

## Electoral Board Minutes

February 20, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 4:17 PM with all board members and Lisa Jeffers, Registrar present.

We had invited our city Manager, Michael Hamp and Mayor Bruce Allen to join us. They have not notified us of their intentions to attend. The main order of business is to discuss issues regarding the proposed move of our offices as presented by our City Manager and introduced in Council Meeting on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>. Our Chair, Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton asked that Robert Horowitz fill us in on his meeting last Tuesday with Mr. Hamp, Mr. Allen and Lisa Jeffers. He said that following the presentation made by Mrs. Jeffers and himself, it seemed that Mr. Allen recognized all the things involved in the operation of our office and why we are currently short of space and the possibility of a smaller office is not feasible. Mr. Horowitz explained our need for security at all times. A move from the building housing the police department would make it necessary to provide good security at times when only our office is open. These occur on Saturdays and late evenings for filings and election days. Mrs. Jeffers further explained needs for time to prepare for a move and expense involved in changing a polling place. The time constraints make a quick move impossible. It was the understanding of Mr. Horowitz that Mr. Allen indicated at the end of the meeting that a move would not be happening under the time frame mentioned in the letter from Mr. Hamp.

All members have copies of the emails sent by Mr. Horowitz to all City Council members and Mr. Hamp following this meeting. He expressed our willingness to work with them but states the conditions and needs that must be met for us to accept any proposed move. We all agree that he has presented our needs well.

Ms. Bouldin-Clopton moved that the Electoral Board not accept the proposed space offered to us in the Yancey building since it is inadequate. Mrs. Downs seconded the motion and it was unanimously accepted.

It was agreed that Mr. Horowitz should write a letter to be hand delivered by Mrs. Jeffers to the City Manager's Office and to all City Council Members concerning our motion. We further wish to meet on Thursday Feb. 22, at 2:00 PM in our office and request the presence of our City Manager and all Council Members. We hope to understand their efforts and plans before the Council Meeting scheduled for Monday Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>. If no mutual agreement is reached at this meeting, we will prepare a release to the press so that the community can understand our desire to continue making our elections, secure and well organized.

In further business, Lisa reported that 33 people have returned paper work, accepted appointment as Election Officials and taken the oath. They have until Fri. the 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon to complete this process. So far two former officials have declined to accept appointment.

Robert has spoken with Mr. Teachey at the High School about using Senior AP Government students as pages. Lisa presented copies of the check list and information in the Hand Book to be used to help closing of polls. This will be made as a check list to be returned to us. We reviewed dates of training for

the City Election. April 18<sup>th</sup> will be for Chiefs and Asst. Chiefs and April 19<sup>th</sup> we will have training of all Officials in the Circuit Court Room.

There was discussion concerning our reorganizational meeting and needs of the board. This meeting and decision will be made while attending the VEBA meeting at the Homestead in March.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted;

Mary Alice Downs, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton, Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Robert Horowitz, Vice Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Mary Alice Downs, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_