

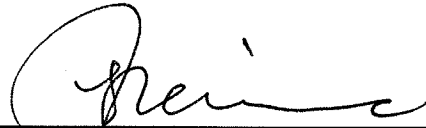
FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
280 EAST BROAD STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
(614) 462-3100

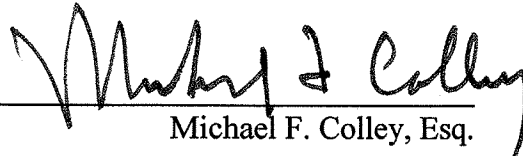
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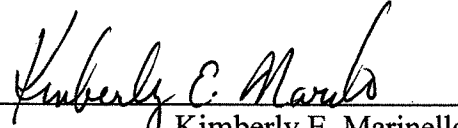
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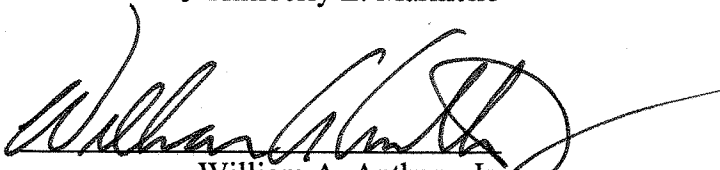
APPROVED ON 9-8-08

BY:

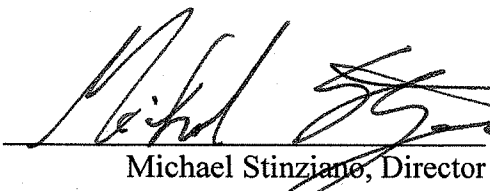

Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman


Michael F. Colley, Esq.


Kimberly E. Marinello


William A. Anthony Jr.

ATTEST:


Michael Stinziano, Director

1 APPEARANCES:

2 Office of the
3 Franklin County Prosecutor
4 373 South High Street
5 Columbus, Ohio 43215
6 By Mr. Patrick J. Piccininni
7 and
8 Mr. Nick Soulas,

9 On behalf of the Board.

10 ALSO PRESENT:

11 Mr. Eric Nickolas

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1 the auditing of campaign finance reports,
2 establishing a time line and procedure by
3 which the Board would notify candidates
4 and committees of deficiencies in the
5 reports, using certified mail and
6 establishing a clear time frame for
7 candidates who have not responded to those
8 notifications to be referred to the
9 Elections Commission.

10 We have two candidates from last
11 year, who still have deficient reports.
12 The deficiencies are minor but they are
13 still deficiencies. And it is the policy
14 of state law to refer them over to the
15 Elections Commission for further
16 investigation or proceeding.

17 This motion is consistent with
18 the policy previously set by the Board.

19 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Any thoughts,
20 concerns for discussion?

21 (No audible response)

22 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Then based
23 upon the recommendations of the Director
24 and Deputy Director, I move that the Board

1 of Elections refer the following
2 individuals to the Ohio Elections
3 Commission: Stephen Renner and Paul
4 Bingle.

5 MS. MARINELLO: Second.

6 MR. DAMSCHRODER: We can do a
7 voice vote on this.

8 All in favor, say aye.

9 (Unanimous aye)

10 MR. DAMSCHRODER: The motion
11 carries.

12 MR. STINZIANO: The second item
13 on the agenda is the Challenge to Right to
14 Vote and Correction of Registration List.

15 MR. DAMSCHRODER: This Board
16 action is similar to some of the ones we
17 have had in the past. When an individual
18 registers or an individual becomes
19 registered at someone else's address, the
20 person who lives there has the opportunity
21 to challenge that. In some cases it has
22 been a result of a keying error on our
23 part and we were able to resolve that.

24 In this instance as we've seen

1 in the past, it's very clear that the
2 registration is not a person's residential
3 address because 6500 North High Street is
4 the Worthington Fire Department. He has
5 been challenged by -- the Chief sent a
6 letter saying that this individual, Mr.
7 Bumgardner is not an employee of the fire
8 department.

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Or a resident
10 of the fire house.

11 MR. DAMSCHRODER: So the Staff's
12 recommendation would be to uphold this
13 challenge and that the individual's
14 registration be cancelled.

15 MS. MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I
16 move that the Board grant the Challenge of
17 Right to Vote and Correction of
18 Registration List filed by Scott D.
19 Highley of 1247 Tranquil Drive against
20 Maurice Anthony Bumgardner purportedly of
21 6500 North High Street and order that
22 Mr. Bumgardner's registration be
23 immediately cancelled in Franklin County
24 and his name stricken from the

1 Registration List.

2 MR. COLLEY: Second.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Voice vote?

4 MR. STINZIANO: All in favor?

5 (Unanimous aye)

6 MR. STINZIANO: The motion

7 carries. We'll refer accordingly.

8 The next agenda item is

9 discussion of extending the offsite early
10 voting and absentee hours.

11 At our last meeting the Board
12 adopted the Secretary of State's minimum
13 weekday hours. We would like to start
14 with any extended weekday hours that the
15 Board wants to discuss.

16 MR. ANTHONY: Director, before I
17 make the motion I would like to go on the
18 record in saying we would like to make
19 voting available as often and as long as
20 we can during that 35-day period so people
21 will have an opportunity to vote.

22 With that in mind I will make
23 the following motion. I move that the
24 Board establish extended weekday hours in

1 addition to the minimum requirements of
2 the S.O.S. Directive of 2008-50 that was
3 already adopted by this Board to include
4 hours of operation for in-person voting at
5 Veterans Memorial from 8:00 a.m. until
6 7:00 p.m., beginning September 30th and
7 ending November 3rd, 2008.

8 MS. MARINELLO: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Do we have
10 some thoughts or discussion on this
11 matter?

12 I would offer that I concur that
13 having adopted the minimum hours
14 prescribed by the Secretary of State, we
15 always as we have in the recent past have
16 looked for opportunities within reason and
17 in consideration of the hard working
18 professional staff and cost incurred, have
19 considered and indeed supported the
20 extension of hours to better convenience
21 the voting public.

22 Michael, do you have any
23 thoughts?

24 MR. COLLEY: What is the

1 Staff's rationale?

2 MR. DAMSCHRODER: I think the
3 Staff recommendation -- Mike, correct me
4 if I am wrong.

5 I think part of the rationale
6 for the extra weekday hours is that it has
7 been the longstanding practice of this
8 office to have some extended weekday
9 hours. I think in 2006 we did some extra
10 hours during weekdays. So I think this is
11 consistent with past practice.

12 MR. COLLEY: Was it fairly well
13 received?

14 MR. DAMSCHRODER: It was
15 favorably received and I think it
16 accommodates individuals who are in that
17 -- who are unable to come down 8:00 to
18 5:00 and not coming down until early
19 evening hours, allowing them to avoid rush
20 hour traffic.

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Any other
22 comments?

23 (No audible response)

24 MR. STINZIANO: Then I think it

1 may be time to vote. A motion is on the
2 table and has been seconded for extended
3 hours at Veterans Memorial, beginning
4 September 30th and ending November 3rd
5 from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

6 Do you want a voice vote?

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

8 MR. STINZIANO: All in favor?

9 (Unanimous aye)

10 MR. STINZIANO: The motion
11 carries.

12 Next we are going to discuss
13 extended Saturday hours. Currently the
14 Board has not adopted any hours on
15 Saturday.

16 MR. ANTHONY: You know, I am
17 going to make another motion. I kind of
18 enjoy breaking it up like this, because
19 that makes it a little easier for
20 everybody.

21 This election cycle will
22 probably be, you know, one of the busiest
23 we have ever had, generating more
24 excitement than I can remember. For those

1 older than I am, you probably have more
2 experience on this.

3 I recall last year there were a
4 couple of times where we had -- people
5 tend to wait until the last minute to
6 actually vote. What I am going to propose
7 is that we at least think about staying
8 open on Saturday.

9 And then I am going to do
10 another motion, extending the hours for a
11 period on Sunday as well. I can go ahead
12 and do a motion.

13 Do you want to talk about it,
14 or shall I go ahead and make my motion?

15 (No audible response)

16 MR. ANTHONY: I move that the
17 Board establish Saturday hours of
18 operation for in-person voting at the
19 Veterans Memorial, beginning from 8:00
20 o'clock to 5:00 p.m. for all Saturdays
21 during the 35-day early voting period.

22 MS. MARINELLO: I'll second
23 that.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: We have a

1 motion and a second.

2 Do we have discussion or
3 thoughts about extending the voting,
4 in-person voting, to all Saturdays? I
5 have a few concerns.

6 As you stated, Mr. Chairman,
7 this is likely to be quite busy. You used
8 the word busiest of elections, and I think
9 we all might concur on that.

10 Certainly many of us involved --
11 and I have heard this said over and over
12 in my short tenure at the Board -- as much
13 as we think we know about the electoral
14 process, once you are at the Board and
15 looking inside of it there are a whole lot
16 of moving parts that are invisible to the
17 public eye unless they come down here and
18 spend some time with us.

19 My concern is while we continue
20 and just voted to extend weekday hours,
21 that we make voting as accessible and
22 convenient to voters. My concern too is
23 the efficient and effective operation of
24 the Board and the overtaxing of Staff

1 time.

2 My inclination is that maybe we
3 are going a little too far, and that we
4 revisit the idea of weekend hours based on
5 those concerns.

6 MR. DAMSCHRODER: I think one
7 thing for the Board to consider when it
8 looks at Saturday hours whether through
9 this motion or some other motion, is that
10 the Board has from time to time in the
11 past had some limited Saturday voting
12 hours, usually toward the end of the
13 process. And I think there is a concern
14 on the part of some, speaking primarily
15 for myself, that while the folks at Vets
16 have been very accommodating with the
17 schedule and made some arrangements during
18 the Universal Light Conference that we
19 have the room exclusively for security
20 purposes, I do have a concern that the
21 number of attendees at that conference
22 that weekend may not be complementary to
23 voting also taking place that Saturday. I
24 think it's the second Saturday of the

1 35-day period.

2 MR. STINZIANO: October 11th.

3 MR. DAMSCHRODER: October 11th.

4 I think that's something the Board might
5 want to consider as it looks at Saturdays.
6 Perhaps if not all the Board members can
7 agree on all five Saturdays, perhaps a
8 shorter window of maybe the last two
9 Saturdays might be a solution that we can
10 get unanimity on and allow us to avoid
11 extra congestion during the Universal
12 Light convention. And that's speaking
13 solely as the Deputy Director.

14 MS. MARINELLO: When does that
15 mailing go out that we wanted to include
16 these hours?

17 MR. DAMSCHRODER: It's being
18 printed as we speak.

19 MS. MARINELLO: Too late.

20 MR. STINZIANO: There is a
21 reference on the mailing to go to the
22 Franklin County Board of Elections Website
23 to view additional hours.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Well, would

1 it be in order or would it be acceptable
2 to the proposer of the motion to amend the
3 motion?

4 MR. ANTHONY: No, I'm not going
5 to amend it. I am going to leave it the
6 same.

7 I would like to see them open
8 for the four Saturdays. That one Saturday
9 would still be available October 4th for
10 same-day voting. I think that would be a
11 pretty big date for some folks.

12 We should probably do a roll
13 call vote.

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay.

15 MR. STINZIANO: We have a motion
16 on the table that has been seconded for
17 Saturday hours of operation for in-person
18 voting at Vets Memorial from 8:00 a.m. to
19 5:00 p.m. for all Saturdays during the
20 35-day voting period.

21 Roll call vote, Chairman
22 Preisse?

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: No.

24 MR. STINZIANO: Mr. Colley?

1 MR. COLLEY: No.

2 MR. STINZIANO: Mr. Anthony?

3 MR. ANTHONY: Yes.

4 MR. STINZIANO: Ms. Marinello?

5 MS. MARINELLO: Yes.

6 MR. STINZIANO: We have a tie
7 vote on that motion.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I would like
9 to -- as we began the discussion, the
10 Chairman here said some cooperative
11 arrangement -- and we would agree that the
12 precedent has been set in the past.

13 I think I would like to note too
14 the Chairman mentioned that a lot of
15 people wait until the last minute. I
16 think we have seen certainly the trend
17 that as there are more and more options,
18 namely absentee no-fault voting, have come
19 on the line, more and more voters are
20 finding that a convenient way to avoid
21 late lines in voting.

22 So, therefore, I would like to
23 propose that maybe we certainly look at
24 the last two Saturdays of the cycle and

1 move forward with continuing onsite
2 absentee voting, solely the last two
3 Saturdays, when the last-minute voters as
4 you have suggested might avail themselves.

5 I will make that a motion.

6 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Are there times
7 as part of the motion?

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: The times
9 that we considered in the original.

10 What would be the optimal? This
11 original motion contemplated workday hours
12 8:00 to 5:00 in the schedule.

13 What are the thoughts of the
14 Staff?

15 MR. STINZIANO: I think it has
16 been the practice in the past to have it
17 open on Saturdays from 8:00 to noon.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I think we
19 could start there. This Board will be
20 meeting more times than we would even
21 anticipate in the next 80 days. There
22 will be ample opportunities for revision.

23 I will thank you for that helpful
24 observation, Mr. Director, and I will

1 include the hours 8:00 a.m. until 12:00
2 noon for the final Saturdays of this
3 election cycle 2008.

4 MR. STINZIANO: Is there a
5 second?

6 MR. COLLEY: Second.

7 MR. STINZIANO: We currently
8 have a motion on the table for
9 consideration of Saturday hours the last
10 two Saturdays, September 25 and November
11 1st during the early voting period from
12 8:00 a.m. until noon.

13 Is there a roll call vote --
14 October 25th, I'm sorry, to November 1st.
15 Chairman Preisse?

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

17 MR. STINZIANO: Mr. Colley?

18 MR. COLLEY: Yes.

19 MR. STINZIANO: Mr. Anthony?

20 MR. ANTHONY: No.

21 MR. STINZIANO: Ms. Marinello?

22 MS. MARINELLO: No.

23 MR. STINZIANO: We have a tie
24 vote on that motion as well.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Do you want
2 to adjourn?

3 MR. ANTHONY: Not yet. I'm not
4 done.

5 Now that we have Saturdays kind
6 of discombobulated, I am looking at
7 Sundays now. I could have put them
8 together, but I think to keep us all
9 honest and keep us working and keep the
10 audience and everybody on bated breath, I
11 think we ought to be open on Sundays as
12 well. I guess I could have made the
13 motion to encompass all of that but
14 decided to do it separately here.

15 I am looking at Sunday hours in
16 the afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00, not the
17 whole day. That will be for all Sundays
18 from the start of this until the end of
19 it.

20 So I will move that the Board
21 establish Sunday hours of operation for
22 in-person voting at Vets Memorial from
23 1:00 o'clock p.m. until 5:00 p.m. for all
24 Sundays during the 35-day early voting

1 period.

2 MS. MARINELLO: Second.

3 MR. STINZIANO: There is
4 currently a motion on the table that has
5 been seconded for extended hours from 1:00
6 to 5:00 on all Sundays for the 35-day
7 early voting period.

8 Roll call vote: Chairman
9 Preisse?

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Well, I would
11 like to ask if there is some discussion on
12 that matter, because I have a little.

13 That is, that we have just acted
14 to extend weekday voting hours and
15 attempted to add Saturday hours, which
16 failed in its two suggested forms. But as
17 I said, we can revisit that.

18 There seems to be not consensus
19 but a concern about adding some Saturday
20 hours. I would suggest we can and
21 probably will revisit that.

22 As to Sundays my concern remains
23 Staff time and the opportunity -- and
24 nobody will be taking Sunday off from here

1 on out already, as we all know around
2 here. That weekend breather for catch up
3 and anticipation of the next busy week in
4 this election cycle, I think, is
5 important.

6 The additional cost associated
7 -- and, again, we in essence have 24-hour
8 voting to a degree with absentee voting,
9 no-fault voting, where the voters not only
10 have the opportunity but most will be
11 mailed an opportunity to participate in
12 that no-fault voting process where they
13 can vote pretty much, fill out the ballot
14 and mark it, and take it down to the
15 mailbox or post office any hour of the day
16 or night.

17 I think at this point, given
18 these extended hours we have established
19 and the opportunity to revisit the issue
20 as well as the other concerns I have just
21 stated, my inclination is when the roll is
22 called, to vote no.

23 Do you have anything to say,
24 Michael?

1 (No audible response)

2 MR. STINZIANO: Any further
3 discussion?

4 (No audible response)

5 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: We'll have a
6 roll call vote on the motion for Sunday
7 hours at Vets Memorial during the 35-day
8 period from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on all
9 Sundays.

10 Chairman Preisse?

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: No.

12 MR. STINZIANO: Mr. Colley?

13 MR. COLLEY: No.

14 MR. STINZIANO: Mr. Anthony?

15 MR. ANTHONY: Yes.

16 MR. STINZIANO: Ms.

17 Marinello?

18 MS. MARINELLO: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Is there any
20 other discussion or motions on Sunday
21 hours?

22 (No audible response)

23 MR. STINZIANO: Okay. Then we
24 will move to the last item.

1 MR. DAMSCHRODER: We should
2 probably -- Mr. Chairman, you raised a
3 good point. Because we do have three tie
4 votes resulting from this meeting, there
5 is a process.

6 Michael, if you want to talk
7 about that and we want to expedite this as
8 much as possible.

9 MR. STINZIANO: Based on Revised
10 Code 3501.11, Section X, when a tie vote
11 presents arguments of opposing viewpoints
12 to the Secretary of State, the Deputy
13 Director and I suggest those viewpoints be
14 submitted to the Director by noon. I will
15 transmit them to the Secretary by noon on
16 Friday, tomorrow.

17 MR. ANTHONY: Okay.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Do we need to
19 vote on that?

20 MR. DAMSCHRODER: No. The
21 Director and I will help our respective
22 Board members in the draft of those
23 letters.

24 MR. ANTHONY: The response time

1 from Secretary of State, can we get that
2 expedited?

3 MR. STINZIANO: The Secretary of
4 State's Office has sent us a form, asking
5 for early voting hours. That form is due
6 tomorrow.

7 I will be transmitting that form
8 as well as the tie vote with an
9 explanation that we have agreed to certain
10 extended hours and the minimum hours and
11 that we currently have a tie vote on these
12 three issues. I don't know if the form is
13 not complete, what the Secretary of
14 State's Office is going to suggest doing
15 or when we can anticipate a response on
16 the tie votes.

17 Anything, Eric?

18 MR. NICKOLAS: We'll get it as
19 soon as possible.

20 MR. STINZIANO: They will get it
21 as soon as possible from the Secretary of
22 State's Office.

23 Thank you, Eric.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Next matter?

1 MR. DAMSCHRODER: There is, as
2 we move forward, recruiting poll workers
3 is a significant responsibility of this
4 office. We have done a great deal in the
5 past with our success of the Kids Voting
6 Program to recruit high school students,
7 eligible high school students, as well as
8 our Champions of Democracy Program that
9 works with the business and civic
10 communities, recruiting poll workers from
11 their organizations.

12 In the past as late as 2005 this
13 Board has retained a consultant to assist
14 in that activity. The last individual we
15 had was Betsy O'Grady Becker, who assisted
16 with poll worker recruitment going into
17 2006.

18 I would recommend that we do a
19 similar consultancy for this fall to
20 assist us primarily with major
21 corporations and some of the universities
22 in the area.

23 After consultation with Chairman
24 Preisse I would recommend we select Pieter

1 Wykoff, based on his years of experience
2 in the higher education arena and also at
3 high corporate levels in terms of
4 government relations and communications.

5 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I move that
6 the Franklin County Board of Elections
7 authorize the Director and Deputy Director
8 to enter a consulting contract with Mr.
9 Pieter Wykoff for poll worker recruitment
10 assistance at the monthly rate of \$5,000
11 for a period commencing August 1st, 2008,
12 and ending November 30th, 2008.

13 MR. ANTHONY: I second.

14 MR. STINZIANO: There is a
15 motion for entering a consulting contract.
16 We'll have a voice vote.

17 All in favor?

18 (Unanimous aye)

19 MR. STINZIANO: The motion
20 carries.

21 Are there any other items the
22 Board would like to discuss?

23 MR. ANTHONY: I have just a
24 couple. It has to do with the rest of

1 this day. We are meeting again at 6:30 to
2 talk about voting machine allocations.

3 MR. STINZIANO: Yes.

4 MR. ANTHONY: I just got the
5 guidelines that were sent out.

6 Are our allocations congruent
7 with these or a little more stringent or a
8 little more detailed?

9 Are we following these
10 guidelines?

11 MR. STINZIANO: We are. I do
12 think the study that the Board
13 commissioned took into different
14 considerations, maybe weighted things
15 differently than the Secretary of State
16 had weighted things. I think the first
17 additional consideration to population was
18 previous lines in the history at voting
19 locations as the primary over balloting.

20 I think we used balloting as our
21 primary factor. The Board will have an
22 opportunity after this hearing to take
23 into consideration both the directive, the
24 study, and the comments we receive from

1 the public today to reach its conclusion
2 and vote on machine allocation as required
3 by the Revised Code.

4 MR. ANTHONY: And the other one
5 I have is also about the directive for
6 poll workers. I guess this is what Pieter
7 is getting ready to do, kind of something
8 we really need to take a crack on. It has
9 two different scenarios.

10 I was trying to figure out what
11 the difference -- maybe I should talk
12 about this later.

13 MR. STINZIANO: It might be a
14 good item to discuss later. We are
15 working with our staff. Those directives
16 this morning were released after 5:00.

17 The staff is primarily
18 responsible for implementation of those
19 directives, as well as the Deputy Director
20 and I have now been able to get together
21 to discuss the implications.

22 I think they are two different
23 proposals, same place. The impact, so you
24 know ahead of time, is that those seem to

1 be single precinct based and we have a
2 number of multiple precinct bases in order
3 to minimize lines.

4 It's going to be an adjustment,
5 but we are going to consult with Staff and
6 make our recommendation to the Board that
7 you all be aware of how we address the
8 Secretary's directive and how we take into
9 account what we do.

10 MR. ANTHONY. We are definitely
11 not poll workers. They've got their jobs
12 cut out for them.

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What's the
14 number again. I tried to memorize it --
15 5,124.

16 MR. ANTHONY: That's a lot of
17 people.

18 That's all I have, sir.

19 MR. DAMSCHRODER: I think it's
20 worth noting that our existing staff is
21 doing a great job, and we are on track in
22 terms of where we are at with poll worker
23 recruitment and poll worker training.

24 Our summer classes start Sunday

1 for poll workers who require a little bit
2 of extra information after the primary.
3 And having Pieter on board will serve to
4 supplement our existing activities, but we
5 are on track for where we need to be ready
6 90 days out.

7 MR. ANTHONY: Do we just recess
8 or move to adjourn?

9 MR. STINZIANO: I have nothing
10 else.

11 MR. ANTHONY: I move we
12 adjourn.

13 MS. MARINELLO: Second.

14 MR. STINZIANO: All in favor?

15 (Unanimous aye)

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: The meeting
17 has been adjourned.

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Thereupon, the proceeding was
20 concluded at 12:15 o'clock p.m.

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CERTIFICATE

I, Patricia W. White, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings and that the foregoing transcript of such proceedings is a full, true and correct transcript of my stenotypy notes as so taken.

I do further certify that I was called there in the capacity of a Court Reporter, and am not otherwise interested in this proceeding.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Columbus, Ohio, on this 14th day of August, 2008.

Patricia W. White

PATRICIA W. WHITE, Notary Public - State of Ohio.

My commission expires May 30, 2012.