



Lowell City Council

Ad-Hoc Elect. Laws SC Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: May 23, 2018
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Lowell Senior Center
276 Broadway Street, Lowell, MA

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Nuon, C. Kennedy and C. Leahy at 6:30 PM. Also present were C. Mercier, Eda Matchak (Elections).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Nuon called the meeting to order noting the attendance and sponsorship of the Coalition for better Acre (CBA) and outlining the listening session of the meeting and report to the subcommittee.

Motion to Recess to begin small group workshops then to provide report to subcommittee by C. Kennedy, seconded by C. Leahy. So voted at 6:32 PM.

Roll Call to continue meeting for reports of workgroups at 6:50 PM. 3 present.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

C. Nuon open meeting to public with following people addressing the subcommittee: Sok Cha commented on alternatives to settling lawsuit and district representation; Mimi Parseghian questioned course of action for Council as well as consideration for district representation so that neighborhoods are better represented; Jonathan Richmond noted that there should be a reflection of people that are represented and a district system seems to be more democratic; Sean McCarthy noted positives of the current system and noted the representation should be more reflective of the City; Delores, resident, noted the difficulties of being involved when there is a language barrier; Julia (CBA rep) commented on comfort level for minorities wanting to be involved in the process and that there needs to be increased education and communication; and Paul Gaudet commented on district representation. C. Kennedy commented on different forms of government around the Commonwealth and also noted that Lowell at one point had proportional representation. C. Nuon noted City was seeking public



input concerning government operations and not here to comment on any litigation. C. Noun noted efforts of the Elections Department. C. Kennedy commented on the need to have different languages available to citizens outlining government processes. C. Leahy noted need to have interpreters and also there must be an increase in voting activity. C. Nuon noted that all must be comfortable that are involved in the process. C. Kennedy commented on current election which highlighted that it was not always about resourced but hard work. C. Leahy noted participation could be heightened through neighborhood group membership and he noted that former Mayor Murphy was elected without raising any money. C. Nuon thanked the CBA for their sponsorship.

Motion by C. Kennedy, seconded by C. Leahy to accept the report as a report of progress. So voted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by C. Leahy, seconded by C. Kennedy. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
