

1           BEFORE THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
2                   OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

3                           - - - - -

4 IN RE:                                 :

5 Public Meeting                         :

6                           - - - - -

7           Proceedings before Chairman William  
8 A. Anthony, Jr., and Board members Michael  
9 F. Colley, Kimberly E. Marinello and  
10 Carolyn C. Petree with Deputy Director  
11 Dennis L. White, taken at the Franklin  
12 County Board of Elections, 280 East Broad  
13 Street, Columbus, Ohio, on Thursday, March  
14 1, 2007, at 3:00 o'clock p.m.

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1 ALSO PRESENT:

2 Ms. Peggy Howell  
Ms. Karen Cotton  
3 Mr. Don Summers

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2                   P R O C E E D I N G S

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4                   CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: I would like  
5 to call the Franklin County Board of  
6 Elections meeting to order.

7                   May we have the roll call.

8                   MR. WHITE: Mr. Colley?

9                   MR. COLLEY: Here.

10                  MR. WHITE: Ms. Marinello?

11                  MS. MARINELLO: Here.

12                  MR. WHITE: Ms. Petree?

13                  MS. PETREE: Here.

14                  MR. WHITE: Chairman Anthony?

15                  CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Here.

16                  We have a quorum present.

17                  MR. WHITE: The first item on  
18 the agenda, Mr. Chair, is the  
19 certification of the Special Election.

20                  MS. PETREE: Mr. Chairman, I  
21 move that the results of the February 6,  
22 2007 Special Election in the Village of  
23 Riverlea be certified as canvassed and  
24 reported.

1 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Is there a  
2 second?

3 MS. MARINELLO: I second.

4 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: All those in  
5 favor, say aye.

6 (Unanimous aye.)

7 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: The motion  
8 carries.

9 MR. WHITE: The next issue for  
10 the Board is the certification of  
11 candidates to the ballot.

12 I would like to ask Peggy Howell  
13 to present her report to the Board.

14 MS. HOWELL: Peggy Howell,  
15 H-o-w-e-l-l.

16 We have checked all the  
17 petitions for the candidates that filed  
18 for the primary and/or general election.  
19 We have some questionable petitions that I  
20 think we need to go through prior to  
21 certifying the entire list, which is  
22 second in your paperwork.

23 The first question that we have  
24 to rule on is Steven Raimo, candidate for

1 Gahanna mayor. The only error Mr. Raimo  
2 had was he inserted his voting precinct is  
3 in C, and in reality he is in E precinct  
4 of the First Ward.

5           Because he is running for a  
6 city-wide office and did show the correct  
7 address and ward on his petition, previous  
8 rulings by this board have been that they  
9 do not consider this to be a fatal flaw in  
10 the petition and that Mr. Raimo should be  
11 certified to the ballot.

12           Do you want me to go through  
13 them or do you vote on each category?

14           MR. WHITE: What is your  
15 preference, Mr. Chairman?

16           CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Why don't we  
17 go through the ones we should vote on.  
18 That would be that one then?

19           MR. WHITE: Any questions on  
20 the past practice of the Board?

21           CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: I move that  
22 Steven Raimo, R-a-i-m-o, be certified to  
23 the ballot.

24           Do we have to do that?

1 MR. WHITE: You don't have to  
2 unless there is a concern by the Board.

3 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Is there a  
4 second?

5 MS. PETREE: I second.

6 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: All in favor,  
7 say yes.

8 (Unanimous yes.)

9 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: The motion  
10 carries. Then he is on the ballot.

11 MS. HOWELL: The next six  
12 candidates listed on your Questionable  
13 Petitions and Issues for Election are all  
14 candidates. I will take them one at a  
15 time. Each of them had an insufficient  
16 number of valid signatures.

17 I have given you a work sheet  
18 that shows the number of petitions they  
19 filed, the number of signatures that were  
20 on those petitions, the number of  
21 signatures they needed to be validated for  
22 certification, and our finding by category  
23 to the problem petitions.

24 Walter Downey, Republican

1 Candidate for Hilliard Council,  
2 insufficient number of valid signatures.

3           Willis Spencer, Non-partisan

4 Candidate for Mayor of Whitehall,  
5 insufficient valid signatures.

6           Carmen Allen, Non-partisan

7 Candidate for Columbus Board of Education,  
8 insufficient number of valid signatures.

9           John Tracy Broaddus,

10 Non-partisan Candidate for Columbus Board  
11 of Education, insufficient valid  
12 signatures.

13           Joy Marshall, Non-partisan

14 Candidate for Columbus Board of Education,  
15 insufficient number of valid signatures.

16           Michael Winston, Non-partisan

17 Candidate for Columbus Board of Education,  
18 insufficient number of valid signatures.

19           In each case we were not able to  
20 get the minimum required valid signature  
21 number that would permit them to be  
22 certified to the ballot.

23           CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: These folks,  
24 once we vote them off, they do have appeal

1 rights; is that correct?

2 MS. HOWELL: They will be  
3 notified and they will have five days to  
4 come and appeal.

5 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: I will  
6 entertain a motion for those six  
7 individuals to put them off the ballot.

8 I move that we do not certify  
9 the ballots of Walter Downey, Willis  
10 Spencer, Carmen Allen, Jon Tracy Broadus,  
11 Joy L. Marshall, and Michael D. Winston  
12 for not having valid signatures.

13 And they will be notified how?

14 MS. HOWELL: They will  
15 be notified by mail tonight.

16 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: And have how  
17 many days to appeal?

18 MS. HOWELL: They have five days  
19 in which to appeal or protest.

20 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Is there a  
21 second on the motion?

22 MS. PETREE: I second.

23 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: All those in  
24 favor, say aye.

1 (Unanimous aye.)

2 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: The motion  
3 carries.

4 MS. HOWELL: The next one is a  
5 little different. I don't know, I think  
6 you would probably have three ways you can  
7 go on this one.

8 We have Candidate W. Shawna  
9 Gibbs, who filed as a non-partisan  
10 candidate for Columbus Board of Education.  
11 There is a question regarding  
12 her registration.

13 We could find no one registered  
14 as she completed her petition. There is a  
15 Weirdella LaRay Gibbs registered at the  
16 address stated on W. Shawna Gibbs'  
17 petition.

18 If we can ascertain that she is  
19 a registered elector of the school  
20 district you can either invalidate her now  
21 until she can come in and prove she is  
22 registered, or explain if the one we have,  
23 Weirdella LaRay Gibbs, is in fact her,  
24 then make an explanation that you would

1 have to consider to recertify her, or you  
2 can continue it until such time. That's  
3 your free choice.

4 MR. WHITE: Do we know if that  
5 is her?

6 MS. HOWELL: No, we don't at  
7 this time.

8 MR. WHITE: Do any Board members  
9 know?

10 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Fortunately,  
11 I do know her. I have known her for a  
12 long time.

13 I knew her father. The father  
14 was Weir D. Gibbs. He named the daughter  
15 Weirdella and she refuses to go by that  
16 name. She has always gone as Jessie and  
17 W. as her father did. Her father's name  
18 was Weir and he also went by W. as his  
19 name.

20 I have known her as W. Shawna  
21 Gibbs for pretty much all her life. I  
22 have known the family for a long time.

23 MS. HOWELL: I don't know where  
24 this LaRay comes into it, but I think we

1 need more clarification.

2           You can either not certify her  
3 at this time or continue it until such  
4 time as she can give you documentation and  
5 then vote at that time. You can not  
6 certify her until she can give you  
7 documentation that may make you  
8 reconsider. It's your choice.

9           CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Did she file  
10 a change of name?

11           MS. HOWELL: No. We have hunted  
12 high and low. The copy of the  
13 registration that I have attached behind  
14 the copy of the petition is the only thing  
15 we have on her.

16           CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: I did talk to  
17 her about this. She would like to go on  
18 the ballot as W. Shawna Gibbs instead of  
19 Weirdella. That's why she did the  
20 petition. I thought she told me she had  
21 filed a name change.

22           MS. HOWELL: If she could come  
23 in and prove it.

24           MR. WHITE: How did she sign her

1 pre-registration card?

2 MS. HOWELL: As Weirdella.

3 There was no middle initial. I looked  
4 that far.

5 MR. WHITE: What is the Board's  
6 preference?

7 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: It's a tough  
8 one for me because I do know her.

9 MR. WHITE: The main thing is,  
10 you know, you know that it is her.

11 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Yes.

12 MR. WHITE: The main thing is to  
13 find out how she wants her name to go on  
14 the ballot, then the Board would decide  
15 whether that's a proper name or not.

16 We have had people run by  
17 different names if that's what they go  
18 by, or if it's close to -- like a Robert  
19 would run as Bill.

20 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: Any  
21 discussion?

22 MS. PETREE: Yes. What if we  
23 would invalidate it and then notify her so  
24 she could come in?

1 MR. WHITE: It's your call.

2 MS. HOWELL: Bill has verified  
3 it is her, so we know it is her.

4 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: That is  
5 definitely her.

6 MR. WHITE: Since we know it is  
7 her, I think it's a matter of the Board,  
8 bottom line, deciding what name she should  
9 have on the ballot. She has to do a  
10 request form for that.

11 CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: I have no  
12 idea how it works.

13 MS. HOWELL: My recommendation  
14 would be not to certify her. She would  
15 have five days to come in to protest or  
16 appeal, and we will just set a hearing  
17 date for the Board to hear any candidates  
18 that file a protest and appeal. And she  
19 can come at that time and submit her  
20 arguments and you can rule either yea or  
21 nae at that time.

22 MR. WHITE: The reason we are in  
23 this position, Bill, is because our legal  
24 counsel is tied up in another legal matter

1 and not here.

2           However, what reason do we have  
3 to disqualify her from not being a  
4 candidate?

5           MS. HOWELL: We have no one  
6 registered by that name. Even though Bill  
7 has said that is her, it does raise a  
8 question for which we need clarification.

9           MS. COTTON: Her initial listed  
10 on her registration form is different from  
11 S. for Shawna. Because of that  
12 inconsistency we can't determine whether  
13 it is or isn't her.

14           MS. PETREE: My problem is with  
15 it under the statement of candidacy she  
16 did have W. Shawna Gibbs, and that's the  
17 way she signed the petition.

18           CHAIRMAN ANTHONY: I don't have  
19 the petition.

20           MS. HOWELL: Here is the  
21 original.

22           I have asked the Prosecutor for  
23 their opinion also, but they have been  
24 tied up in court and weren't able to

