



Election Commission

Commissioners
Stephanie Findley
Carmen Cabrera
Jess Ripp

Executive Director
Claire Woodall-Voaa

July 17, 2020

Mr. Nathan Judnic, Attorney / Senior Elections Specialist
Wisconsin Elections Commission

Sent via Email to nathan.judnic@wi.gov

RE: Complaint Filed by The Original Black Panthers of Milwaukee, Darryl Farmer

This letter is in response to the June 24, 2020 (received by the Milwaukee Election Commission on July 8, 2020), complaint filed by "The Original Black Panthers of Milwaukee, Darryl Famer" alleging that in violation of §5.25(3), "the City of Milwaukee did not establish polling places 30 days before the Spring April 7, 2020 General Election and did not notify the voting public of the polling places until April 3rd, 2020, four days before the election." Further, "MEC did not provide sufficient time to inform the voting public of the polling places, resulting in voter suppression and voter disenfranchisement because voters did not know what polling location to cast their vote."

Per the attached March 12 communication as published by the Wisconsin Elections Commission, "The municipal clerk or municipal election commission executive director may relocate polling places for these two elections located in nursing homes or other care facilities, and other facilities as determined by the Department of Health Services or local health officials, without obtaining prior approval of the local governing body or municipal elections commission."

Due to severe shortages in election worker staff and a reduction in available facilities, both of which were rooted in the Covid-19 public health emergency, the City of Milwaukee Election Commission had no other option than to reduce the city's 180 voting sites to five voting centers. This action, while very difficult, was allowable per the guidance of the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

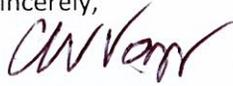
The establishment of these centers occurred in close proximity to the election date due to a progressive decline in election workers, which became the most pronounced in the week leading up to the election. It was imperative that that the Election Commission avoid increased public confusion by publishing a list of sites that then needed to be repeatedly amended. Once established, information related to the transition of the city's voting sites to voting centers was widely communicated on mainstream and social media. Updated information was immediately posted on MyVote.Wi.gov as well as the city's *Where Do I Vote?* website. Additionally, signs were posted at all traditional voting sites.

There is no dispute that the Covid-19 pandemic, and its impact on election worker staffing as well as the availability of facilities as voting sites, created an environment of voter confusion. However, the selection of these limited locations was not an act of voter suppression or voter disenfranchisement, but rather an outcome of attempting to administer an election and in-person voting during a pandemic.

- Over -



Sincerely,



Claire Woodall-Vogg
Executive Director

STATE OF WISCONSIN

County of Milwaukee

Sworn to before me this 20 day of July, 2020



Notary Signature

My commission expires 06-09-2024, or is permanent