

MINUTES OF MEETING
WAYNE COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020 – 2:00 P.M.
COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL BUILDING - ROOM 211
2 WOODWARD AVENUE, DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226
****Meeting held via Zoom Video Conferencing****

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

Members present: Honorable Freddie G. Burton, Jr., Chief Judge, Probate Court
Honorable Eric Sabree, Member – Wayne County Treasurer
Honorable Cathy M. Garrett, Secretary – Wayne County Clerk

Members absent: None

Also present: Janet Anderson-Davis, Asst. Corporation Counsel
Gregory Mahar, Director, Wayne County Elections
Jennifer Redmond, Deputy Director, Wayne County Elections
En’Joli Conley, Administrative Assistant, Wayne County Elections
Lisa Williams, Communications Director, Wayne County Clerk
Melvin Butch Hollowell
John Knappmann
Franklin W. Long, Jr.
Wendy Caldwell-Liddell

Agenda item: **Consideration of Agenda approval.**

Board action on agenda item: Chair Burton requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Member Sabree, duly supported by Member Garrett, moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was adopted unanimously by a voice vote.

Agenda item: **Approval of Minutes of October 27, 2020**

Board action on agenda item: Chair Burton requested a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 27, 2020. Chair Burton, duly supported by Member Garrett, moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held October 27, 2020. The motion was adopted unanimously by a voice vote.

Agenda Item: **Determination of Clarity – Mike Duggan, Office of Mayor, City of Detroit**

Chair Burton asked if the petitioner would like to address the

Commission or wished to offer any statements. Petitioner Franklin W. Long, Jr, stated that he wished to withdraw his petition against Mike Duggan. Chair Burton asked if counsel for Mike Duggan had any objections. Counsel Melvin Butch Hollowell indicated that he had no objections.

Agenda Item: Determination of Clarity – Gabe Leland, Office of City Council District #7, City of Detroit

Chair Burton asked if Petitioner Wendy Caldwell-Liddell would like to address the Commission or had any comments to offer. Ms. Caldwell-Liddell stated that residents in District 7 want to recall Gabe Leland and that the petition language stands on its own.

Attorney John Knappmann, counsel for Gabe Leland, objected to the language stating that it is too vague and the office holder cannot defend their position with such broad language. The language has to be specific and it must be rejected.

Reason for recall as stated in Petition 6A-2:

“Recall Gabe Leland for continuing to serve in office after being charged with misconduct in office.”

Chair Burton asked Janet Anderson-Davis, Asst. Corporation Counsel to remind the Election Commission and members of the public of its role regarding a determination of clarity. Janet Anderson-Davis, Corporation Counsel reminded the commission that their role is to determine whether each reason as stated on the recall petition is factual and of sufficient clarity to enable the officer whose recall is sought and the electors to identify the course of conduct that is the basis for the recall.

Board action on agenda item: Chair Burton requested a motion regarding item 6A-2. Member Garrett, duly supported by member Sabree moved to reject item 6A-2 for lack of clarity.

Member Sabree requested clarity regarding the language in the recall petition and asked does it have to identify an action of the office holder. Counsel Anderson-Davis stated that as Mr. Knappmann indicated the language is too vague and it does not identify an action of Councilman Gabe Leland.

Chair Burton asked if the language needed to identify a timeframe or if that was a requirement for a determination of clarity. Counsel Anderson-Davis stated that the language does not specify and action to inquire about a date.

Board action on agenda item: Chair Burton requested a motion regarding item 6A-2. Member Garrett, duly supported by member Sabree moved to reject item 6A-2 for lack of clarity. The motion was adopted unanimously by a voice vote.

Agenda item: **New Business.** None.

Agenda item: **Public Comment.** None

Agenda item: **Adjournment.** Chair Burton requested a motion to adjourn. Member Sabree, duly supported by Chair Burton, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was adopted by unanimously by a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.