



Lowell City Council

Election Laws/ Redistricting SC Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: July 6, 2021
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: City Council Chamber/Via Zoom (Hybrid)
375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA.

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Rourke, C. Elliott and C. Chau. Also present was C. Conway, C. Drinkwater, M. Leahy, C. Nuon, C. Samaras, C. Mercier, Asst. Clerk Angela Gitschier, City Solicitor O'Connor, Zoe Arthur, Bev Anthes and Atty. Elliott Veloso (Election Director).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Rourke called the meeting to order.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Solicitor O'Connor noted that a system must be established that is uninterrupted and votes secured. Solicitor O'Connor noted election office, commissioners and Law Department have been involved in developing so that best locations for voting can be established. Atty. Veloso noted that the Council would be comprised of 8 districts with 3 at-large districts and the School Committee would be comprised of 4 districts with 2 at-large districts. C. Elliott commented on to formulate new precincts and wards. Atty. Veloso noted that they have not received latest census data so there could be some changes based on that data. Solicitor O'Connor noted the reason for 8 polling locations was to lessen voter confusion and poll worker confusion to ensure correct ballots are cast. Solicitor O'Connor noted that there must be central locations in the districts so that voters are at the correct districts and are familiar with polling locations. C. Rourke questioned use of shuttle service and how effective it is. Solicitor O'Connor noted that they are used as a standby if the polls are busy. C. Chau recognized the presentation and noted the goal is to avoid voter confusion while maintaining integrity. C. Chau questioned why only the 8 locations. Solicitor O'Connor noted that costs were not a factor in deciding the number of locations. C. Chau commented on the importance of outreach to voters and candidates. C. Elliott noted the information was helpful and that the goal should be more voting locations to



increase participation. C. Conway questioned if there more other options to review and develop. Solicitor O'Connor noted the responsibilities of the Election Commissioners.

C. Rourke opened meeting to public with following speakers addressing the Council: Deb Belanger; Frank Lamond; Corey Robinson; Marty Hogan; Yun-Ju Choi; Eric Gitschier; Zoe Arthur; and Wayne Jenness. Solicitor O'Connor noted the dangers of dependence on the internet as there can be interruptions with service. C. Drinkwater, C. Mercier, C. Nuon, C. Samaras provided closing comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by C. Elliott, seconded by C. Chau. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
