Thank you	
5	very much. We are adjourned.	
6		
7	(Thereupon, the proceedings were	
8	adjourned at approximately 2:47 p.m.)	
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5	THE STATE OF OHIO:
6	SS: COUNTY OF FRANKLIN:
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8	I, Carla D. Castle, a Professional
9	Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a
10	true, correct, and complete written transcript of the proceedings in this matter;
11	That the foregoing was taken by me stenographically and transcribed by me with
12	computer-aided transcription; That the foregoing occurred at the
13	aforementioned time and place; That I am not an attorney for or
14	relative of any of the parties and have no interest whatsoever in the event of this matter.
15	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal of office at Columbus,
16	Ohio, this 23rd day of June, 2021.
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18	
19	/
20	/s/Carla D. Castle Notary Public, State of Ohio
21	
22	My Commission Expires: September 29, 2021.
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25	