

OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND RECORDER
ELECTIONS DIVISION

Michael J. Scarpello, Director



Stephanie Y. O'Malley
Clerk and Recorder
Public Trustee

City and County of Denver
Office of the Clerk and Recorder
Parr-Widener Community Room
City and County Building
1437 Bannock Street, Room 389
Public Forum
Tuesday, February 24, 2009
5:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES: Stephanie Y. O'Malley, Clerk & Recorder
Carol Tone, League of Women Voters
Barbara Blum-Barnett, citizen
Faith Gross, the Legal Center

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amber McReynolds, Deputy Director of Elections
Nancy Reubert, Communications Director
Alton Dillard, Media and Public Relations Specialist
Lisa Stubbs, Administrative Services Coordinator
Tina Romero, Community Partnership Specialist

I. CALL TO ORDER

Stephanie O'Malley called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and informed everyone that Public Forums will now be held quarterly instead of monthly, due to the decreased amount of activity since the General Election has passed.

- A. Approval of Minutes – With no need for modifications, Clerk O'Malley affixed her signature to the Public Forum Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2008.
- B. Clerk's Office, Public Trustee, Recording Reports – Reviewed by O'Malley.
Report on the numbers for the Office of the Clerk and Recorder for 2008:
 - City Clerk – issued 4,865 marriage licenses.
 - Public Trustee – processed 6,145 foreclosures. Total withdrawals 1,956. Releases of Deeds of Trust 31,047.

- Recording Division – recorded 176,998 documents and scanned 119,145. Total documents quality control checked 176,331. Total e-recorded 57,128.
- Records Division – 14,771 combined walk-in, e-mail, and phone customers. 7,421 records were requested, and 35,216 pages were mailed to customers.
- Total Revenue for 2008 5,247,367. \$6,991,000 revenue budgeted. 81% of budgeted revenue collected.

II. RECORDS DIVISION

Records have been neglected for many years. Cost of project to convert current images to digital records estimated at \$1.7 million. Project started with \$130,000. Found that another \$437,600 is necessary due to poor quality images in the past.

III. CITY CLERK DIVISION

- Annual Valentine's Day Initiative
- Monitor proposed ordinance by Councilwoman Jeanne Faatz regarding campaign finance reporting. Need to allow time for Technology Services to build necessary database.
- Working on legislation that allows people to deliver mail ballots to polling places. Discussed with Councilwoman Faatz maximum mail ballots any voter is allowed to deliver. Number should be consistent for different types of elections.

IV. RECORDING DIVISION

Created system for Land Title Company (the largest title company in Denver) to submit title requests electronically. Technology Services was instrumental in implementing this enhanced efficiency.

V. PUBLIC TRUSTEE

- Is in compliance with State Statute with regard to recording of filings.
- Monitoring legislation related to foreclosures and mortgage fraud.

VI. ELECTION REFORM COMMISSION

- 11 member commission established by 2008 legislation.
- Senator Ken Gordon chairs commission.
- Stephanie O'Malley heads Uniformity and Simplicity sub-committee.
- Last session last Tuesday. Recommendations were passed on for legislation.

VII. ELECTIONS DIVISION – Reviewed by Amber McReynolds.

- Canvass and analysis of data continuing.

- B. Feedback sessions from various groups who worked in November 2008 election to improve process in the future.
- C. Continued feedback from the public.
- D. Tracking legislative process.
- E. Working to streamline processes and procedures.
- F. Monitoring budget and creating tracking methods.
- G. Technology Services looking into systems to track mail ballots.
- H. Working with the State and other counties to improve functionality of SCORE.
- I. Improving polling place locations.
- J. Catching up on backlog of voter registrations.
- K. Voter merge project upcoming. List maintenance must be performed to remove duplicated voter registrations.
- L. Training. Getting elections certification for as many staff members as possible by Secretary of State. Software training and internal cross training.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION UPDATE – Reviewed by Nancy Reubert.

- A. Valentine’s Day event at marriage counter on Friday the 13th. Decorated conference room. Solicited donations from other city agencies and departments to give as gifts to couples.
- B. Redesign Clerk and Recorder website for release later this year.
- C. Creating 2008 Annual Report.
- D. Recreating e-foreclosure database.
- E. Unifying branding for Clerk and Recorder.
- F. Updating elections information packets and 2009 materials for elections website.
- G. Researching social networking media to utilize for customer service improvements.

IX. ACESSO UPDATE – Reviewed by Tina Romero on behalf of ACESSO chair Stella Madrid and the ACESSO board.

- A. 2008 Election Cycle
 1. Monitored and assisted with translation of website, radio ads, and voter information material.
 2. Outreach via hosting of Latino voter forums to educate about the vote model.
 3. Recruitment of bilingual judges, which totaled 244 judges in 148 polling places.
- B. Current projects
 1. Revising 2009 work plan for November election.
 2. Refining organizational structure to ensure compliance with Voting Rights Language Assistance Act of 1992.

X. PENDING LEGISLATION

Alton Dillard summarized pending legislation affecting and related to the Clerk and Recorder's Office and Elections.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS BY CLERK AND RECORDER, STAFF, AND GUESTS

- Question from Citizen Barbara Blum-Barnett – Will there be a report on the numbers of provisional ballots, how many were accepted and rejected, and the reasons for acceptance or rejection?
- Answer from O'Malley – We are in the process of preparing a 2008 report. Numbers will be in that report.
- Question from Faith Gross representing the Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People – Do you have a cost per vote figure?
- Answer from O'Malley – Counties have been asked to provide costs. We are working to calculate an accurate accounting, taking into account costs that are amortized over several years.

III. MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT AND/OR EXECUTIVE SESSION – Clerk O'Malley adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The Public Forum was televised by Denver 8 TV. To view the February 24, 2008 Forum in its entirety, visit: www.DenverGov.org/Denver8Online.

Stephanie Y. O'Malley, Clerk & Recorder

Attest

Date