

Commissioners

MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ, *Chair*
WILLIAM J. KRESSE, *Commissioner/Secretary*
JUNE A. BROWN, *Commissioner*
CHARLES HOLIDAY, JR., *Executive Director*



Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 8, 2022
7:00 a.m.
Room 800
69 West Washington Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Board Members:

Marisel A. Hernandez, Chair
William J. Kresse, Commissioner/Secretary
June A. Brown, Commissioner

Staff:

Charles Holiday, Executive Director
Adam Lasker, General Counsel
Lance Gough, Consultant
Trish Sheehy

Guests: [None]

- I. **Call to Order:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:18 a.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** All members were present.
- III. **Consideration of Agenda:** The agenda was accepted as presented.
- IV. **Election Day**
 - A. **Possible removal of judges of election.** [Combined with B below.]
 - B. **Possible court action to address late polling place openings and/or other emergency needs**

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported that there is no action to be taken at this time. There were reports of some polling places being late to set up. These reports are being monitored by Hearing Officer Mary Meehan and Mr. Chris Turner of the Polling Place Department. They will continue to monitor and if further action is necessary he will ask the Board to do so.

Mr. Lasker said that there are no Judges of Election issues for the Board to act on at this time.

We have had a report of 1 precinct only distributing the "B ballot". Mr. Lasker said that the report said that that precinct has already begun to distribute both ballots ("A ballot" and "B ballot").

V. Public Comment: [none]

VI. **Recess:** Commissioner Kresse moved to recess until the call of the Chair. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was recessed at 7:22 a.m.

VII. Call to Order:

Chair Marisel A. Hernandez reconvened the meeting at 8:52 a.m. All Board members were present. Also present were General Counsel Adam Lasker, Consultant Lance Gough and Trish Sheehy.

A. Removal of judges of election

Trish Sheehy stated that reports were received at Election Central of an intoxicated Judge of Election who was being confrontational with the other poll workers. A Board Investigator was dispatched to Precinct 12 of Ward 29. The Investigator filed a report stating that he witnessed Judge of Election Tracie Thorne being confrontational with the Election Coordinator. He also noted he smelled alcohol on Ms. Thorne's breath.

Commissioner Kresse moved to have Tracie Thorne, a Commissioned [Republican] Judge of Election assigned to serve in Precinct 12 of Ward 29, be removed for cause from office as a Judge of Election. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board. An Order and Notice of Removal as a Judge of Election was executed.

General Counsel Lasker said that he had nothing identified as a late opening. There was a privately-owned polling place that was reported as not opening on time because the proprietor arrived at 6:00. However, the Judges of Election were there on time and up and running by about 6:15 a.m. and no voter was turned away.

VIII. Public Comment: [none]

IX. Recess:

Commissioner Brown moved to recess until the call of the Chair. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The Board recessed at 8:56 a.m.

X. Call to Order:

Chair Marisel A. Hernandez reconvened the meeting at 1:14 p.m. All Board members were present. Also present were Executive Director Charles Holiday, General Counsel Adam Lasker, Consultant Lance Gough and Trish Sheehy.

A. Removal of judges of election

Trish Sheehy stated that reports were received at Election Central of a Judge of Election cursing at voters, aggressively arguing with the other poll workers and leaving the polling place for extended periods without telling the other Judges of Election, neglecting her duties as a Judge of Election. A Board Investigator was sent to Precinct 21 of Ward 4. The Investigator reported the reports were well founded. The Judge aggressively argued with the Investigator, and while the

Investigator was asking her and the other poll workers about these reports, Ms. Smith walked out.

Commissioner Kresse moved to have Jennifer Lynn Smith, a Commissioned [Republican] Judge of Election assigned to serve in Precinct 21 of Ward 4, be removed for cause from office as a Judge of Election. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board. An Order and Notice of Removal as a Judge of Election was executed.

Mr. Lasker reported that there were no reports of any Polling Place not being open and running by 6:30 a.m., and no voters were turned away.

XI. Public Comment: [none]

XII. Recess:

Commissioner Brown moved to recess until the call of the Chair. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The Board recessed at 1:17 p.m.

XIII. Call to Order:

Chair Marisel A. Hernandez reconvened the meeting at 6:59 p.m. All Board members were present. Also present were Executive Director Charles Holiday, General Counsel Adam Lasker, Consultant Lance Gough and Trish Sheehy.

The Chair asked if there were any further issues to address at this meeting. General Counsel Lasker reported that there were no additional Judges of Election issues and that there was no need to ask for a court order to keep any polling place open beyond 7:00 p.m.

XIV. Adjourn:

Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted,



Commissioner William J. Kresse
Secretary