

APPROVED

October 21, 2020

**EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS (IN-PERSON AND BY TELE-CONFERENCE)
18753 N. Frederick Ave, Suite 210, Gaithersburg MD 20879**

In Attendance:

James Shalleck, President (on-site)
Nahid Khozeimeh, Vice President
David Naimon, Secretary
Diane Nash Dillion, Member
Elisse Barnes, Member
Jacqueline Phillips, Member
Alan Banov, Member

Board Attorney:

Kevin Karpinski

Staff:

Margaret Jurgensen, Director
Alysoun McLaughlin, Deputy
Lisa Merino, Administrative Specialist II

Audio of the meeting may be found on YouTube at the link below:

https://youtu.be/FopeRR3A7_w

Convene Board Meeting

Mr. Shalleck called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Shalleck stated that a clip of the live stream from the canvass involving a canvass worker was posted to social media. He stated that Mr. Karpinski took over the investigation of the canvass worker's actions.

Mr. Karpinski reported that he reviewed every ballot that the election worker worked on to see whether there were any irregularities. The canvass worker saw that a couple of ballots in which voter had used a light-colored pen or pencil, instead of the black or blue ink asked for, and used a black pen to fill in the voter's ovals. He added that during canvass, the primary goals of the canvass worker are to make sure (1) that the oath has been signed, and (2) that the ballots can be properly tabulated by the scanning equipment. Mr. Karpinski added that the scanning equipment cannot be tabulated if the voter's mark is not dark enough to be read. The practice of the Board has always been to not reject the ballot when the voter does not use a black or dark colored pen in accordance with instructions, and the canvass worker may darken what the voter has already indicated what his or her vote is.

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Mr. Karpinski stated that he had reviewed the clip of the videos several times and, in addition, the staff was assigned to watch 2-hour clips of the canvass video to see if there were any irregularities. No irregularities by the subject election worker were observed. In addition, Mr. Karpinski interviewed the election worker and found that he had engaged in no improper conduct.

Mr. Karpinski stated that in consultation with the State Board of Elections he found no evidence of fraud or attempt to manipulate the results; the canvass worker followed the instructions he had been given.

He added that lessons have been learned; now an observer will notate that an oval needs to be darkened on the batch sheet.

Mr. Karpinski suggested that a media release explaining the canvass process be prepared and distributed, noting that the video had been investigated and no fraud was found. The Board will review the draft media release prepared by Mr. Karpinski before it is released.

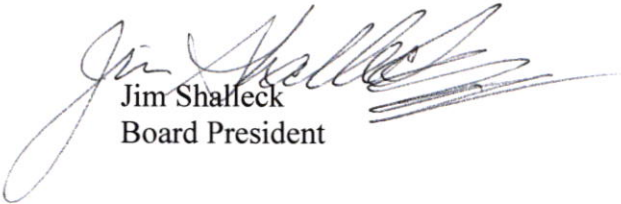
Adjournment

Ms. Khozeimeh moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:34 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dillon and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Merino
Offices Services Coordinator

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:


Jim Shalleck
Board President