

BEFORE THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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In Re: :
: Special Meeting. :
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PROCEEDINGS

before Chairman Douglas J. Preisse, Director William A. Anthony, Jr., Deputy Director David Payne, and Board Members Kimberly E. Marinello, Bradley K. Sinnott, at the Franklin County Board of Elections, 1700 Morse Road, Columbus, Ohio, called at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2015.

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APPEARANCES:

Franklin County Prosecutor's Office
By Mr. Tim Lecklider
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
373 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

On behalf of the Board.

ALSO PRESENT:

Ms. Suzanne Brown,
Executive Assistant to the Board

Ms. Renee Klco,
Manager of Voter Services,
Franklin County Board of Elections

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Good afternoon. I would like to call the Franklin County Board of Elections to order. I will do the roll call.

Kimberly Marinello.

MS. MARINELLO: Here.

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Douglas Preisse.

MR. PREISSE: Here.

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Bradley Sinnott.

MR. SINNOTT: Here.

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Mr. Chairman, we have a quorum.

The first item of business would be the approval of the minutes of April 6, 2015.

MR. SINNOTT: I move that the minutes of the meeting of the Franklin County Board of Elections held on April 6, 2015, be approved as submitted.

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?

MS. MARINELLO: Second.

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor say aye.

(Vote taken; motion passed.)

1 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: I will pass this
2 around so everybody can sign. The only item on the
3 agenda today is a challenge of the right to vote and
4 a correction of registration. We have Renee Klco.

5 Will you walk us through, Renee?

6 MS. KLCO: We have a challenger, Linda
7 Carey who is challenging Beth Blessing. She says
8 that the address that Ms. Blessing is using on
9 Dunedin, she does not live there. She actually lives
10 in Upper Arlington.

11 Through my research I found that
12 Ms. Blessing actually owns the property on Dunedin.
13 There's another Blessing that lives at that same
14 address. She votes from that address.

15 The address in Upper Arlington is owned
16 by a John Ledbetter, and I have no indication that
17 she lives in Upper Arlington. I just show that she
18 resides on Dunedin, Clintonville, so my
19 recommendation is we leave her on the voter rolls.

20 MS. MARINELLO: I agree.

21 MR. SINNOTT: Okay.

22 I move that the Board deny the
23 challenge of the --

24 MR. SINNOTT: If I may.

1 So, Renee, if I have this right, the only
2 thing that we know is Ms. Carey says that
3 Ms. Blessing doesn't reside at her voting address.

4 MS. KLCO: Yes.

5 MR. SINNOTT: But you have determined she
6 does own that property.

7 MS. KLCO: Yes.

8 MR. SINNOTT: There's another person
9 named Blessing who is registered to vote at this
10 residence.

11 MS. KLCO: Correct.

12 MR. SINNOTT: That's really all we know
13 about that.

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: And this April letter
15 was sent to the Beth Blessing at the Dunedin address
16 with no response?

17 MS. KLCO: It wasn't returned to us, and
18 no, she did not respond to the letter.

19 MR. SINNOTT: You say it was not returned
20 to us?

21 MS. KLCO: No, it was not.

22 MR. SINNOTT: Ms. Carey was invited to
23 come here and tell us why she doesn't believe
24 Ms. Blessing is where she registered to vote, and we

1 have heard nothing from her; is that right?

2 MS. KLCO: No, we have not.

3 MS. MARINELLO: I move that the Board
 4 deny the challenge of Right to Vote and Correction of
 5 Registration List filed by Linda Carey of 521 East
 6 Stanton Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, against Beth
 7 Blessing, purportedly of 506 Dunedin Road, Columbus,
 8 Ohio, 43214, and order that Beth Blessing's
 9 registration be preserved in Franklin County.

10 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?

11 MR. SINNOTT: There is.

12 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor say
 13 aye.

14 (Vote taken; motion passed.)

15 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Motion carried.

16 Is there anything else to come before the
 17 Board?

18 MR. SINNOTT: I have a question. Must we
 19 have an ad hoc Special Meeting of the Board to vote
 20 on a voter challenge?

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: We discussed this a
 22 little earlier before the meeting commenced.
 23 Counselor has a fresh perspective.

24 MR. LECKLIDER: I will look into it. The

1 language in the statute appears to be mandatory. I'm
2 not sure there's discretion to not conduct the
3 hearing once the challenge has been filed.

4 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I ask the additional
5 question, can a mediation occur and a challenge be
6 withdrawn? And Tim was going to ponder that as well.

7 MR. SINNOTT: Of course, that would
8 require that both the voter and challenger talk to
9 us, which seems not to be happening in this instance.
10 Even if the Legislature did tell us we must decide
11 the challenge within five days or whatever it is,
12 there might be an opportunity to explain that to the
13 challenger and have the challenger agree to withdraw
14 and then refile the challenge so it would coincide
15 with the regularly scheduled Board meeting.

16 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: If they communicate.

17 MR. SINNOTT: If they communicate, that's
18 right.

19 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: In the first place.

20 MR. SINNOTT: It seems unfortunate that
21 the Board has nothing more to discuss than this.

22 MR. LECKLIDER: I will look into that.

23 MR. SINNOTT: Okay.

24 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: If that's all before

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the Board, is there a motion to adjourn?

MR. SINNOTT: Yes.

MS. MARINELLO: Second.

DIRECTOR ANTHONY: We stand adjourned.

(Vote taken; motion passed.)

(The hearing adjourned at 3:20 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on Thursday, April 16, 2015, and carefully compared with my original stenographic notes.

Rosemary Foster Anderson,
Professional Reporter and
Notary Public in and for
the State of Ohio.

My commission expires April 5, 2019.

(RFA-78256)

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