



City of Cambridge

O-13.
ORIGINAL ORDER
IN CITY COUNCIL
October 7, 2002

COUNCILLOR DECKER

- WHEREAS: The Election Commission informed the City Council that every voter would receive notification of their polling place and that the notification would be printed on bright-colored paper and/or have some other eye-catching feature to alert voters that the information on the card was important; and
- WHEREAS: Despite its communication to the City Council, and despite the fact that the September 17, 2002 primary was the first election since the Election Commission eliminated eleven precincts and then changed many polling places to accommodate the changes, the Election Commission sent voters one inconspicuous black and white postcard to notify them of their polling places; and
- WHEREAS: Members of the City Council received numerous complaints from voters who did not know that their polling places had changed, and from voters who did not receive adequate information about where to go to vote from the workers at the polls where they were no longer entitled to vote;
- WHEREAS: Although the voters who voted in the primary now know that they have new polling places, there will be many voters at the general election on November 5, 2002 who did not vote in the primary, and so there is grave danger of a repeat of the confusion, unhappiness and detriment to the fundamental right of each citizen to vote at the next election; now therefore be it
- ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Election Commission to send out more effective notification of polling places and to explore other possibilities of easing the confusion for voters on election day, including information for election workers to quickly identify the correct polling place – perhaps by dedicating an additional worker to the task of helping voters to find the correct place; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to communicate to the Election Commission the City Council's strong concern and sense that additional expense is no excuse for not doing what is necessary to preserve the right to vote of all residents by ensuring adequate notification to voters of their polling place; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter at the October 21 meeting.

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter at the October 21 meeting; and to include in this report information as to whether before the primary notifications or polling places were sent to individual households in large buildings.

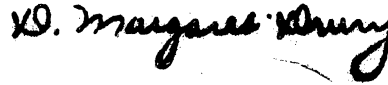
In City Council October 7, 2002.

Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Margaret Drury". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "D" at the beginning.

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

O-13.
AMENDED ORDER
IN CITY COUNCIL

October 7, 2002

COUNCILLOR DECKER
VICE MAYOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
MAYOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

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- WHEREAS: Despite its communication to the City Council, and despite the fact that the September 17, 2002 primary was the first election since the Election Commission eliminated eleven precincts and then changed many polling places to accommodate the changes, the Election Commission sent voters one inconspicuous black and white postcard to notify them of their polling places; and
- WHEREAS: Members of the City Council received numerous complaints from voters who did not know that their polling places had changed, and from voters who did not receive adequate information about where to go to vote from the workers at the polls where they were no longer entitled to vote;
- WHEREAS: Although the voters who voted in the primary now know that they have new polling places, there will be many voters at the general election on November 5, 2002 who did not vote in the primary, and so there is grave danger of a repeat of the confusion, unhappiness and detriment to the fundamental right of each citizen to vote at the next election; now therefore be it
- ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to confer with the Election Commission to send out more effective notification of polling places and to explore other possibilities of easing the confusion for voters on election day, including information for election workers to quickly identify the correct polling place – perhaps by dedicating an additional worker to the task of helping voters to find the correct place; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to look into safety issues at the polling places, for example wires strung across the floor; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to communicate to the Election Commission the City Council's strong concern and sense that additional expense is no excuse for not doing what is necessary to preserve the right to vote of all residents by ensuring adequate notification to voters of their polling place; and be it further

CM-226

ORDER # 13

Requesting the City Manager to communicate to confer with the Election Commission to send out more effective notification of polling places and to explore other possibilities of easing the confusion for voters on election day.

Councillor Decker

In City Council October 7, 2002

**ORDER ADOPTED AS
AMENDED.**