

City of Lexington Electoral Board

November 1, 2021

Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of the City of Lexington Electoral Board held on November 1, 2021, in the office of Lexington City Manager. Present: Nancy Sullivan, Chair; Vicki Turner, Vice Chair; Dorothy Blackwell, Secretary; Jackie Harris, General Registrar; Jim Halasz, Lexington City Manager; and Angela Greene, Lexington Police Chief.

The Electoral Board and the General Registrar met with Lexington's City Manager and its Chief of Police to discuss the City's response to comments and photos posted on social media on October 29, 2021, claiming improper election practices by the General Registrar and her office staff.

There was general discussion regarding both the Board and the Registrar's objections to the City Manager's unilateral press release of Saturday, October 30, 2021, and his decision regarding how to handle the above-described matter, all of which was undertaken without consulting with the Registrar and the Board. Jackie Harris explained in detail the protocol available to a Virginia general registrar in such instances, and as directed by the State Board of Elections. The City Manager's decisions are resulting in potentially dual avenues of lawful recourse.

On Saturday, October 30, 2021, the Electoral Board and General Registrar drafted a statement with the understanding that it would be posted on the City's website. Following the meeting, the Board and the General Registrar were informed by the City Manager that he was denying the request to post the statement, the text of which reads as follows:

On Friday, October 29, 2021, empty boxes were being prepared outside the doorway of the Office of the General Registrar in Lexington's City Hall. The boxes will be used at the polls in the upcoming General Election on November 2, 2021. While in the building to make a delivery, a non-employee service worker photographed the boxes on a cellular phone. Sometime later on the same day, photos were posted on social media with a caption suggesting that there is something inappropriate about empty boxes being temporarily placed outside the General Registrar's office door. Security footage confirms this individual's actions, and also clearly displays election staff handling empty boxes.

The Lexington Department of Election strongly condemns this and encourages anyone having questions or concerns to address them to the Lexington Office of Elections or the Electoral Board.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully,

Dorothy Blackwell

Dorothy Blackwell, Secretary

Nancy Sullivan

Nancy Sullivan, Chair

V. Turner

Vicki Turner, Vice Chair