

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD  
OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS  
DEKALB COUNTY  
September 12, 2019**

The DeKalb Board of Registration and Elections convened to conduct its monthly meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup>, in the Absentee Area at 4380 Memorial Drive with Board Chair Samuel Tillman presiding.

Present:                   Anthony Lewis, Board Member  
                              Susan Motter, Board Member  
                              Dele Lowman Smith, Board Member  
                              Baoky Vu, Board Member  
                              Erica Hamilton, Director  
                              Tiffani Gilbert, Elections Supervisor  
                              Twyla Hart, Registration Supervisor  
                              Sharon Hillman, Administrative Coordinator

Mr. Tillman called the meeting to order at approximately 4:38 PM and asked for approval of the agenda. There were no changes or additions and the agenda was adopted.

Minutes

Ms. Smith brought to attention that the minutes did not reflect the correct reason for the Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to approve the minutes with the correction made. Mr. Vu seconded the motion. The question was called and the motion was approved unanimously.

Comments from the Public

Nine citizens signed in and spoke. Citizens spoke of their concerns on the transparency of the Board, the new election machines, and the need for different accommodations for the meetings. One citizen expressed his appreciation of Director Hamilton.

Challenges -- Director Erica Hamilton provided the Georgia Code section for challenging voters and presented the following challenges.

- A) Julia Whitney Harrell and William Doyle Harrell III – Information was received from an elector that Ms. Harrell and Mr. Harrell did not live at their registered address. Ms. Motter brought additional information showing that the individuals did not reside at the address in question. Staff recommended that the voters be placed into cancelled status. Mr. Vu made a motion to follow the staff recommendation and change the status to cancelled. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The question was called and the motion was unanimously passed.
- B) Tray C. Cost – Ms. Hamilton stated that Mr. Cost registered several years prior to 2019. He was placed in pending status because he did not verify. However, with the passage and changes outline in House Bill 316, this individual was placed back into active status. Ms. Hamilton stated that there were two options: change the individuals status or place the individual in cancelled status. Mr. Vu motioned for the voter's status to be updated to cancelled. Mr. Vu's motion died from lack of second. Ms. Motter motioned for Mr. Cost to be moved to inactive status. Ms. Smith asked Ms. Hamilton about the process of being an inactive voter. Ms. Hamilton explained the process and implications of changing the status to inactive. The question was called, and the motion was not passed. Mr. Vu made a motion to place the voter in cancelled status. Mr. Lewis second the motion. The question was called and the motion was passed by a majority of three with Mr. Tillman's yea vote. Ms. Smith and Ms. Motter voted nay.

- C) Challenge List Provided by Lawrence Hoskins – Ms. Hamilton reported that during canvassing, an elector found the voters on the list did not reside at their registered address. Ms. Hamilton discussed the possible options with the Board. An individual on the list was present for the meeting. She stated that she no longer resides at the address but still in DeKalb County. Ms. Motter proposed that the list be broken into categories. After discussion, Mr. Tillman made an executive decision to have the list altered and to revisit the list during the October meeting.
- D) Jacinda “Cindy” Thomas – A challenge against Ms. Thomas’s eligibility to hold the Office of Mayor of Lithonia was made in regards to the residency requirements. Mr. Tillman swore in all those who were present for Ms. Thomas’s challenge who planned to present information. Ms. Thomas and her attorney provided information regarding her residency in Lithonia. Several individuals spoke about the residency of Ms. Thomas. Ms. Smith motioned for Ms. Thomas to be retained as a candidate. Mr. Vu seconded the motion. The question was called and the motion was unanimously approved.

#### Unfinished Business

Ms. Hamilton stated that there was no unfinished business from the staff. Ms. Smith motioned that the board revisit the issue regarding the voters registered at 444 Sycamore Drive. Mr. Vu seconded the motion. The question was called and the motion was approved unanimously. Ms. Smith motioned to reconsider the action taken by the Board during the August meeting regarding the voters at 444 Sycamore Drive. Mr. Vu seconded the motion. The question as called and the motion as unanimously passed. Ms. Hamilton gave an update on the voters and explained why the original challenge had been brought to the board. There was discussion and no further action was taken by the Board.

#### New Business

- A) Absentee In Person Application Approval - Ms. Hamilton stated that after considering citizens’ concerns over the Advance In Person Voting Application, the office created its own application that is compliant with the law. The application has been reviewed by legal council. A motion was called by Mr. Lewis to adopt the application. Mr. Vu seconded the motion. The question was called, and the motion was approved unanimously.
- B) Advance Voting Locations and Times – Ms. Hamilton presented the staff recommendation for Advance Voting Locations and Times. Any additional satellite location is the responsibility of the cities. All locations are open to any voter during the recommended dates and times. She also made public that on October 17, all DeKalb County Libraries would be closed but open for voting. Mr. Tillman stated that there is a county wide initiative on the ballot this year. Mr. Vu motioned for the Advance Voting Locations and Times to be adopted. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The question was called, and the motion was approved unanimously.
- C) National Voter Registration Day – Ms. Hamilton stated that in honor of National Voter Registration Day, the office would be holding a county-wide training on September 24, 2019 at the Lou Walker Center. A letter was sent to Civic Leaders, County Commissioners, Pastors, and schools. The training will provide important information on the 2019/2020 Election Cycles, registering voters, and becoming a poll worker. Mr. Tillman also stated that when the county receives the new voting machine, staff will be holding trainings throughout the county and advised all to contact the staff if any group is interested in holding a training on the new machines.

Comments from the Board – Ms. Motter thanked the public for turning out for the Board meeting. Mr. Tillman thanked everyone for coming out and mentioned that there will be discussion on a different location.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Sharon Hillman, Administrative Coordinator.  
Registration and Elections