

CITY OF CRANSTON
BOARD OF CANVASSERS
Special Meeting of May 7, 2020 – APPROVED MINUTES

The Cranston Board of Canvassers met on May 7, 2020, in a meeting advertised in accordance with the Rhode Island Open Meetings Act on May 5, 2020. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Randall Jackvony, at 4:10 p.m. It was held virtually via electronic means on the Webex platform, conducted in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 20-25 in response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Randall Jackvony, Gary Vierra, Fred Joslyn

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Nicholas Lima (Registrar / Director of Elections), Dolores DiMeo Carroll (Alternate, Ex-Officio), Alice Petrone (Alternate, Ex-Officio), Theresa Bucci (Canvassing Aide)

The chair declared a quorum present.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. THE BOARD MAY TROUBLESHOOT AND ESTABLISH TECHNICAL CONNECTIONS TO THE WEBEX PLATFORM AND DISCUSS PROCEDURES FOR MEETING ELECTRONICALLY
- III. ADJOURNMENT

NEW BUSINESS

A. THE BOARD MAY TROUBLESHOOT AND ESTABLISH TECHNICAL CONNECTIONS TO THE WEBEX PLATFORM AND DISCUSS PROCEDURES FOR MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

Mr. Jackvony welcomed the members to the first ever electronic meeting of the Board of Canvassers. The members called in via phone and video chat from their homes, while Mr. Lima was in the Registrar's office in the Canvassing Department on a webcam.

Mr. Lima said that although this was a test meeting to ensure the Board members could all successfully connect, out of an abundance of caution the meeting was publicly advertised in accordance with the Open Meetings Act under advice from Assistant City Solicitor David Igliazzi, as a quorum of the Board was expected to be present.

Ms. Petrone asked if meetings may be held using Zoom. Mr. Lima said that Tuesday's Final Canvass will be conducted via Webex, however the city is in the process of switching to the state's Zoom contract, so any future meetings conducted under the Executive Order thereafter would be held over the Zoom platform instead.

Mr. Lima reminded Board members that they should identify themselves before speaking, in case members of the public who dial in or listen online are unfamiliar with their voices. He will be recording the meetings on Webex and on the voice recorder on speaker phone as a back-up if the primary recording fails. He said he will take extra time during roll call votes to allow each member to vote in turn.

Mr. Joslyn asked if the concern about the mute button was over concern about more than one person speaking at one time. Mr. Lima said that is true, however the greater importance of self-muting microphones when members are not speaking is to prevent audio feedback, random or unintentional noise, and ensure a high quality audio signal for listeners and viewers alike. He said he's noticed some of these circumstances occur in other public meetings he has observed over the last few weeks, and self-muting eliminates the possibility of these sorts of issues happening, keeping the audio as clear as possible for anyone listening who may not be familiar with the process.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Mr. Vierra and seconded by Mr. Joslyn to adjourn.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY – VOICE VOTE

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicholas J. Lima
Registrar / Director of Elections
Cranston Board of Canvassers

APPROVED by the Cranston Board of Canvassers: June 3, 2020