



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Date: November 12, 2012

To: Michael W. Culpepper, Acting City Manager
Mark F. Miller, Director of Economic and Community Development

From: M. Aileen Bittner, City Clerk 

Subject: Response to Letter from Mr. William W. Murray

On Wednesday, November 7th, I became aware of an email that had been sent to the City Council from Mr. William W. Murray in regards to the November 6th election. Mr. Murray worked as an Election Inspector in Precinct 21 on Election Day. Precinct 21 and Precinct 15 are both housed at the polling location at St. Lucy's Croatian Church.

First, I commend the Chairpersons and Election Inspectors from Precincts 15 and 21 for their stellar performance under such a stressful condition as the Presidential Election presents. The voter turnout on November 6th for Precincts 15 and 21 was 77% and 71% respectively. That equates to 1,001 of the 1,866 registered voters in Precinct 15; and, 828 of the 1,493 registered voters in Precinct 21 casting ballots in that polling location. In the best working conditions, the Presidential Election is a tremendous undertaking due to the sheer volume of voter turnout. On Tuesday, short staffing due to last-minute cancellations and technical difficulties could have been disastrous. The two teams at Precinct 15 and Precinct 21 worked together with impressive dedication and selflessness.

Second, I offer my sincerest appreciation to the City of Troy Information Technology Department. While the City Clerk's Office has an internal agreement for technical support with I.T. for the computers located in the office, the laptops used in the precincts on election day are outside of that agreement. They were purchased by the State of Michigan for the City of Troy and I.T. is under no obligation to service them. When the laptop at Precinct 15 started showing signs of distress on the morning of November 6th, I called on Gert Paraskevin, Information Technology Director to help me in that emergency situation. Mr. Davis and Mr. Pentescu from the Information Technology Department went above and beyond when they visited the precinct to assess the laptop on-site. They stabilized the computer, then we made the determination that a replacement laptop was needed to be assembled and to replace the precinct computer. The new laptop was put in service, the voter line flowed smoothly, and there were no further reported problems after 11:00am.

As of this writing, all precincts in the City of Troy were canvassed by the Oakland County Board of Canvassers. There were no issues with the canvass at either Precinct 15 or Precinct 21. Again, I commend and thank the Chairpersons, Election Inspectors, and especially City Staff for all their hard work and dedication.