

BOARD OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS APPROVED MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – October 13, 2022

The Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections met in Regular Session on Thursday, October 13, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone. FGTV YouTube Channel

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Presiding: Cathy Woolard, Chairperson

Other Board Members Present:

Mrs. Teresa Crawford, Vice Chairperson
Dr. Kathleen Ruth
Mr. Aaron Johnson
Mr. Mark Wingate (virtual)

Staff Attending: Ms. Nadine E. Williams, Interim Director; Mr. Patrick Eskridge, Deputy Director; Mr. Dominic Olomo, Information Systems Manager; Ms. Shamira Marshall, Registration Chief; Mrs. Sharon Benjamin, Deputy Election Chief; Ms. Mariska Bodison, Absentee Manager; Ms. Janice Dickenson, Administrative Manager; Ms. Janell Barganier, Financial Systems Manager; Mrs. Jodi Brittian, Absentee Supervisor; Mr. Thomas Johnson, Registration Supevisor; Ms. LaShandra Little, VEO Manager; Mrs. James Reese, Production Manager; Regina Waller, Communications Division Manager; Mrs. Patrise Perkins Hooker, Legal Counsel

Guests Attending:

Chair Woolard entertained a motion to move item 3 (the Approval of Minutes) to the next Regular Meeting. The motion was made by Vice Chair. Crawford, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried a vote of 4-0.

#1- APPROVAL OF AGENDA

<u>Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Vice Chair Crawford, and carried a vote of 4-0.</u>

#2- COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RESPONSE

Lucia Frazier:

Good morning, I'm Lucia Frazier. I live in Roswell and I want to talk about the election process today. I feel as though the best way to add confidence to our election results is for each precinct team to hand count two or three races at the end of the night and compare to the Dominion tape. Some precincts already do this I've seen it done, and it doesn't add much time. I think it'll help everybody have a little more confidence since it happened in DeKalb County and they hand counted, and they've got that fixed. We could just do the same thing and have it fixed. All of us election day workers got an email incentivizing us to get the memory cards to the check-in in less than one hour. That's great, I think it's good to bring results in a timely manner, but I don't want to confuse all the workers to not

verify everything is correct before racing out the door. There's a lot of steps. There's a little bit of meticulous actions that need to be done and I just want to make sure it's all done right. I really think we need to encourage the workers to just hand count at least one or two races. It's really on us I think from each precinct to make sure that we're verifying what goes out the door as we kind of are the guardians of what's in there and make sure that what leaves the door is correct. Let's encourage all the workers on Election Day to just hand count a race or two to verify that the tape shows what we got. Then if we can announce something like that, I think everybody would have a little more confidence in our elections. Thank you very much.

Kevin Muldowney:

Morning guys. We're quickly approaching another election and what has been done to restore the credibility in Fulton's election process? Nothing. We have seen firsthand the vulnerability or the inability of our prize Dominion voting machines to deliver great results in Dekalb County's Democrat Commissioners Race, where the presumed last place finisher won the race. That was the only recount that was performed. This makes you wonder what a closer look at other races would have revealed. There was a strong presence at the BOC meeting a month ago to speak out against the use of vulnerable expensive and unnecessarily complex computerized voting machines. The very next day we wanted to speak on those same points in the regularly scheduled BRE meeting. We arrived and found the meeting was canceled no notice posted. It was replaced a week later with a special meeting where the public comment is completely suppressed and not allowed. Coincidence? Who knows. Our past primary election was recertified merely on Dominic's word. In that special meeting he had presented to three board members no data, no hard numbers, only his opinion that the results this time were correct. Is that legal? I don't know. If this scenario were to play out in the real world of Private Industry, everyone probably would have been fired. As I said we have some real problems with our election process. The public's perception of legitimacy of the results when questions arise regarding the results of this next election this Board needs to address those very real concerns and rectify all with a full recount that produces reliable results. Thank you very much.

Candy Muldowney:

Hi. Good morning. I'm Candy Muldowney from Milton. I was one of the many citizens that had their personal information exposed by the incompetence of happy faces temp agency as they were acting on behalf of Fulton County. I was notified of the breach and was told to expect a letter offering credit monitoring. It has been three weeks and I have still not received the promised details via USPS. I have been a victim of identity theft in the past and it was an ongoing nightmare. I understand Fulton's problem was first dealt with by firing The Whistleblower this is extremely unethical and counterproductive. We need to fire the agency involved. Fire Happy Faces we have been here before this has to be the last straw. They have put our elections at risk and now they are putting the citizens identity at risk including my own personal and confidential information for all the world to see. Fulton needs to stop using any temp agencies that have anything to do with our elections and hire competent employees to run our elections Department. We then need to fill our temporary elections positions directly with capable and motivated residents of Fulton County. Thank you

Matt Roanzak:

I want to read part of your oath to remind you in this upcoming election says that I will to the best of my ability prevent any fraud, deceit or abuse in carrying on the same and that I will make a true and perfect return of such primaries and elections. I will at all times truly and partially and faithfully perform my duties in accordance with Georgia laws to the best of my judgment and ability. Some of you have directly violated your oath it's black and white I'll give you a perfect example. Mr. Johnson back in July there were voter challenges that were presented dozens of those were fake addresses confirmed by this County's GIS Department, you were the sole member that voted no to remove them from the board. I don't know any other way to describe that as deceit. Back in the primary election we re-certified there was no documentation, no numbers that you had. You asked Dominic if he had any documents or numbers, and he did not have any either. Yet Mr. Johnson again you tried to confirm everybody's faith and confidence in our elections, and you literally had no documentation in front of you. So, what were you recertifying? I hope that there's any ounce of integrity left on this board for this upcoming election. Chair if there is any nonpartisanship left, I'd be asking for resignations. Thank you.

Beverly Rice

Good morning and thank you for this opportunity. To the board, Cathy Woolard and each of you, I am a resident of Fulton County and my name is Beverly Rice. All my life I've had to fight. I've had to fight for those things which are right. I stand before you today on the cups of this critical election empowering you that I no longer have to fight. That we have a fair and equitable election. That poll workers feel that they are valued, that our senior citizens feel that they are respected. That all the citizens of Fulton County know beyond a shadow of doubt that there is no uncertainty with the board of Elections and the poll workers. We need to restore the integrity of our board and also the entire city of Atlanta. We need to be the example of the world to let them know and to allow them to see what a fair and equitable election really looks like.

David Hubert:

Good morning. I want to speak on a couple of technical matters. As you know I've done a number of challenges here and thank you for hearing those. I want to State for the record that none of my challenges have been systematic challenges within the understanding the statute. Second as it relates to O.C.G.A 212-230b I believe that these challenges have to be heard immediately by the board according to the statute. Third none of my challenges are heretofore or in the future are based on movers or people moving from the county. All of these challenges are based on the fact that they are illegal voters thus it is my belief in understanding that NRVA does not apply to any of those challenges as the NRVA speaks mainly to voters that are taking off the rolls because they have moved. Not a single one of my challenges have ever been based on anything other than that they're not legal voters in Fulton County. Thank you.

Earl Ferguson: Earl Ferguson, Fulton County resident I heard just recently of a problem with the QR code in some of the machines. I don't know whether it is a correct or real problem or not. Voter confidence requires that it be addressed by the board clearly to either dissuade the fact that there is a problem or to address what is going to be done to fix it. I hope you would have some announcement during today's meeting that's what I came up to talk about. Thank you very much

OLD BUSINESS

#4- MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

Mrs. Williams greeted the board and called on Division Leadership for their report to the Board.

Mrs. Dickenson reported on Administration:

- Positions Vacant:
 - Director, Registration Manager, Voter Education Outreach Specialist, and Registration Officer
- Procuring all the goods and services for the November and December elections
- Campaign contribution disclosure report
 - Reports were due September the 30th with the grace period of Tuesday October the 11th.
 We are currently uploading information in the system Late and non-files report will be emailed to the SOS

Ms. Bodison reported on Absentee:

- Absentee attended a series of trainings classes administered by the Secretary of State's Office in September.
- Vendor Interaction: Bluecrest, Tattnall Ballot Solutions, Opex, HBSolutions
- Met with volunteers from both parties. Democrat, Republican and Libertarian regarding the vote review panels and the duplication panels
- September 19th, we started accepting requests for the possible runoff election
- September 20th, we began mailing out the UOCVA ballots current statistics are as followed

As of 10/13/2022, Absentee Statistics:

GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTION ABSENTEE BY MAIL STATISTICS:

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED	20,969
APPLICATIONS REJECTED	1,034
DUPLICATED APPLICATIONS	1,743
REQUEST TOTALS	23,473

- Timeframe to CURE your Absentee, Provisional or UOCAVA has changed:
 - The deadline in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386(a)(1)(C) for voters to cure rejected absentee ballots if they failed to sign the oath or their verification information did not match will fall on Monday, November 14, 2022.
 - The deadline in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-419(c) for voters to validate cast provisional ballots will fall on Monday, November 14, 2022.
 - The deadline in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-386(a)(1)(G) for counties to receive UOCAVA ballots that were postmarked by Election Day and are otherwise proper will fall on Monday, **November** 14, 2022.
 - The deadline in O.C.G.A. § 21-2-493(k) to certify your election results will fall on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 5:00 pm.

Mr. Wingate Ms. Bodison given the fact that the deadline for absentee by mail is the 28th of this month shortly after that can you please send the board the total numbers as you have that follows that date

Ms. Bodison responded yes

Ms. Williams reported the Elections Division:

Supplies and Logistics

- Deployment of advancement equipment has commenced on October 11th to delivery to the 36 locations
- Couriers for election day are being recruited
- Election day recruitment has been completed and training is currently taking place and staff is also assisting with recruitment of technicians for election day

Mrs. Benjamin reported on Advance Voting:

- Completed training for our primary staff for advanced voting
- Our 36 locations and 4 outreach locations have been staffed.
- Started delivery on Tuesday October 11th.
- Staff Readiness
- Pep Rally was done to encourage staff and thanking them for being a part of the EV team.

Dr. Ruth inquired about the number of technicians that are recruited for each EV location and Election Day. How many at each location?

Ms. Williams answered yes, it's one per Advanced voting site and one per Election Day site.

Dr. Ruth inquired did you say your recruiting couriers, or they're already onboarded now?

Ms. Williams answered it's both. Some are already on board because they're assisting with Advanced voting deliveries and then we also have to recruit additional personnel for Election Day deliveries.

Dr. Ruth inquired about how many how many couriers in total will we have?

Ms. Williams answered between 40 to 60

Vice Chair Crawford asked on the waiting list for poll workers are they being trained so that if they're needed, they're trained to be able to step in?

Mrs. Benjamin answered yes.

Ms. Williams informed the **BRE** that she will be reporting on Information Systems due to Mr. Olomo and Mr. Eskridge absence.

Ms. Williams reported on Information Systems Division:

- L&A is currently taking place at the Phillips Lee and the EPC warehouses
- Prepped the supplies for advanced voting those are being deployed
- Training is being scheduled for technician training for election day technicians

Vice Chair Crawford asked about the Outreach locations, are those going to be at all these locations for all of early voting or are they just therefore a certain time?

Ms. Williams responded only for a certain time at the listed College Campuses, the dates, hours, and times are listed on the website. The Outreach locations are for two days each compared to the 36 sites that are for the duration.

Dr. Ruth inquired about the vacancies of compliance officers for Early Voting locations

Mrs. Benjamin all locations have been completed and filled. This is an ongoing recruitment.

Mr. T. Johnson reported for Voter Registration Division:

- Registered Voters 854,463 total
- Voter Registration Applications
 - □ 3,309 current applications needed to be processed
 - □ 17,589 applications –September
- All applications have been completed.
- New registration for Fulton County 1,588
- First time registrations: 13,373
- Transferred voters: 12.994
- 3,309 current applications needed to be processed.
- Changes from Fulton county: 22,884
- Removals: 9,228
- Front desk operations: 115 voter identification cards
 - 133 walk ins
- Sent in precinct card request with 694,640 cards to be made.
- Call center training completed
- Mr. A. Johnson inquired about the voter registration cards are continually being sent out correct?
- **Mr. T. Johnson** responded yes sir.
- Mr. A. Johnson asked will all the registration cards be mailed before Election Day?
- Mr. T. Johnson responded yes sir
- Mr. A. Johnson inquired do you have a target date?
- Mr. T. Johnson stated not at this time but we did a mail run on Tuesday of registration cards
- **Mr. A. Johnson** inquired do you know how many you have remaining, based on your recent run on Tuesday?
- Mr. T. Johnson stated no but I will make sure I get you that information
- Mr. A. Johnson inquired rough estimate of how many already been sent out?
- **Ms. Williams** stated I can confirm that anyone who had a precinct change those cards have been mailed. There is a delay with the vendor that print our precinct cards but we intend to send household letters as a backup
- Mr. A. Johnson stated okay so you can send a letter that has all the card information on it just so people get it.
- Ms. Williams stated that will be done before the end of next week
- **Mr. A. Johnson** stated okay the reason why I'm asking is so many people are concerned that between redistricting and precinct location changes on Election Day people know where to go. Also, because we understand that it's going to be a little harder if you get to the wrong location before five o'clock, you are required to leave and go to your assign precinct

Ms. Williams agreed and people can also go to (MVP) because everything is up to date. They can go into MVP to view their sample ballot. They can view their polling location for Election Day.

Chair Woolard stated for the people who are watching or in the room MVP is My Voters Page at the Secretary of State's website where you can enter in some of your information and get the information you need to make a plan to vote.

Mr. A. Johnson replied Madam Chair they can also go to the Fulton County app too

Vice Chair Crawford inquired about redistricting, are we totally complete as far as making sure everybody's in their right precinct?

Mr. T. Johnson stated we are still working through that process our last report stated we had 2,300 and Voter Registration have been working to get that completed.

Dr. Ruth so the goal is to have everybody in their correct precincts by Friday?

Mr. T. Johnson stated yes ma'am

Dr. Ruth inquired about MVP link being on our website due to redistricting and precinct changes

Ms. Williams stated yes

Dr. Ruth responded great because as Mr. A. Johnson said it's really important as we know.

*Discussed registration numbers more in detail

Mr. Wingate volunteered to assist the Registration Division in making their metrics easier to follow.

Ms. Little reported on Voter Education and Outreach Division:

- 124 new deputy registrars trained, 487 deputy registrars' totals
- 445 voters registered, 3,101 for the year
- 184 poll worker recruitments, 1080 for the year
- **165** voter outreach events, **576** for the year
- 221 absentee applications, 518 for the year as numbers were not tracked prior to July.
- 320 connections with organizations, residents, and community throughout the county 14,670 connections for the year
- 10 media inquiries, 21 for the year
- Senior citizens interaction increase
- Election outreach toolkit developed with the public affairs office

The Voter Education and Outreach Team also spent the month of September planning and coordinating events for the following Civic Holidays:

- National Vote Early Day October 28, 2022
- Absentee Deadline October 28, 2022

VEO is working with External Affairs, there will be media releases sent out for each holiday and the activities planned for the public

Mr. A. Johnson stated just one request because you know I love your amazing work. Requested the graphics and information that you get on National Vote Early Day can we get that as well because I want to make sure we send it out to various organizations

Ms. Little responded yes

NEW BUSINESS

#5- The Carter Center Review

Chair Woolard reported the request from the Performance Review Board and the Carter Center to ask if they could participate in observing our Election processes with the idea of issuing a preliminary report on November 30th and final report no later than December 15th in an effort to help the Performance Review Board come to a conclusion of the now more than a year-long observation and investigation of our election processes.

Dr. Ruth asked for clarity regarding an item on page two.

Mr. Wingate asked will there be a public announcement.

Chair Woolard responded yes, if we move forward with the agreement.

<u>Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to accept the independent nonpartisan observation and analysis of our election processes. The motion was made by Mrs.</u> Crawford, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and carried by a vote of 4-1; Wingate.

#6- Budget Briefing for 2023

Ms. Williams outlined a high-level overview of the Department's 2023 budget including the Municipal Elections in November 2023

The Department of Registration & Elections 2023 November Election Budget was drafted in preparation for a county wide election. Currently no county wide election is scheduled for 2023. A county wide election could be caused by resignations, deaths, etc.

County wide expenditures are drafted in the budget to ensure funds are approved for usage if necessary.

The Department of Registration & Elections is scheduled to relocate operations to the new Election Central location in 2023. The relocation will be a massive and time-consuming effort along with preparation for the 2024 election. We are proposing to the BRE to strongly encourage municipalities to conduct their own election in 2023.

Ms. Williams reported that Municipalites have the ability to conduct their own elections and outlined the methods allowable.

MUNICIPALITY VOTING METHOD CHOICES Municipalities have the freedom to choose which method of voting works best fo them, which includes the option to conduct their own Election. With BRE approval, the Department of Registration & Election encourage municipalitie conduct their own election, with the exception of the City of Atlanta due to population size, if the election is not to be held in conjunction with a county wide election. municipal voting methods permitted are as follows: County Conducted Election the county conducts the election according to the Intergovernmental Agreement Contracting Use of Voting Equipment Contracting use of county owned state mandated voting machines without county involvement Paper ballots – Optical Scan Count Counting with use of the Optical Scanners with no county involvement Paper ballots - Hand Count

Ms. Williams discussed components that lead to the increase in cost.

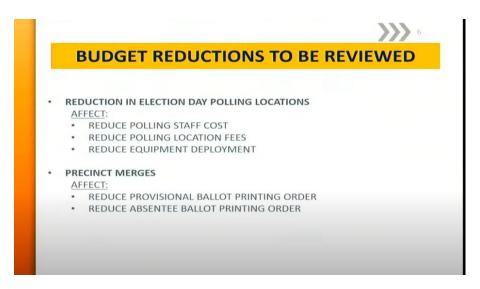
Counting the ballots by hand with no county involvement

Shoup Machines
no county involvement

ELECTION COST INCREASES The resolution establishing policy between municipalities and Fulton County for funding election was drafted in 2019. The policy states it was to be revisited in the year 2020 because of the State of Georgia's implementation of new voting system and anticipated rising cost of elections. The resolution is currently being reviewed to propose a cost increase per voter. An example of a cost increase is as follows: **2019 DRE UNIT** QUANTITY PRICE COST PER UNIT ITEM ROLL OF TAPE \$1.65 \$1.65 2 \$0.22 \$0.44 AVERAGE COST PER DRE UNIT: 2.09 AVERAGE # OF DRE UNITS UTILIZED 1800 **COST IN 2019:** 3,762 **2023 BMD UNIT** ITEM QUANTITY PRICE COST PER UNIT BMD BALLOT PAPER FULL DRAWER 450 \$0.13 PER SHEET SEALS 5 \$0.22 \$1.10 PRINTER INK (AVERAGE REPLACEMENT) \$12.50 \$12.50 AVERAGE COST PER BMD UNIT: 72.10 AVERAGE # OF BMD UNITS 1800 COST IN 2023: \$ 129,780

ABSENTEE		REGISTRATION	
TEMP STAFF LABOR	\$254K	DATA ENTRY, QC TEMP STAFF LABOR	\$314K
BALLOT PRINTING	\$100K	CALL CENTER TEMP STAFF LABOR	\$240K
POSTAGE	\$50K	MAIL ROOM STAFF LABOR	\$27K
ABSENTEE BALLOT DROP BOX	\$30K		
ADVANCE VOTING		ELECTION DAY	
TEMP STAFF LABOR	\$1.72MIL	POLL WORKER PAY	\$760K
TRAINING MATERIAL PRINTING	\$30K	REG COORDINATOR & INSTRUCTOR LABOR	\$419K
AVERAGE COST PER AV LOCATION		TEMP STAFF LABOR	\$188K
\$117K x 15 LOCATIONS	\$1.75MIL	TRAINING MATERIAL PRINTING	\$50K
INFORMATION SYSTEMS		SUPPLIES & LOGISTICS	
L&A ADVERTISING	\$9K	INVENTORY PREP & SUPPLY PACKING TEMP LABOR	\$395K
TEMP STAFF LABOR	\$1.04MIL	COURIER TEMP STAFF LABOR	\$942K
BMD BALLOT PAPER	\$50K	PRINTING FORMS, & SEALS	\$75K
BMD PRINTER INK	\$80K	TRUCK & VEHICLE RENTALS	\$300K
POLL PAD VENDOR STAFFING	\$50K	ELECTION DAY RENTAL SPACE FEES	\$75K
ADMINISTRATION		VOTER EDUCATION	
TEMP STAFF LABOR	\$42K	TEMP STAFF LABOR	\$280K
POST ELECTION COST			
RECONCILIATION OF DOCUMENTS STAFF LABOR	\$66K		
EQUIPMENT RETRIEVAL - MOVING COMPANIES	\$60K		
REGISTRATION RETENTION STAFF LABOR	\$64K		11

Ms. Williams added that the Department is also looking for ways to reduce cost.



Vice Chair Crawford asked when do you submit the final budget

Ms. Williams explained that the budget is not approved until January 2023

Mr. Wingate asked for the budget number for the cost of the facility move next year

Ms. Williams replied the Municipalities will not pay for the Department to move to Election Central

Chair Woolard commented:

First, can I just say the increase in price of Elections, that chart was mind-boggling. I appreciate you pulling those things out so people can understand. I think if we were to spend more time breaking through the budget one number that I personally would love to see but I do not want you to work on this at all maybe next year is the increased cost to counties implementing some of the provisions in Senate Bill 202 (SB 202). I think the costs have been incredibly

significant and contribute to this in addition to the voting machines (that we get comments all the time from people not liking the voting machines) that we use and I'm going to say every single time that is not our decision that is a decision of the State. We use what they tell us to use so I'm not making a comment one way or the other on what it is we are using because I don't care we're going to do whatever the State tells us to do but you saw it on the chart, the increase in cost to Fulton County taxpayers on some of these decisions is very very high. And it doesn't have anything to do with what we're doing it is what we are mandated to do. I just want to say thank you for this I would ask the board members to really dig into this and if you have questions or comments circulate directly to Miss Williams.

#5- Voter Residency Challenge

> David Hubert

Mr. T. Johnson recommended that the board take action at the January **BRE** meeting due to the November 8th election.

Chair Woolard asked can you give us some information about the challenge? How many people are challenged?

Mr. T. Johnson apologized that he did not have documentation available.

Chair Woolard requested the attorney to advise the BRE on how to proceed I think Mr. Hubert has a little bit of information

Mrs. Perkins Hooker mentioned that this is similar to the previous submissions of Mr. Hubert and that he has provided information to the staff with regard to Secretary of State's records under the NRVA. We cannot do anything with those voters unless they consent and I was not informed by the staff that we received any consents from the actual challenge voters. There is a small problem with the intersection of the National Voter Registration Act, and you're concerned that these are ineligible or illegal voters the problem is that we can't make any changes to the voter rolls period during this time frame. So, the recommendation I got was not to vote to decline the challenge but I made the recommendation that they hold the hearing after the election and review all of the details with regard to the information submitted at that time.

Mr. Hubert replied:

Okay just to be clear it's my view that the NVRA does not apply to any of these challenges based on their not systematic votes and these are illegal voters which may be removed at any time

Mrs. Perkins Hooker responded there is no such provision in our statute that overrides the federal law

Mr. Wingate asked about not removing but placing the voters in pending status

Dr. Ruth mentioned the inability to make a decision due to insufficient information from staff and the challenger

Mrs. Perkins Hooker responded the BRE have the ability as a board to change a voter's status but I would not recommend it in this case because we have no documentation and we have not notified the challenge voters.

<u>Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to defer the challenges until after the election in January 2023.</u> The motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Crawford, and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

<u>Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to move to executive session for personnel matters. The motion was made by Vice Chair Crawford seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.</u>

Chairwoman entertained a motion to move to regular session. The motion was made by Vice Chair Crawford, seconded by and Mr. Johnson, carried by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

<u>Chairwoman Woolard entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Ruth seconded the motion.</u> Collectively, the Board agreed to adjourn at 12:05

The meeting adjourned.

Prepared by,

Jasmine Johnson, Executive Assistant Mariska Bodison, Absentee Manager