

5a
OBT # 3

Nelson, Tracy

From: David Roderick <daver41@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 12:16 PM
To: Nelson, Tracy; Donato D'Andrea
Cc: David Roderick
Subject: Fwd: Re: Official complaint for Canvass Authority

FYI - Copy of my response to Ms. Shute after receiving her e-mail this morning. Dave

----- Original Message -----

From: David Roderick <daver41@cox.net>
To: Kim Shute <kshute1@gmail.com>
Date: October 9, 2020 at 12:13 PM
Subject: Re: Official complaint for Canvass Authority

Ms. Shute, I have received your e-mail complaint and I am sorry that you are sharing your concerns with us because you were directed to do so from the state. Although I Chair the local Board of Canvassers at this time I can only speak for myself on your concerns however, let me assure you that we do appreciate hearing the concerns of voters and do listen and consider all concerns shared with us via public meetings, e-mails, and other. Please know that we have spent a considerable amount of hours and days since August on polling decisions made which included advantages and disadvantages with each poll and we have done so with COVID-19 and Coronavirus considerations with each discussion and decision made. We know full well the efforts by the Secretary of State and Board of Elections to provide new options for voting during this pandemic, to provide trainings, equipment and materials to help keep people safe during this crisis. We are very familiar with the poll sites and you are so right, they are not all ideal however we need to work with all resources available to us and make the best decisions we can and especially this year when our decisions need to include possible threats to the health and safety of voters and poll workers alike. All three members of our Board have years of experience with the election processes, have served the community in several different positions including elected positions and are doing our very best to make the best decisions we can for this year's election under much different circumstances than any year prior to this year, year of Coronavirus. Governor Gina Raimondo during her press conference on Wednesday stated, "We are in a once in a 100 year Crisis with the Pandemic" We try to learn from all guidance and our decisions are and will continue to be in the best interest of all we serve. I hope you can appreciate that we do not take our responsibility lightly and we do not make decisions based on opinions. We sincerely hope that you and all voters will number one Vote, and don't allow multitude of challenges this year prevent you from exercising your right to vote, and take pride in your contributions during this election year. Although I cannot speak for the Board on specific concerns, I can and do assure you we appreciate your input and do want you and all voters to vote in the best environment possible, a poll in which we believe will keep you healthy and safe during this Presidential Election Year. Thanks again. Dave Roderick, Chair Newport Canvassing Authority.

On October 8, 2020 at 9:06 PM Kim Shute <kshute1@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mr Roderick,

I was unable to attend the Canvassing meeting live on Wednesday as I was at work. I listened to the recording after my work day was completed. I am quite concerned about the decision to close the Park Holm polling place.

As a person who has not attended previous meetings I believe I was a neutral audience member, although an interested one. I know the responsibilities of balancing public safety as well as making voting easy and accessible for all of our citizens is on the minds of many Newporters.

I have serious concerns about the obstacles that are being placed in the way of voters on the Park Holm side of town. It sounded clear to me that you wanted to keep the voters, volunteers and yourself safe from covid which I both appreciate and respect.

I, along with many others, am however worried that many concerned and involved citizens tried to voice their issues around closing Park Holm as a polling place in that meeting and their concerns seemed to be overlooked. It did not seem as though the other polling sites were as closely scrutinized (Edward King House for one does not seem like it will be easy to observe covid restrictions).

In this time when the national conversation around both fair elections and making sure every vote counts it seems especially important to make Park Holm accessible. Merging polling sites will make lines longer and large numbers of people more likely. It may also deter voters if they have to wait in long lines especially if they have minimum wage jobs and need to take time away from work to vote. I really had hoped the Canvassing Authority would hold this in their minds as they made their final decision.

I cannot consider the letter complete without acknowledgment of the conversation around race which is long overdue. I do not want anyone to be discriminated against. It seems across the country people of color are being targeted especially when it comes to issues around their voices in elections. I have begun to examine my actions as a white person and think it is a good idea for me to listen to the experiences of people of color. I have no idea what it is like to walk in their shoes and if they are telling me they need Park Holm to be a polling place to make their voices heard then I believe what they are saying and hope the rest of Newport, both citizens and officials will listen to their concerns. The community at Park Holm is able, eager, and willing to offer themselves once again as a polling place.

I think it is best for our community to allow voters to vote at the Park Holm location for the following reasons:

- 1) It is on a bus line making it accessible to a wider range of people including those who cannot drive or do not have cars).
- 2) It closer to some vulnerable populations like seniors and people with disabilities.
- 3) it makes voting available to people from all different economic backgrounds.
- 4) it is a place where many people of color turn out to vote.
- 5) it is a polling place where people are used to voting and we will not need to redirect them and have confusion on voting day.
- 6) it reduces the lines at the Pell School location.
- 7) it would be an active and simple way to listen to constituents.

I am therefore challenging the decision of the Newport Board of Canvassing Authority to close Park Holm as a polling location. Please schedule a hearing on my challenge as soon as possible. If the Board of Canvassers doesn't reverse itself after that hearing I will move forward with filing a formal complaint with the RI Board of Elections copying the Secretary of State.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kimberly L. Shute

Rapoza, Robert (BOE)

From: Hernandez, Enmanuel (BOE)
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 6:50 PM
To: Rapoza, Robert (BOE); Nunez, Miguel (BOE); BOE.Elections
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] : Please Reconsider Opening the Polling Site at the Park Holm Senior Center

FYI,
Another complaint

Enmanuel Hernandez
Rhode Island Board of Elections
2000 Plainfield Pike, Cranston, RI 02921
Enmanuel.Hernandez@elections.ri.gov
Phone: (401) 222-1914
Twitter: @RI_BOE | Website: <http://www.elections.ri.gov/>

From: Allyson McCalla <allyson6303@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 5:54:52 PM
To: BOE.Elections <boe.elections@elections.ri.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Please Reconsider Opening the Polling Site at the Park Holm Senior Center

Dear the Board of Elections: I hope you all are safe and healthy.

I am writing in concern of the closing of Park Holm's senior center's polling site in Newport, RI on Election Day.

The senior center polling site is a place where the majority of our black and brown community goes to vote, and is easily accessible for our elderly and individuals with limitations. The risk of getting the Coronavirus would be the same risk taken at any of the voting sites everywhere. Opening the Park Holm site would allow for spreading individuals out and less of a line, which leads to less risk. If disinfecting is an issue, I have more than enough volunteers lined up to help out with sanitation, without hesitation.

Please reconsider opening the Park Holm senior center so that everyone within the area can exercise their right to vote.

With very kind regards,

Allyson McCalla
203 Hillside Avenue
Phone: (401) 345-4518
Email: allyson6303@gmail.com

Chatelle, Patricia (BOE)

From: Angela McCalla <amccalla2019@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 6:21 PM
To: Chatelle, Patricia (BOE)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]:

Dear Chairperson and members of the Rhode Island Board of Elections,

I am writing in my capacity as the elected Council member representing Ward 1 for the City of Newport. I am also a resident of Precinct 2109. Many voters in my neighborhood have asked me to help open the Park Holm Senior Center for the General Election. I am writing to appeal the decision of the Newport Canvassing Authority on October 13, 2020. At this meeting, the Canvassing Authority voted to keep closed the Park Holm Senior Center as a polling place for registered voters in Precinct 2109, and to move the voting location for that precinct to the Pell Elementary School in Precinct 2102.

Throughout the process starting from October 1, 2020 to October 13, 2020; there have been a large amount of testimonies given by those who vote at the Park Holm location to the Canvassing Authority. It is the wish of many residents, The ACLU and other reputable organizations who submitted letters in support of keeping the location open. Additionally, year 2020 marks the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment and the 55th Anniversary of the passage of the Voting Rights Act, making the General Election on November 3, 2020 a historically significant date for all citizens to exercise their right to vote.

Best,

Angela McCalla

Newport City Council, First Ward

5a
OBJ # 11

Nelson, Tracy

From: Allyson McCalla <allyson6303@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 1:41 PM
To: Nelson, Tracy
Subject: Please Reconsider Opening the Polling Site at the Park Holm Senior Center

Dear Tracy: I hope you're safe and healthy.

I am writing in concern of the closing of Park Holm's senior center's polling site on Election Day.

The senior center polling site is a place where the majority of our black and brown community goes to vote, and is easily accessible for our elderly and disabled. The risk of getting the Coronavirus would be the same risk taken at any of the voting sites. Opening the Park Holm site would allow for spreading individuals out, less of a line, which leads to less risk. If disinfecting is an issue, I have more than enough volunteers lined up to help out with sanitation, without hesitation.

Please reconsider opening the Park Holm senior center so that everyone can exercise their right to vote.

Very kind regards,

Allyson McCalla
203 Hillside Avenue
Phone: (401) 345-4518
Email: allyson6303@gmail.com

Rapoza, Robert (BOE)

From: Hernandez, Enmanuel (BOE)
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 6:52 PM
To: Nunez, Miguel (BOE); Rapoza, Robert (BOE)
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] : Park Holm Polling Center - Newport

FYI,
And another

Enmanuel Hernandez
Rhode Island Board of Elections
2000 Plainfield Pike, Cranston, RI 02921
Enmanuel.Hernandez@elections.ri.gov
Phone: (401) 222-1914
Twitter: @RI_BOE | Website: <http://www.elections.ri.gov/>

From: Amanda Monaghan <amanda.monaghan@metmail.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 4:53:08 PM
To: BOE.Elections <boe.elections@elections.ri.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Park Holm Polling Center - Newport

Dear Board of Elections,

I'm writing to ask that you decide to override the decision to keep the Park Holm polling center closed on Election Day. Our school community is located within this neighborhood, and many of our families depend on this space to exercise their right to vote. This polling center, located within identified as a health equity and affordable housing zone, serves a community of folks that are often disenfranchised and marginalized. By keeping this polling center closed, these families continue to be marginalized and kept from participating when it comes to making decisions that impact their lives.

I urge you to truly serve these families and this neighborhood by keeping this site open.

Thank you.

--
Amanda Monaghan, MSW, LCSW
School Social Worker

Paul W. Crowley East Bay Met School
115 Girard Ave
Newport RI, 02840
401- 847-2820
amanda.monaghan@metmail.org

5a
OBJ #17

Nelson, Tracy

From: Amy Hoag <amy@amyhoag.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 3:15 PM
To: Nelson, Tracy
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] : RE: Newport - Closing the polls - Park Holm

Amy Hoag, Associate Broker
RE/MAX of Newport
55 Memorial Blvd
Newport, RI 02840
401-481-5135 mobile
www.AmyHoag.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Rapoza, Robert (BOE)" <Robert.Rapoza@elections.ri.gov>
Date: Thu, Oct 8, 2020 at 2:08 PM -0400
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] : RE: Newport - Closing the polls - Park Holm
To: "Amy@AmyHoag.com" <Amy@AmyHoag.com>, "aida.neary@gmail.com" <aida.neary@gmail.com>, "dcmaderos@aol.com" <dcmaderos@aol.com>
Cc: "Jennifer Gee" <jennifergee5@gmail.com>, "Kendra3774" <kendrawm@gmail.com>, "ryan@whatsupnewp.com" <ryan@whatsupnewp.com>, "Jack McVicker" <Jack@jackmcy.com>

Good Afternoon Ms. Hoag

In response to your email regarding the Park Holm polling location. By rules & regulations relating to complaints promulgated by the RI Board of Elections, the Newport Board of Canvassing Authority must initially receive your complaint. They will then convene a meeting to hear your complaint. If after the meeting you do not agree with the decision of the Newport Board of Canvassers you should file a detailed complaint with the RI Board of Elections. Upon receiving the complaint post the initial hearing of the complaint hearing from the Newport Board of Canvassers, we will schedule a meeting of the RI Board of Elections upon which your complaint will be heard by the Board.

Have a good day
Bob



Robert B. Rapoza, Executive Director
RI Board of Elections | [Website](#) | Twitter: [@RI_BOE](#)
Email: robert.rapoza@elections.ri.gov
2000 Plainfield Pike, Cranston RI 02921 | 401-222-2345

From: Amy@AmyHoag.com <Amy@AmyHoag.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2020 1:33 PM
To: aida.neary@gmail.com; dcmaderos@aol.com; Rapoza, Robert (BOE) <Robert.Rapoza@elections.ri.gov>
Cc: 'Jennifer Gee' <jennifergee5@gmail.com>; 'Kendra3774' <kendrawm@gmail.com>; ryan@whatsupnewp.com; 'Jack McVicker' <Jack@jackmcy.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : RE: Newport - Closing the polls - Park Holm

Dear Mr. Rapoza and Ms. Mederos,

Yesterday, the Newport Canvassing Authority voted for the 2nd time to close the Park Holm Senior Center as a polling site (Precinct 2109). This is extremely concerning as this polling site is located in the densest area of the city which also happens to serve populations who are predominantly black, brown and elderly. Members of the community spoke out and urged the canvassing authority to keep this site open, but they still chose to close it. This is the only polling site in the City of Newport that has been closed and it strongly suggests voter suppression. I urge you to look closely at this situation and demand that Newport keep it open.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Amy Hoag
29 Bull Street
Newport, RI

Amy Hoag, Associate Broker
RE/MAX of Newport
401-481-5135
www.AmyHoag.com [amyhoag.com]

5a
UBJ # 8

Nelson, Tracy

From: Amy Machado <alou73@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 1:23 PM
To: Nelson, Tracy; McCalla, Angela
Cc: Rapoza, Robert (BOE)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] : Fwd: Video of Canvassing meeting for today 10/7/2020

Hi Tracy,

I am writing to complain about the canvassing board's decision to close the Park Holm Senior Center for voting on November 3rd. The community wants it open, and the housing authority can accommodate. Opening all but one polling place in Newport is obvious voter suppression, intended to harm marginalized Newport voters. Calling the public meeting on October 6th thirty minutes before a decision was due to the state of RI was egregious, as were the comments and actions of the chair during the meeting itself.

Amy Machado
12 Burdick Ave.

On Thu, Oct 8, 2020 at 1:46 PM Rapoza, Robert (BOE) <Robert.Rapoza@elections.ri.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon Ms. Machado

In response to your email regarding the Park Holm polling location. By rules & regulations relating to complaints promulgated by the RI Board of Elections, the Newport Board of Canvassing Authority must initially receive your complaint. They will then convene a meeting to hear your complaint. If after the meeting you do not agree with the decision of the Newport Board of Canvassers you should file a detailed complaint with the RI Board of Elections.

Upon receiving the complaint post the initial hearing of the complaint hearing from the Newport Board of Canvassers, we will schedule a meeting of the RI Board of Elections upon which your complaint will be heard by the Board.

Have a good day

Bob



Robert B. Rapoza, Executive Director
RI Board of Elections | [Website](#) | Twitter: [@RI_BOE](#)

Email: robert.rapoza@elections.ri.gov

2000 Plainfield Pike, Cranston RI 02921 | 401-222-2345

From: Amy Machado <alou73@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2020 10:55 AM
To: Rapoza, Robert (BOE) <Robert.Rapoza@elections.ri.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Fwd: Video of Canvassing meeting for today 10/7/2020

Dear Robert and Diane,

If you have not watched the Newport canvassing meeting (video below), I implore you to do so now. It was a travesty.

Please open the Park Holm senior center for voting. Opening 8 of 9 polling locations except for Park Holm is gross voter suppression. The community wants it. Newport Housing Authority wants it. The behavior and actions of chair David Roderick was appalling.

Warm regards,

Amy Machado

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Shevlin, Thomas <tshevlin@cityofnewport.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 2:43 PM
Subject: RE: Video of Canvassing meeting for today 10/7/2020
To: aida.neary@gmail.com <aida.neary@gmail.com>, Amy Machado <alou73@gmail.com>, ryan@whatsupnewp.com <ryan@whatsupnewp.com>
Cc: Nicholson, Joseph <jnicholson@cityofnewport.com>, Behan, Christopher <cbehan@cityofnewport.com>

Hi Aida,

As requested!

Note that I had briefly lost Internet connection and as a result the first 5 minutes of the meeting has been cut off.

According to our notes, that excluded portion included to St. Peter's Church, and no votes were taken.

Topic: Canvassing Authority Meeting

Start Time : Oct 7, 2020 11:16 AM

Meeting Recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Cl6Eu81rT4tAtpiv74TdVHOThxyqAxDO4M6pkcEJYNUNin6l8MGoKR6JFvoBDdT6.X0hWOeek7milHnSa?startTime=1602084963000> [us02web.zoom.us]

Best,

Tom

TOM SHEVLIN

Communications Officer

City of Newport

43 Broadway, Newport, R.I.

2nd Floor

p. 401-845-5350

e. tshevlin@cityofnewport.com

* **From:** Aida Neary <aida1inil@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2020 12:11 PM
To: Shevlin, Thomas <tshevlin@CityofNewport.com>; Amy Machado <alou73@gmail.com>; ryan@whatsupnewp.com
Subject: Video of Canvassing meeting for today 10/7/2020

Dear Tom,

Could you let us know when the video of the canvassing meeting that took place today, wednesday, October 7, 2020 will be available for the public to see?

Thank you

Aida Neary

--

Amy Machado
401-847-1280 (home/work)
508-982-8360 (cell)

--

5a
OBT#16

Nelson, Tracy

From: Aida Neary <aida1inil@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 3:11 PM
To: Nelson, Tracy; Angela McCalla
Subject: Fwd: Newport - Closing the polls - Park Holm

Dear Tracy,

Below is the letter that I sent to the Board of Elections yesterday about the closure of Park Holm Senior Center as a polling site. I understand that you are supposed to receive those, so here it is.

Thanks.

Aida

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Aida Neary <aida1inil@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 8, 2020 at 10:24 AM
Subject: Newport - Closing the polls - Park Holm
To: <robert.raposa@elections.ri.gov>, <dcmaderos@aol.com>
Cc: Jennifer Gee <jennifergee5@gmail.com>, Kendra3774 <kendrawm@gmail.com>, <ryan@whatsupnewp.com>, Amy Hoag <Amy@amyhoag.com>

Dear Mr. Raposa and Ms. Mederos,

I am writing to express my deep concern about voting in Newport. Yesterday, October 7, The Newport Canvassing Authority, voted for a **2nd time** to close down the Park Holm Senior Center Polling site (Precinct 2109). This came despite:

1. The objection of residents who vote in Park Holm
2. The objection of residents who vote at other polling stations which will now have a crowd
3. Your agency asking the canvassing authority to reconsider
4. Their vote right before to **reopen** two polling stations previously closed (again at your urging). A fact that was acknowledged in the vote
5. The very real possibility of suppressing the votes of a predominantly black, brown and elderly population.

The vote to keep Park Holm closed was 2-1.

I urge you to take a close look at the situation in Newport because as a citizen who listened to both canvassing authority meetings discussing polling locations, I am left with the feeling that the closure is not about public safety and health (Newport has a very, very low rate of Covid positivity), but about voter suppression. Voter suppression of vulnerable groups.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aida Neary

Rapoza, Robert (BOE)

From: Hernandez, Enmanuel (BOE)
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 8:14 AM
To: Rapoza, Robert (BOE)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] : Park Holm Polling Location

From: Catherine DeAngelo <catherinedeangelo23@npsri.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:36 PM
To: BOE.Elections <boe.elections@elections.ri.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Park Holm Polling Location

Hello,
I am a concerned citizen and I am emailing you to urge the Board to reopen the Park Holm Senior Center location for the November 3rd General Election. Closing this polling location may result in the disenfranchisement of the poor, disabled, and elderly people of the community and I believe that it is imperative that we make voting as accessible as possible. Considering that this location is similar to the size of St. Paul and St. Peter's and has features such as 3 exits, handicap railing, and windows that can be left open, it is an adequate space to conduct polling. Please make the right decision and reopen this location so that members of the North End can participate in their civic duties.
Thank you,
Catherine DeAngelo

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The information contained in this transmission is confidential. It is intended solely for the use of the individual(s) or organization(s) to whom it is addressed. If you have received this transmission in error, please advise the sender and destroy all pages. Any disclosure, copying or further distribution is prohibited unless explicitly approved in writing by the Newport Public Schools.



ACLU: Newport Board of Canvassers 'utterly failed to justify' Park Holm polling closure

By Daily News staff

Posted Oct 15, 2020 at 2:40 PM

The ACLU of Rhode Island has joined those seeking to keep the Park Holm Senior Center polling place open, saying "the Newport Board of Canvassers has utterly failed to justify the closure of the site" in a letter to the R.I. Board of Elections.

In the letter to the board, Executive Director Steven Brown said his organization has received complaints from a number of Newport residents residing in the Park Holm voting precinct who are "deeply concerned" with the Board of Canvassers decision on Tuesday to close the site. The polling location would instead be located at Pell Elementary School.

Before taking a vote, the Board of Canvassers referenced safety concerns related to the coronavirus due to the size and configuration of the location.

Brown, however, argues the Board of Canvassers "did not conduct any health and safety inspections, or receive any expert medical testimony or information, regarding the safe use of other polling locations it is keeping open for the November election."

Additionally other sites used by the city, namely St. John's Church and St. Peter's Church, "could be deemed, due to their size and/or configuration, to raise similar logistical and 'safety' concerns to those purportedly being relied upon by the BOC to close PHSC."

The R.I. Board of Elections has placed an objection to the closure on it's agenda for a meeting Friday morning at 10 a.m. It is the only item on the agenda.

Read the letter in full below.

On behalf of the ACLU of Rhode Island, I am writing to address the sole item on tomorrow's Board agenda: "the Newport Board of Canvassers decision to close the Park Holm Senior Center polling place in precinct 2109 and moving the location to the Pell Elementary School in precinct 2102." We strongly urge you to reject that decision.

Our organization has received complaints from a number of Newport residents residing in Precinct 2109 who are deeply concerned about this decision of the Newport Canvassing Authority (referred to as the "Board of Canvassers" in the agenda and as "BOC" in this letter), which was approved on a 2-1 vote on Tuesday. We share those concerns and ask you to exercise your authority under R.I.G.L. 17-11-1.1(a) to keep the Park Holm Senior Center (PHSC) open as a polling place on November 3rd. We believe the BOC'S decision is arbitrary and capricious, and would have a clearly adverse impact on people of color and other vulnerable voters residing in Newport.

We note the following salient points for your consideration:

- 1. Demographically, Precinct 2109 has a high concentration of the City of Newport's non-white population, as well as a large contingent of elderly voters and people with disabilities.*
- 2. The Park Holm Senior Center has been used for many years as a polling location for general elections.*
- 3. The only rationale offered by the BOC for closing Precinct 2109 involved individual BOC members' health and safety concerns related to the Covid-19 pandemic due to PHSC's size and configuration.*
- 4. The Chair of the Newport Housing Authority, which runs the PHSC, expressed support for using the senior center as a polling location and felt that any health and safety concerns could be easily addressed. A number of residents of the precinct also testified in opposition to PHSC's closure.*
- 5. The BOC did not solicit or receive any expert medical testimony or information supporting the health and safety concerns raised sua sponte by BOC members.*

6. *The BOC did not conduct any health and safety inspections, or receive any expert medical testimony or information, regarding the safe use of other polling locations it is keeping open for the November election.*

7. *Upon information and belief, other polling locations being used in the City on November 3 – such as St. John’s Church and St. Peter’s Church – could be deemed, due to their size and/or configuration, to raise similar logistical and “safety” concerns to those purportedly being relied upon by the BOC to close PHSC.*

8. *Residents of Precinct 2109 would be the only voters in the City whose polling place is both being closed and consolidated with another precinct.*

9. *At the time of its decision, the BOC was in possession of, but ignored, a memo from the Newport City Solicitor who advised that the BOC could not “rely only on general statements of risk” in closing PHSC, but instead needed to determine that “the risk of exposure (which exists in every indoor venue) [offsets] the public interest in maintaining this polling site for voters who have been using it for years.”*

At your October 2nd meeting, you expressed concerns about the numerous cities and towns proposing consolidation of voter districts, and mandated that they go back to the drawing board in light of the adverse impact that such consolidation would have on the rights of voters. We believe those concerns were justified, particularly in light of the lower-than-anticipated applications for mail ballots received for the upcoming election.

That would be reason enough, in our view, for you to reject the BOC’s decision. But even more to the point, the Newport Board of Canvassers has utterly failed to justify the closure of Precinct 2109. The BOC ignored the pleas of the community that is directly affected by the closure, has failed to validate in any objective way its singling out of PHSC for closure, and has made a voting decision whose adverse effects will fall largely on the economically disenfranchised, the elderly, those with disabilities, and people of color.

For all these reasons, the ACLU of RI asks that you reject the BOC’s decision and require that the Park Holm Senior Center remain open as a polling location for the November election.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Steven Brown

Executive Director

Chatelle, Patricia (BOE)

From: Cindy Larned <cynthia.larned@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 10:42 PM
To: Chatelle, Patricia (BOE)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Newport's Closing of The Park Holm Voting Location

To the RI Board of Elections:

Hello. I have followed with dismay the Newport Canvassing Committee's decision to just remove the Park Holm Senior Center as a voting location for November 3.

Their main concern seems to be that polling workers will have a greater chance of getting COVID-19 . It seems to me that this location is no more likely to end up with infected workers than any other Newport site! And many people who actually live there would like to see it remain open.

Why would we want to limit locations for a Presidential vote during a pandemic? Would that not just lead to (a) more voters unhealthily jammed into the remaining facilities, potentially leading to even more Covid cases, and/or (b) discouraging the old and infirm from possibly getting to another polling place, thereby making it unnecessarily difficult for them to vote at all.

This just seems wrong to me. Please reinstate Park Holm as a voting location for November 3.

Thank you!

Cynthia R Larned
9 Everett Street
Newport

Sent from my iPad

Chatelle, Patricia (BOE)

From: Claudia Helt <claudia.r.helt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:27 AM
To: Chatelle, Patricia (BOE)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Park Holm Senior Center polling place

My name is Claudia Helt and I am a resident of Newport, RI.
I am writing to ask that the RI Board of Elections reconsider the closing of the Park Holm Senior Center as a polling center.

Not only is this an incredible hardship on the members of our community, but it is a questionable act that warrants reflection during these complex political times. One must ask why is this being done?

Your consideration is appreciated.

Respectfully,

Claudia Helt
45 Weaver Avenue
Newport RI 02840

Rapoza, Robert (BOE)

From: Hernandez, Enmanuel (BOE)
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 8:14 AM
To: Rapoza, Robert (BOE)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] : Park Holm polling location

From: Dellicia Allen <delliciaallen23@npsri.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:34 PM
To: BOE.Elections <boe.elections@elections.ri.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Park Holm polling location

Hi,

I'm a concerned citizen of Newport and I am emailing you to urge the Board to reopen the Park Holm Senior Center location for the November 3rd General Election. Closing this polling location may end in the disenfranchisement of poor, disabled, and elderly people of the community and I think that it's imperative that we make voting as accessible as possible. Considering that this location is similar to the size of St. Paul and St. Peter's and has features such as 3 exits, handicap railing, and windows that can be left open, it is an adequate space to host the polling. Please make the right decision and reopen this location so that members of the North End can participate in their civic duties.

Thank you,
Dellicia Allen

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The information contained in this transmission is confidential. It is intended solely for the use of the individual(s) or organization(s) to whom it is addressed. If you have received this transmission in error, please advise the sender and destroy all pages. Any disclosure, copying or further distribution is prohibited unless explicitly approved in writing by the Newport Public Schools.

Rapoza, Robert (BOE)

From: Hernandez, Enmanuel (BOE)
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 6:51 PM
To: Rapoza, Robert (BOE); Nunez, Miguel (BOE); BOE.Elections
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] : Park Holm Polling Location

FYI,
Another one

Enmanuel Hernandez
Rhode Island Board of Elections
2000 Plainfield Pike, Cranston, RI 02921
Enmanuel.Hernandez@elections.ri.gov
Phone: (401) 222-1914
Twitter: @RI_BOE | Website: <http://www.elections.ri.gov/>

From: Eleanor Harris <eharris@metmail.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 5:21:27 PM
To: BOE.Elections <boe.elections@elections.ri.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Park Holm Polling Location

Good Evening,

It is imperative that the decision to close the Park Holm Senior Center polling location is reversed. This polling site serves one of Newport's most underserved communities. Their voice deserves to be heard in this election, with the closure of this polling site, their voice will be underrepresented.

Respectfully,

Eleanor Dove harris

Eleanor Dove Harris
12th Grade Advisor (4th Round)
Paul W. Crowley East Bay Met School
115 Girard Ave.
Newport, RI 02840
eharris@metmail.org
401-849-6665 (advisory)
401-846-5703 (fax)

5a
OBJ# 6

Nelson, Tracy

From: Beth Milham <bpmilham@cox.net>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 12:27 PM
To: Nelson, Tracy
Subject: Closure of Park Holm poll

Dear Tracy,

I am registering my opposition to closing the only polling station in the Park Holm/Newport Heights voting area. Is there no place accessible to the voters in this area, many or most of whom are people of color, and/or lacking transportation, ill or disabled? The James L. Maher Center? The Florence Gray Multipurpose Center? The Housing Authority offices?

It is hard not to see this as yet another example of the residents of the North End being given short shrift by the City of Newport. The Board of Canvassers must consider this perspective when making final decisions about a poll location in the North End.

Beth Milham, 108 Champlin Place N., Newport, RI 02840, 401-847-7637, bpmilham@cox.net

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Rapoza, Robert (BOE)

From: Hernandez, Enmanuel (BOE)
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 8:14 AM
To: Rapoza, Robert (BOE)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] : Park Holm Polling Location

From: Gabby B <gablacam11@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:27 PM
To: BOE.Elections <boe.elections@elections.ri.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Park Holm Polling Location

Hello,
I am a concerned citizen of Newport and I am emailing you to urge the Board to reopen the Park Holm Senior Center location for the November 3rd General Election. Closing this polling location may result in the disenfranchisement of the poor, disabled, and elderly people of the community and I believe that it is imperative that we make voting as accessible as possible. Considering that this location is similar to the size of St. Paul and St. Peter's and has features such as 3 exits, handicap railing, and windows that can be left open, it is an adequate space to conduct polling. Please make the right decision and reopen this location so that members of the North End can participate in their civic duties.
Thank you,
Gabby Brown

Chatelle, Patricia (BOE)

From: Gerald LePage <glepage@childandfamilyri.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 2:51 PM
To: Chatelle, Patricia (BOE)
Cc: acabral; admissions; adult; allison; Anita Perron (aperron@lifefspan.org); Anna Matos-Mournighan (ekhchiefstaff@gmail.com); Anthony Lemonde (anthonylemonde@seniorschoiceri.com); barbara; Betsey Anderson (banderson@jamestownri.net); brandon@lifecycletransitions.com; Brian Berger, LICSW, ACHP-SW (bberger@hopehealthco.org); Briana Aucoin (baucoin@stelizabethcommunity.org); bsullivan; carmela@edwardkinghouse.org; Cathy Wicks (cathywicks2002@gmail.com); cforcier; Cheryl Walason (Cheryl@OakleyHomeAccess.com); Christen Parker-Jones (cparkerjones@homehealthsmith.com); Cris Offenberg (COffenberg@silvalawgroup.com); Cynthia Koniecki (directorck@pmpsc.necoxmail.com); dbauer; DDeQuattro; deborahlburtonms@gmail.com; debra d; Denise Wilkie (dwilkie1@cox.net); dfa; Elaine Irby (eirby60@hotmail.com); elizabeth; Erin Bednarczyk (erinobednarczyk@gmail.com); Fogerty, Theresa (TFogerty@Lifespan.org); Gerald LePage; hannah; Heather Strout (hstrout@mlkcenter.org); jallard; James Connell; Jane Barrows (lymenewport@gmail.com); jane korb; jd; Jennifer Jolly; JEREMY DORAN; Jgoldman; jm; jrowlett; jvaudreuil@butler.org; karene; Kathy Givens - Next Monitoring Alert Systems (kathy@nextmonitoring.com); kemmes; Kevin M. Williams (kevin.williams@FCPlivein.com); kgar; kim; kkelly; ksanchez; Lalee Stevens (lstevens1@benchmarkquality.com); lark; Laurie G. Mantz (Laurie@DementiaTraining4Life.com); LDaCosta@jrcrri.org; lefty; Leisha Hackett (LHackett@allabouthomecareinri.com); lindab; Lisa Labreux (lisa.labreux@landmarkseniorliving.com); Little Compton Wellness Center (office@lcwellness.org); llevine; Itasso; Luciana Johns (luciana.johns@kindredhospicecare.com); Maggie daSilva (maggied@assistedlivinglocators.com); mam3419@cox.net; maria; Mariellen Girard (mgirard@pace-ri.org); Marilyn Lyell (marilynlyell@gmail.com); Mary Hughes (mary@savoryfareinc.com); Melissa Mastrostefano (melissa@griefrecoveryri.com); mhaskell; Michael Foster (Michael.Foster@bcbsri.org); Michael Kennedy; michele t; michelle ch; MT Shadduck (mtandthomas@mtandthomas.com); Patricia Cusson RN (sentrans1@verizon.net); paulab; Patricia Nadeau; politicodem@aol.com; pschumacher; rebecca@simplifiedlives.com; robin; rtaddei; Sandra Dugan (sandra.dugan@atriaseniorliving.com); sbouchard; sdimasi; Sheri L. Kennedy (Sheri.K@AmadaSeniorCare.com); Stephanie Culhane (sculhane@hhpartners.org); Steve Murphy (smurphy24@brookdale.com); stgelaisA@southcoast.org; Tatiana Bechard (tatiana@savoryfareinc.com); teresa; Tina Marie Davern (tina.davern@oeius.org); Todd Ackerman (tackerman@homehealthwares.com); tstclaire; valerie; Victoria Martin
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : FW: Board of Elections to decide on Park Holm closure
Attachments: BOE 16Oct 10am.pdf

Dear Ms. Chatelle,

I and my colleagues strongly urge you to retain the polling location at Park Holm Senior Center in Newport. This is an essential, centralized location at which to vote, particularly for mobility-impaired and senior voters in Newport. In this crucial year in which every vote is so important,

the Board of Electors must do everything possible to ensure equal access to the polls. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

From: Rex LeBeau <rlebeau@wrcnbc.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 2:38 PM

To: Renee Payot <rpayot@newportmh.org>; Gerald LePage <glepage@childandfamilyri.org>; Amanda Monaghan <amanda.monaghan@metmail.org>; Melanie Saunders <msaunders@mlkccenter.org>; Laura Rossier <la23ura4@gmail.com>; Kowal, Kevin <Kevin.Kowal@lifespan.org>; Mary Vieira <mvieira@metmail.org>; Allyson McCalla <allyson@bikenewportri.org>; Maureen Cronin <mcronin@e-worldways.com>; Ralph Chartier <RChartier@providencechc.org>; Sean O'Connor <sean.peter.oconnor@gmail.com>; Heather Strout <hstrout@mlkccenter.org>; Sarafine Hammond <sarafine.hammond@metmail.org>; Perseus Lowe <perseuslowe@gmail.com>; Mirasia Cassese <emseasquared08@gmail.com>; Lori Kosicki <l.kosicki@psnri.org>; Holly Fisher <Hollyfish@gmail.com>

Subject: Fwd: Board of Elections to decide on Park Holm closure

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Gerald LePage, M.A., CIRS A/D
Information & Referral Specialist
Child & Family
31 John Clarke Road, Middletown, RI, 02842
Office: 401-848-4185
glepage@childandfamilyri.org
www.childandfamilyri.org [\[linkprotect.cudasvc.com\]](http://linkprotect.cudasvc.com)



Child & Family

Taste of Home Campaign

[\[linkprotect.cudasvc.com\]](http://linkprotect.cudasvc.com)

Child & Family's Taste of Home Campaign + Auction will benefit the many Rhode Island families, children and seniors who use our programs and services during times of crisis. The giving starts NOW and culminates with an online auction on Thursday, October 22 at 9 am through Monday, October 26 at noon. Learn more [CLICK HERE](#)
[\[linkprotect.cudasvc.com\]](http://linkprotect.cudasvc.com)



[\[facebook.com\]](https://www.facebook.com)



[\[linkprotect.cudasvc.com\]](http://linkprotect.cudasvc.com)



[\[linkedin.com\]](https://www.linkedin.com)



[\[youtube.com\]](https://www.youtube.com)

This email message and any files transmitted with it may contain personal health information, which may be legally privileged and intended only for the person(s) to whom this message is addressed. If you have received this message in

Chatelle, Patricia (BOE)

From: Holly Fisher <hollyfish@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 2:51 PM
To: Chatelle, Patricia (BOE)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Appeal to reverse decision to close Park Holm Senior Center Polls

I'm writing to appeal to the RI Board of Elections to reverse the decision of the Newport Canvassing Authority to close the Park Holm Senior Center polling place in precinct 2109 and move the location to the Pell Elementary School in precinct 2102 for the November 3rd election.

As an experienced poll worker, I understand the close proximity of folks in these polling places and that we must adjust due to COVID19. But I fail to see why Park Holm is so much riskier than any other polling location. In fact, it may be safer as Park Holm has been empty – closed for months – whereas Pell School has students and teachers in it every day. We should be opening ADDITIONAL polling places, not forcing two or even three precincts to consolidate into one. We've been operating with Covid now for 6+ months and everyone understands how to social distance and is amenable to wearing a mask. First Ward residents are telling us that it is more important TO THEM to have the location open... and yet, the Canvassing Board has taken the position that they are right, they know best, and they will not be insulted by anyone accusing them of suppressing the votes of First Ward residents in Newport. I can't imagine another reason, beyond their complete unwillingness to "be wrong." Ego? Either way, they refuse to listen to the voices of the voters in that neighborhood. And that is wrong.

Across the country, white people in power are beginning to wake up to the inequities and inherent biases present in the existing systems of a white supremacist culture - including elections and their accessibility. Long lines and wait times in primarily minority districts is evidence of such bias, ongoing today. Many white people in power are working to assure that all people – including people in lower income brackets, people who work in low paying service jobs, people with disabilities, and people with brown and black skin colors – are served equitably, with dignity, fairness and equal opportunity. There are white people working daily to use their power and privilege to ensure that those with less power and privilege are afforded the same rights and opportunities. The right to vote without barriers is such a right.

I simply do not understand why the Newport Board of Canvassers won't use their power to assure that First Ward residents – some of the most vulnerable and least affluent citizens of Newport – are able to vote in the easiest, most familiar, most accessible way possible. I do not understand why, beyond a lack of will, sheer ego, or worse – voter suppression, the Newport Board or Canvassers would not work for the benefit of those with less power, and make it easier – not more difficult or complicated – to vote??

I ask you at the RI Board of Elections to join the rest of the people in power positions across the country, who are waking up and acknowledging the white supremacist systems in our country, in our state, and in the City of Newport. Friday morning, please do what's right and make the system equitable for everyone. Insist that Park Holm Senior Center stay open for voting.

Respectfully
Holly Fisher
Newport, RI

5a
OBT #5

Nelson, Tracy

From: Holly Fisher <hollyfish@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 12:24 PM
To: Nelson, Tracy
Subject: Park Holm closure

Hi Tracy,

I'm writing to express my dismay at the closure of the Park Holm Senior Center as a polling place for the November 3rd election. As a poll worker at two elections, I do understand the close proximity of folks in these polling places and I get that we have to adjust because of COVID19. But I fail to see why Park Holm is so much riskier than any other polling locations. Given that we've been operating with Covid now for 6 months and everyone understands how to social distance and is amenable to wearing a mask, the only conclusion I can make is that the Board of Canvassers either doesn't care about, or is intentionally working to suppress the votes of First Ward residents.

Across the country, white people in power (such as yourself and the rest of the Board of Canvassers) are beginning to wake up to the inequities and inherent biases present in the existing systems of a white supremacist culture - including elections and their accessibility. Many white people in power are working to assure that all people - including people in lower income brackets, people who work in low paying service jobs, people with disabilities, and people with brown and black skin colors - are served equitably, with dignity, fairness and equal opportunity. There are white people in power who are going out of their way to be sure that they use their power and privilege to ensure that those with less power and privilege are afforded the same rights and opportunities. The right to vote without barriers is such a right.

WHY wouldn't you and the Newport Board of Canvassers use YOUR power to assure that First Ward residents - some of the most vulnerable and least affluent citizens of Newport - are able to vote in the easiest, most familiar, most accessible way possible? WHY are you insisting on potentially disenfranchising so many in the most important election of our lifetimes when you have the power to make Park Holm safe and accessible to the voters who normally vote there? WHY, beyond a lack of will or voter suppression, would you not use your power for the benefit of those with less of it and make it easier - not more difficult or complicated - to vote??

I ask you to join the rest of the white people in power who are waking up and acknowledging the white supremacist systems in our country, in our state, and in the City of Newport. Do what's right and make the system equitable for everyone. Open Park Holm for voting.

Respectfully,
Holly Fisher

5a
OBT #19

Nelson, Tracy

From: Jackie Henderson <jackiehendersondance@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 3:33 PM
To: Nelson, Tracy
Subject: Closing park holm for voting

I am writing to voice my opposition to the decision to close the Park Holm senior center polling venue. This is an unfair decision for the voters who live in that area. I hope that you choose to keep the polling center open to maintain the convenience for the citizens in that community.
Jackie Henderson.

Sent from my iPhone

Rapoza, Robert (BOE)

From: Judy Hayes <judyryderhayes@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 7:50 PM
To: BOE.Elections; elections@sos.ri.gov; Rapoza, Robert (BOE)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Newport RI Board of Canvassers voted to close polling place today

Dear Madam/Sir,

I was made aware yesterday that our Newport Board of Canvassers voted to close a polling place in a low income neighborhood citing Covid-19 as the reason.

There were 45 people on the zoom meeting today and 43 of them were in favor of keeping the Park Holm polling site open. There were over 20 emails in addition to the meeting attendees in favor of keeping the site open. Multiple people spoke to the CDC guidelines, voter suppression/disenfranchisement issues, and the benefits of this particular site. Unfortunately, we were only able to convince one (Maxine Shavers) of the three to change their vote. David Roderick and Donato Andre D'Andrea refused to reconsider. They spoke of how insulted they were that voters chastised their decision.

Please let them know that this is not about them or their feelings. This is about our democracy vs. voter suppression. If you have the time, please let them know that they need to revisit, review, and reject this horrible decision to close a polling site 3 weeks before this important election. Their constituents tried but they failed to listen.

Thank you for your help and immediate attention to this!

Sincerely,

Judy Hayes

6 County St

Newport, RI 02840

Chatelle, Patricia (BOE)

From: Karen Conway <kcartgeek@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 10:02 PM
To: Chatelle, Patricia (BOE)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Park Holm

Dear Ms. Chatelle,

It's so important that we do not close the park home polling center. That place above all should be revered and protected. I would like to join the zoom meeting tomorrow morning please.

Best regards,
Karen Conway
33 Russell Ave

5a

Nelson, Tracy

From: Dunn, Kathleen
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 11:25 AM
To: 'Donato D'Andrea'
Cc: David Roderick (DaveR41@cox.net); Nicholson, Joseph; Nelson, Tracy; Shevlin, Thomas; Jamie Bova External; Susan Taylor; Lynn Ceglie; Jeanne-Marie Napolitano; Angela McCalla; Kathryn E. Leonard (kateleonar@icloud.com); McLaughlin, Justin; Galvin, Girard; girard@galvinlawri.com; Fay, Pat; Crichton, Sam; Behan, Christopher; cjbehan@behanlaw.net
Subject: RE: Park Holm Polling Location

Sent on behalf of Solicitor Behan:

The decision is for the Canvassing Board to make at this time. I have provided you with the guidelines I believe should be addressed. It is not up to either myself or the Board of Elections to make the decision for you. I would say however that unless Park Holm poses a clear and distinct danger over other polling locations in terms of COVID-19 exposure, then it would be my opinion that Park Holm should be open.

Christopher J. Behan, Esq.
City Solicitor

From: Donato D'Andrea <kofc256@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2020 4:45 PM
To: Dunn, Kathleen <kdunn@CityofNewport.com>
Cc: David Roderick (DaveR41@cox.net) <DaveR41@cox.net>; Nicholson, Joseph <jnicholson@cityofnewport.com>; Nelson, Tracy <tnelson@CityofNewport.com>; Shevlin, Thomas <tshevlin@CityofNewport.com>; Jamie Bova External <jamie@jamiebova.com>; Susan Taylor <st@susandouglastaylor.com>; Lynn Ceglie <ceglie2ndward@gmail.com>; Jeanne-Marie Napolitano <jeannenapolitano45@gmail.com>; Angela McCalla <amccalla2019@gmail.com>; Kathryn E. Leonard (kateleonar@icloud.com) <kateleonar@icloud.com>; McLaughlin, Justin <justin-at-large@cox.net>; Galvin, Girard <ggalvin@CityofNewport.com>; girard@galvinlawri.com; Fay, Pat <pfay@cityofnewport.com>; Crichton, Sam <scrughton@CityofNewport.com>
Subject: Re: Park Holm Polling Location

I cannot determine from the memo whether the solicitor is advising the board to open the site. Please advise.

Andre

Sent from my iPad

On Oct 8, 2020, at 3:52 PM, Dunn, Kathleen <kdunn@CityofNewport.com> wrote:

Good Afternoon,
Attached please find Memo from Solicitor Behan regarding the above matter. I have mailed a copy to Ms. Shavers at her home address as she does not have email.
Best Regards,
Kathi

Louise Ruggeri
35 Almy Street
Newport, RI 02840
October 15, 2020

The State of Rhode Island Board of Elections
200 Plainfield Pike
Cranston, RI 02921

Re: Precinct 2109, Park Holm Senior Center Polling Place

Board Members:

I am writing to object to the decision made by the Newport Canvassing Authority to close the Park Holm Senior Center in Newport precinct 2109 as a polling place on November 3rd.

During the Tuesday, October 13th (Zoom) meeting of the Newport Canvassing Authority, Chairperson David Roderick spent 15 minutes sharing his personal grievances about the public's dissatisfaction with his vote. It seemed to many of us that he was more concerned with his own feelings than those of the approximately 35 Newport residents who were also in attendance.

Once Roderick finished speaking, he and member Donato Andre D'Andrea pushed to make the vote while ignoring the attendees with "raised hands" in the meeting. Roderick claimed he could not see them. It was only because someone spoke out of turn and pointed this out that residents were given a chance to speak.

About a dozen Newport residents were finally able to voice their opinion, including Mayor Jaime Bova. All were in strong opposition to the closure. I hope that you will take time to watch the full meeting, and to also read the letters submitted to the Newport Canvassing Authority.

I believe that closing a polling place at this late juncture will cause confusion and frustration for voters in this area and could result in longer lines at other polling places. Many in this area have mobility and transportation issues that will make it difficult for them to go to an alternative site. I lived in this area in my childhood, and my father worked for the Housing Authority as the Park Holm manager for 40 years. I know the area and its residents well.

Voting on election should not be confusing or frustrating to anyone. Please overturn the decision made by the Newport Canvassing Authority to close the Park Holm Senior Center.

Sincerely,



-Louise Ruggeri

5a
OBJ #18

Nelson, Tracy

From: Latisha Michel <tisham79@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Nelson, Tracy
Subject: Voting Poll Concern

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of Newport and I would like to submit my heart for what is happening with the voting polls.

I don't agree with the locations being rearranged in such a short period of time. This does not allow ALL residents to be informed in enough time. I am also concerned for those that have transportation and physical limitations. I don't feel this change has been considered for ALL residents and is very disheartening.

Concerned resident,
Latisha Michel
Community Organizer
(401)855-6102
tisham79@gmail.com

Chatelle, Patricia (BOE)

From: Leppy Mccarthy <leppy02840@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 2:05 PM
To: Chatelle, Patricia (BOE)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Park Holm Poll closing

I hope this email gets to you in time to be counted . Please help us keep Park Holm open . We have the poll workers ,and we have the money for the police detail . Using Covid as an excuse for closing is absurd . Waiting outside is preferable to waiting outside . Closing this place will force more waiting at the Pell school. This place to vote is in a neighborhood where many people rely on public transportation, which in our fair city is limited at best , and historically unreliable. Closing a polling place is I'm sure not what anyone wants to do ,but to choose one in a neighborhood that represents many lower income older adults who don't own cars is real slap in the face. I was pleased to see that 1 member of our canvassing authority changed their mind after listening to objections to the closing of one of our polling places . I hope your board can decide to keep Park Holm polling place open .

A 1st ward voter thanks you ,

S Leppy McCarthy
72 Warner St
Newport RI 02840

Leppy standing by

Rapoza, Robert (BOE)

From: Hernandez, Enmanuel (BOE)
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 7:34 PM
To: Rapoza, Robert (BOE); BOE.Elections; Nunez, Miguel (BOE)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] : Park Holm Senior Center polling station.

Fyi,
Another 1

From: Clare Woodhead <cwoodhead74@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 4:12 PM
To: BOE.Elections <boe.elections@elections.ri.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Park Holm Senior Center polling station.

To whom it may concern,

I write to make a formal complaint about the decision made to close the Park Holm Senior Center polling station in Newport, RI.

Listening to the decisions made to close the polling station at Park Holm, I was appalled by the nature of the decisions that seemed uniformed and devoid of any consultation with first ward residents. Here's why the decision should be overturned:

- 1) Concerns about Covid are valid, so it makes sense to keep **ALL** polling stations open to distribute voters as widely as possible rather than closing a station and forcing people to travel further and crowd into fewer polling stations.
- 2) Everyone is very well practised by now with social distancing, masks, sanitizer etc, and realize that the process will require certain restrictions, fewer people in the building, patience and acceptance.
- 3) Closing the Park Hom Senior Center polling station is a particularly pernicious way to disenfranchise voters of color and those of differing incomes and physical abilities.
- 4) Closing polling places has a cascading effect, leading to long lines at other polling places, transportation hurdles, and other forms of in-person help.
- 5) Closing polling places causes mass confusion about where eligible voters may cast their ballot. For many people, and particularly for voters of color, older voters, and voters with disabilities, these burdens make it harder — and sometimes impossible — to vote.
- 6) Whether the intention to suppress voters was there or not, that is how it landed for many people and that is the **impact** it is having. Knowing this, to then continue moving forward with closing Park Holm Senior Center, would reinforce this.
- 7) We must protect voters from racial and classist discrimination and this must be a top priority for the Board of Canvassers.

Please be on the right side of history as we navigate this difficult time. I formally request that the Board of Canvassers reopen the Park Holm Senior Center as a polling station for the November election.

Sincerely,
Clare Woodhead
Newport resident

5a
OBJ #4

Nelson, Tracy

From: Clare Woodhead <cwoodhead74@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 12:22 PM
To: Nelson, Tracy
Subject: Complaint to The Board of Canvassers

To whom it may concern,

I write to make a formal complaint about the decision made to close the Park Holm Senior Center polling station.

Listening to the decisions made to close the polling station at Park Holm, I was appalled by the nature of the decisions that seemed uninformed and devoid of any consultation with first ward residents. Here's why the decision should be overturned:

- 1) Concerns about Covid are valid, so it makes sense to keep **ALL** polling stations open to distribute voters as widely as possible rather than closing a station and forcing people to travel further and crowd into fewer polling stations.
- 2) Everyone is very well practised by now with social distancing, masks, sanitizer etc, and realize that the process will require certain restrictions, fewer people in the building, patience and acceptance.
- 3) Closing the Park Hom Senior Center polling station is a particularly pernicious way to disenfranchise voters of color and those of differing incomes and physical abilities.
- 4) Closing polling places has a cascading effect, leading to long lines at other polling places, transportation hurdles, and other forms of in-person help.
- 5) Closing polling places causes mass confusion about where eligible voters may cast their ballot. For many people, and particularly for voters of color, older voters, and voters with disabilities, these burdens make it harder — and sometimes impossible — to vote.
- 6) Whether the intention to suppress voters was there or not, that is how it landed for many people and that is the **impact** it is having. Knowing this, to then continue moving forward with closing Park Holm Senior Center, would reinforce this.
- 7) We must protect voters from racial and classist discrimination and this must be a top priority for the Board of Canvassers.

Please be on the right side of history as we navigate this difficult time. I formally request that the Board of Canvassers reopen the Park Holm Senior Center as a polling station for the November election.

Sincerely,
Clare Woodhead
Newport resident

Nelson, Tracy

5a
OBJ #1

From: Maggie Martin <mags02840@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 8:12 AM
To: Nelson, Tracy
Cc: City Manager; jbova@cityofnewport.com; Taylor, Susan D.; jnapalitano@cityofnewport.com; McLaughlin, Justin; McCalla, Angela; Ceglie, Lynn; Kathryn Leonard; robert.rapoza@elections.ri.gov
Subject: Complaint to the Newport Canvassing Authority

Good Morning,

I am a registered voter in Newport, my polling place is Pell School and my Precinct is 2102. I have been following the on-going news regarding the closing of polling places in Newport due to the pandemic.

I am writing this email to state my complaint regarding the handling the closing of the Park Holm Senior Center (PHSC).

At the October 1, 2020 meeting of the Newport Canvassing Board, it was agreed that Donovan Manor would be shut down and that Edward King House would be used for voting in Precinct 2105. It was also agreed to combine Precinct 2103 (St. Peter's Church) with Precinct 2102 (Pell School). Both Donovan Manor and St. Peter's notified the City that they would not be able to offer polling places for the General Election due to concerns about COVID. The last polling place to be discussed was the Park Holm Senior Center that is part of the Newport Housing Authority. Charles Laranjo, Chair of the Newport Housing Authority, addressed the Canvassing Authority stating that the Newport Housing Authority would be happy to open up the Park Holm Senior Center. The Canvassing Authority refused to open the Park Holm Senior Center and they combined that precinct with Precinct 2102 (Pell School).

The following day, the RI Board of Elections met to approve changes in polling places throughout Rhode Island, mainly due to COVID. The RI Board of Elections was very concerned about the projected number of live voting on Election Day and the shutting down of multiple polling places. A Motion was made and passed that the local Board of Canvassers needed to reopen polling places or find additional polling places. The motion also discouraged combining polling places.

On 10/7/2020, at 11:30 a.m., the Newport Board of Canvassers met again to discuss the new mandate from the RI Board of Elections and make a final decision regarding polling places and submit those decisions to the Board of Elections no later than 12:00 p.m. The first change that occurred was that St. Peter's Church (2103), had notified the City's Canvassing department that the church could be used for the General Election. The board quickly made a motion and unanimously voted to move Precinct 2103 back to St. Peter's Church. There was no discussion regarding the size of St. Peter's nor was there any discussion of high risk for the poll workers or voters due to potentially contracting COVID.

The Canvassing Authority then unanimously approved that Precinct 2105 (usually voting at Donovan Manor) would move voters to the Edward King House. Again, there was no discussion about the size or COVID related risk of the Edward King House.

The next item was the opening of Park Holm Senior Center (PHSC). The single reason that PHSC would not be opened, according to David Roderick and Donato D 'Andrea was the "health and safety" of the voters because of COVID. David Roderick, Chair of the Authority, said that the members of the Authority felt that it was not safe to open that poll due to its small size and only one entrance in and out. Note: Pell School has one entrance. After a lengthy discussion, the public was allowed to speak and advocate for the opening of the PHSC. Charles Laranjo, Chair of the Board of the Housing Authority, again told the Authority that the site was available and that it was important to be opened. Other members of the public also urged the Canvassing Authority to reconsider the opening of PHSC, myself included.

To the best of my knowledge, no medical team has reviewed the Park Holm Senior Center or any other polling place in Newport to determine risk of COVID.

I am writing this email to ask the Canvassing Authority to reconsider the opening of the Park Holm Senior Center. If the Center is not opened, then I would ask that every polling place in Newport be reviewed by a team of the RI Department of Health to determine the high level of risk of contacting COVID in our polling places.

Margaret (Maggie) Martin
48 Admiral Kalbfus Road
Newport, RI 02840
401-787-1934

5a
OBJ #7

Nelson, Tracy

From: Marissa Caito <marissa.caito@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 1:06 PM
To: Nelson, Tracy
Subject: Closing of Park Holm polling location

Hi Tracy,

I am writing you regarding the closing of the polling location at Park Holm Senior Center. Closing this polling location directly effects marginalized and lower income voters in our community. This community makes up the largest population of POC in our city. Voters who may not have transportation to a different polling location. Voters that desperately need their voices heard in our community.

I think it is disgraceful that the city decided this was the ONE polling location that would not be open on Election Day. The closing of this location looks like a blatant attempt at voter suppression. I am outraged that with everything going on in the United States with Black Lives Matter and general civil unrest, that our city has chosen to ignore and suppress a vital part of our community.

I hope that this letter, along with the many other letters I'm sure you are receiving about this issue, convince the city to reconsider the decision to close the polling location at Park Holm Senior Center.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my concerns as a resident of Newport.

Sincerely,

Marissa Caito

Da #2
OBJ

Nelson, Tracy

From: Nelson, Tracy
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 11:59 AM
To: Natalie Harris
Subject: RE: Last BOC meeting
Attachments: 2020-10-13 Agenda.docx

Natalie,

Rex is correct. Complaints/objections to the Canvassing Authority's decision can be submitted in writing to me and I will distribute them to the membership. That was the reason for my reply; to confirm that was your intention. I was not 100% sure because the email was addressed to me personally and did not ask for consideration by the BOC. Per your email immediately below, I will include your correspondence as an objection to the decision rendered by the BOC on 10/7/2020 relative to Parkholm Senior Center as the polling location for Precinct 2109. I have attached the agenda for Tuesday's meeting. You are welcome to attend.

Thank you.

Tracy A. Nelson, CMC
Canvassing Clerk/Elections Administrator
City of Newport, Rhode Island
(401) 845-5384



From: Natalie Harris <nharris@wrcnbc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 11:52 AM
To: Nelson, Tracy <tnelson@CityofNewport.com>
Subject: Re: Last BOC meeting

Thank you for the clarification. I was told by Rex Lebeau that complaints about the last meeting could be sent to you! Sorry for the misunderstanding! It will not happen again. All the best

On Fri, Oct 9, 2020 at 11:45 AM Nelson, Tracy <tnelson@cityofnewport.com> wrote:

Natalie,

Thank you for your correspondence, and your expression of appreciation. Other than that, I am not certain what the intent of your email is. I am the clerk of the Canvassing Authority and as such my role at their meetings is to observe

and take minutes. I am also there to answer questions that are directed to me. I did not have a vote nor did I offer any opinions or recommendations relative to the use of Parkholm as it is not my decision to make.

If this email is intended to be an objection to the Canvassing Authority's 10/7 decision; and you wish for it to be considered at the 10/13 meeting, please confirm via return email. Upon receipt, I will confirm inclusion in the packet for the BOC meeting.

Thank you.

Regards,

Tracy A. Nelson, CMC

Canvassing Clerk/Elections Administrator

City of Newport, Rhode Island

(401) 845-5384



From: Natalie Harris <nharris@wrcnbc.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 11:31 AM
To: Nelson, Tracy <tnelson@CityofNewport.com>
Subject: Last BOC meeting

Hi Tracy

Thanks for your help it is much appreciated. I'm not going to sugar coat my feelings about the last meeting that was held on Wednesday! The outcome was definitely surprising! I'm a resident of the community that was up for discussion and this is the main reason why the North End residents don't participate in meetings. If our opinions don't count why speak up or be present? We all was told that the meeting was public and that the vote was not ours! I find this very

offensive! And to be very honest This is voter suppression at it's finest period point blank and I don't care who I offended by stating that FACT!

Thanks for your time

5a
OBJ # 10

Nelson, Tracy

From: Sankofa Community Connection <info@sankofanewport.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Nelson, Tracy
Subject: Board of Canvassers

Dear Board of Canvassers,

It is the right of every American to have the opportunity to vote. I am dismayed to find out that there is a possibility of the Park Holm Senior Center is at risk of closing as a polling location.

This location is at the heart of the community, This location has been the community's polling place for years. Why take away the opportunity for people to cast their votes and have their voices heard especially at such an important time as now?

The particular community that uses that space is more civically engaged than before, please don't take that opportunity away from them.

Sincerely,

A concerned Newporter

J. Niko Merritt

--
J. Niko Merritt
Founding Executive Director



Sankofa Community Connection
website: www.SankofaNewport.org
email: info@SankofaNewport.org

5a
03-15

Nelson, Tracy

From: Nycole Matthews <nmatthews@bgcnewport.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 3:09 PM
To: Nelson, Tracy
Subject: Park Holm Polling Place Closure

To Whom it May Concern -

As a North End resident, I feel it is imperative for the health and safety of the community, as well as ease of voting for residents to keep the Park Holm Senior Center open as a polling place for this November's election.

During the last Canvassing Authority meeting, members of the community spoke out against closing the center - while one person in the committee did argue that moving the polling location to Pell would only be a matter of a few blocks difference in location, it needs to be understood that some people have mobility issues, and a few blocks may not be physically possible to navigate. Residents have used this location to cast their votes for years and the space is more than adequate to continue to serve the needs of the community going out to vote.

Since this decision to close the Park Holm location has been made at the last possible minute, how would the public get notice in time of the location change?

Why is it that some people think it is unsafe to have voters inside the Senior Center (which has a minimum of 3 exits and enough space for people to distance themselves) but it is ok to cram more people into Pell School as an alternative?

I sincerely hope that the voices and votes of all residents are heard, and the best way to do that would be to have as many polling locations safely available as possible.

Thank you .

Nycole Matthews

(Intellection, Relater, Maximizer, Responsibility, Input)

AmeriCorps VISTA

Community Engagement.

Newport Working Cities, and

Boys & Girls Club of Newport County

nmatthews@bgcnewport.org

"If you get, give. If you learn, teach." - Maya Angelou

BR
OB# 18

Nelson, Tracy

From: Phyllis Mulligan <phyllis.mulligan@collegeunbound.org>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 3:05 PM
To: Nelson, Tracy
Subject: Closing of the Park Holm Senior center on Election Day.

Board of Canvassing members,

I am a resident of Park Holm and am writing you because the polling place at the Park Holm Senior center should remain open. This is an important Presidential election. Not to mention city council and school board seats. The inconvenience of the residents who vote at this location should be considered. If the Housing Authority is willing to open this location I see no reason not to utilize the space. There are four exits, front and back exits that can create a safe space entrance and exit strategy. There are many configurations of the needed equipment that will allow for safe distancing. People will be following the same guidelines as they do while going shopping, going to the doctor, going to work and school. I am also a member at the Park Holm Senior center, there will not be any people simply hanging around to interfere with the voting process. Each time I have voted at the Park Holm Senior center it was a smooth process. In and out, professionally handled. I see no reason to shut down a polling place where so many residents have used. It would discourage folks from voting which is in fact a form of voter suppression. They will give up and not even bother voting if the convince of voting at the usual polling place is closed.

Thank you for your time, Phyllis Mulligan 200 Park Holm

I am writing to appeal the decision of the Newport Canvassing Authority on October 13, 2020. At this meeting, the Canvassing Authority voted to keep closed the Park Holm Senior Center as a polling place for registered voters in Precinct 2109, and to move the voting location for that precinct to the Pell Elementary School School in Precinct 2102.

I am a registered voter in Precinct 2109.

The polling place at the Park Holm Senior center should remain open. This is an important Presidential election. Not to mention city council and school board seats. The inconvenience of the residents who vote at this location should be considered. If the Housing Authority is willing to open this location I see no reason not to utilize the space. There are four exits, front and back exits that can create a safe space entrance and exit strategy. There are many configurations of the needed equipment that will allow for safe distancing. People will be following the same guidelines as they do while going shopping, going to the doctor, going to work and school. I am also a member at the Park Holm Senior center, there will not be any people simply hanging around to interfere with the voting process. Each time I have voted at the Park Holm Senior center it was a smooth process. In and out, professionally handled. I see no reason to shut down a polling place where so many residents have used it. It would discourage folks from voting which is in fact a form of voter suppression. They will give up and not even bother voting if the convenience of voting at the usual polling place is closed.

If the Health Equity Zone is prepared to keep the space safe by supplying masks, and tents. I do not see the problem with this site remaining open for the residents. The Health Equity Zone is aware of the COVID - 19 guidelines, It has been noted that closing a polling place will only add more people to the other polling places therefore creating a larger risk to workers and voters.

Thank you for your time, Phyllis Mulligan 200 Park Holm

Rapoza, Robert (BOE)

From: Rex LeBeau <rlebeau@wrcnbc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 9:02 PM
To: BOE.Elections; Rapoza, Robert (BOE); dmederos@ebcdc.org
Cc: Jessica Walsh; Jazmine Wray
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : complaint about closure of Park Holm Senior Center
Attachments: Board_of_Elections_letter_13Oct2020.pdf

To the RI Board of Elections:

How are you? Attached is a complaint from the Newport Health Equity Zone in regards to the decision upheld today by the Newport Board of Canvassers to close the Park Holm Senior Center polling location on Election Day. We oppose the closure and request a hearing. Thanks very much,

--

Rex LeBeau

Newport Health Equity Zone - strategy specialist | Women's Resource Center

Pronouns: They/Them [Why pronouns matter \[mypronouns.org\]](http://mypronouns.org)

114 Touro Street, Newport, RI 02840 [\[maps.google.com\]](https://maps.google.com) | 624 Main Street, Warren, RI 02885 [\[maps.google.com\]](https://maps.google.com)

Office: [\(401\) 236.8344](tel:(401)236.8344) | Direct: [\(401\) 856.4394](tel:(401)856.4394) | Fax: [\(401\) 848.0910](tel:(401)848.0910) | Cell: [\(401\) 595.9068](tel:(401)595.9068)

Connect with us: [Website \[wrcnbc.org\]](http://wrcnbc.org) | [Facebook \[facebook.com\]](https://facebook.com) | [Twitter \[twitter.com\]](https://twitter.com) | [LinkedIn \[linkedin.com\]](https://linkedin.com) | [Instagram \[instagram.com\]](https://instagram.com)



Women's Resource Center

"Working with our community to end domestic violence."

This communication (including any attachments) may contain privileged or confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose, and is protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, you should delete this communication and/or shred the materials and any attachments and are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, or distribution of this communication, or the taking of any action based on it, is strictly prohibited. Thank you.



October 13, 2020

Board of Elections
2000 Plainfield Pike
Suite A
Cranston, RI 02921

To the Rhode Island Board of Elections:

We are writing to you today because of our concern about the revisited decision by the Newport Board of Canvassers on Oct 13th to maintain the closure of the Park Holm Senior Center as a polling location and consolidate those voters with the Pell Elementary School polling place. We believe this will have a negative impact on voter access in the upcoming presidential election on Nov. 3rd. Attached to this letter you will find the two letters the Newport Health Equity Zone submitted to the Newport Board of Canvassers on the issue.

The Newport Health Equity Zone is a place-based, resident-led collaborative that helps to make Newport a city where everyone can thrive. Our focus is on the North End and Off-Broadway neighborhoods. We apply a racial-equity lens to all our work. We value long-term policy and advocacy solutions to health disparities and we believe civic engagement and voting are lasting ways to achieve those goals.

Closing the Park Holm Senior Center polling location would disproportionately affect low-income residents, Black people and other people of color, seniors, and disabled people living in or near this polling location, particularly in subsidized housing. These residents have already experienced historical marginalization in voting access, as well as current barriers such as limited transportation options. We feel the Board of Canvassers is not making an effort to accommodate and center the voters in this precinct.

At the Board of Canvassers meetings on Oct 7th and Oct 13th, all the public input pointed to the hardship closing Park Holm Senior Center would create. While COVID-19 safety issues were cited as the primary reason to close this polling location, the Board never referenced a written safety standard and the decision to close seems arbitrary since other Newport polling locations have similar cramped conditions and lack of indoor waiting space.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID safety guidelines for elections can be found online here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/election-polling-locations.html> The CDC recommends that the maximum number of polling locations be open and recommends against the consolidation of polling places. We do not believe the poll workers are any more unsafe in Park Holm Senior Center than the other polling locations. The Board of Canvassers has also made no effort to find another independent polling place for the voters of the Park Holm precinct, instead creating a more unsafe situation by asking these hundreds of voters to vote at the Pell



NEWPORT
HEALTH EQUITY
ZONE

Elementary School polling location. Closing Park Holm Senior Center is not worth creating difficulty and confusion to the hundreds of voters within the affected precinct.

We understand that the current pandemic creates many safety challenges. Since the Newport Housing Authority is willing to open the Park Holm Senior Center and clean it to COVID-19 safety standards, we feel this polling location is best kept open so as to provide the best service to residents voting November 3rd.

The Newport Health Equity Zone made it very clear to the Newport Board of Canvassers that we have a stock of both cloth and disposable masks, as well as hand sanitizer, that we can make available to any polling locations in need. We can also provide popup tents as shelter for any voters waiting in line outside the Park Holm Senior Center. We can provide box fans if air circulation is needed inside that location. Our offers to help were not considered.

We ask that the RI Board of Elections help make the voting process smoother and safer for residents of the North End neighborhoods by holding a hearing to overrule the Newport Board of Canvassers' decision and open the Park Holm Senior Center as a polling location Nov 3rd.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rex LeBeau".

Rex LeBeau
Strategy Specialist
On behalf of the Newport Health Equity Zone



October 9, 2020

Board of Canvassers
City of Newport
43 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840

To the Newport Board of Canvassers:

We are writing to you today because of our concern about the decision made by the Board of Canvassers on Oct 7th to close the Park Holm Senior Center as a polling location. We believe this will have a negative impact on voter access in the upcoming presidential election on Nov. 3rd. Some members were not able to read our letter submitted on Oct 6th before the meeting occurred and it is also attached below.

The Newport Health Equity Zone is a place-based, resident-led collaborative that helps to make Newport a city where everyone can thrive. Our focus is on the North End and Off-Broadway neighborhoods. We apply a racial-equity lens to all our work. We value long-term policy and advocacy solutions to health disparities and we believe civic engagement and voting are lasting ways to achieve those goals.

Closing the Park Holm Senior Center polling location would disproportionately affect low-income residents, Black people and other people of color, seniors, and disabled people living in or near those polling locations, particularly in subsidized housing. These residents have already experienced historical marginalization in voting access, as well as current barriers such as limited transportation options. We feel it is imperative that the Board of Canvassers make every effort to accommodate and center the voters in these precincts.

At the Board of Canvassers meeting on Oct 7th, all the public input pointed to the hardship closing Park Holm Senior Center would create. While COVID-19 safety issues were cited as the primary reason to close this polling location, the Board never referenced a safety standard and the decision to close seems arbitrary since other Newport polling locations have similar cramped conditions. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID safety guidelines for elections can be found online here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/election-polling-locations.html> The CDC recommends that the maximum number of polling locations be open and recommends against the consolidation of polling places. We do not believe the poll workers are any more unsafe in Park Holm Senior Center than the other polling locations. Closing is not worth creating difficulty and confusion to the hundreds of voters within the affected precinct.

We understand that the current pandemic creates many safety challenges. Since the Newport Housing Authority is willing to open the Park Holm Senior Center and clean it to COVID-19 safety standards, we feel this polling location is best kept open so as to provide the best service to residents voting November 3rd.



The Newport Health Equity Zone has a stock of both cloth and disposable masks, as well as hand sanitizer, that we can make available to any polling locations in need. We can also provide popup tents as shelter for any voters waiting in line outside the Park Holm Senior Center. We can provide box fans if air circulation is needed inside that location. Please reach out if we can help make the voting process smoother and safer for residents of the North End neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rex LeBeau".

Rex LeBeau
Strategy Specialist
On behalf of the Newport Health Equity Zone



October 6, 2020

Board of Canvassers
City of Newport
43 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840

To the Newport Board of Canvassers:

We are writing to you today because of our concerns about proposed changes in polling locations and their potential negative impact on voter access in the upcoming presidential election on Nov. 3. The Newport Health Equity Zone is a place-based, resident-led collaborative that helps to make Newport a city where everyone can thrive. Our focus is on the North End and Off-Broadway neighborhoods. We apply a racial-equity lens to all our work. We value long-term policy and advocacy solutions to health disparities and we believe civic engagement and voting are lasting ways to achieve those goals.

We are very concerned about the potential closure of the Park Holm Senior Center and Donovan Manor polling locations. These changes would disproportionately affect low-income residents, Black people and other people of color, seniors, and disabled people living in or near those polling locations, particularly in subsidized housing. These residents have already experienced historical marginalization in voting access, as well as current barriers such as limited transportation options. We feel it is imperative that the Board of Canvassers make every effort to accommodate the voters in these precincts.

We understand that the current pandemic creates many safety challenges. Since the Newport Housing Authority is willing to open the Park Holm Senior Center and clean it to COVID-19 safety standards, we feel this polling location is best kept open so as to provide the best service to residents voting November 3rd.

If the Donovan Manor polling location is not able to be a safe voting location in regards to COVID-19, and if moving the site to the Edward King House is the only solution the Board of Canvassers can implement, we hope to see a high level of communication and support to the affected residents around this change. We hope to see a mailer to residents explaining the change in polling location and ways to find a ride to the polls.

The Newport Health Equity Zone has a stock of both cloth and disposable masks that we can make available to any polling locations in need. Please reach out if we can help make the voting process smoother for residents of the North End and Off-Broadway neighborhoods.

Sincerely,



Rex LeBeau

Rex LeBeau
Strategy Specialist
On behalf of the Newport Health Equity Zone

error, please notify the sender immediately by telephone or email and destroy the original message without making a copy. Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rex LeBeau** <rlebeau@wrcnbc.org>
Date: Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 2:36 PM
Subject: Re: Board of Elections to decide on Park Holm closure
To: Newport HEZ <newport-hez@wrcnbc.org>

UPDATE:

The Board of Elections is meeting on Friday at 10am on Zoom. Agenda attached. Please submit all complaints and requests to appeal the decision by **tomorrow morning**. You can email Patricia.Chatelle@elections.ri.gov or the boe.elections@elections.ri.gov

Please forward to your working groups and spread the word.

On Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 12:58 PM Rex LeBeau <rlebeau@wrcnbc.org> wrote:

Hi everyone,

Yesterday, the Newport Board of Canvassers voted 2-1 to keep Park Holm Senior Center closed on Election Day. The decision is now in the hands of the RI State Board of Elections. You can read HEZ's attached complaint to the Board of Elections.

If you would like to submit a complaint, **email** boe.elections@elections.ri.gov **today or tomorrow**. They hope to hold the hearing on Friday to review the complaints. Please forward this info to your working groups.

To read more about what happened yesterday, here are some news stories. Residents did an amazing job submitting complaints and making statements during the meeting. All public input was against closure.

From The Public's Radio: <https://thepublicsradio.org/article/newport-canvassing-authority-plan-to-move-north-end-polling-place-raises-voter-access-questions> [linkprotect.cudasvc.com]

From the Newport Daily News: https://www.newportri.com/news/20201013/despite-numerous-objections--park-holm-polling-site-remains-closed-to-newport-voters?utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newport%20Daily%20News%20daily%202020-10-14&utm_content=NOMX_NRI&utm_term=101420 [linkprotect.cudasvc.com]

--
Rex LeBeau

Newport Health Equity Zone - strategy specialist | Women's Resource Center

Pronouns: They/Them [Why pronouns matter](http://Why.pronouns.matter) [linkprotect.cudasvc.com]

114 Touro Street, Newport, RI 02840 [maps.google.com] | 624 Main Street, Warren, RI 02885 [maps.google.com]

Office: [maps.google.com](401) 236.8344 | Direct: (401) 856.4394 | Fax: (401) 848.0910 | Cell: (401) 595.9068

Connect with us: Website [linkprotect.cudasvc.com] | Facebook [facebook.com] | Twitter [twitter.com] | LinkedIn [linkedin.com] | Instagram [linkprotect.cudasvc.com]



"Working with our community to end domestic violence."

This communication (including any attachments) may contain privileged or confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose, and is protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, you should delete this communication and/or shred the materials and any attachments and are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, or distribution of this communication, or the taking of any action based on it, is strictly prohibited. Thank you.

--

Rex LeBeau

Newport Health Equity Zone - strategy specialist | Women's Resource Center

Pronouns: They/Them [Why pronouns matter \[linkprotect.cudasvc.com\]](#)

114 Touro Street, Newport, RI 02840 [\[maps.google.com\]](#) | 624 Main Street, Warren, RI 02885 [\[maps.google.com\]](#)

Office: [\[maps.google.com\]\(401\) 236.8344](#) | Direct: (401) 856.4394 | Fax: (401) 848.0910 | Cell: (401) 595.9068

Connect with us: [Website \[linkprotect.cudasvc.com\]](#) | [Facebook \[facebook.com\]](#) | [Twitter \[twitter.com\]](#) | [LinkedIn \[linkedin.com\]](#) | [Instagram \[linkprotect.cudasvc.com\]](#)



Women's Resource Center

"Working with our community to end domestic violence."

This communication (including any attachments) may contain privileged or confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose, and is protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, you should delete this communication and/or shred the materials and any attachments and are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, or distribution of this communication, or the taking of any action based on it, is strictly prohibited. Thank you.

--

Rex LeBeau

Newport Health Equity Zone - strategy specialist | Women's Resource Center

Pronouns: They/Them [Why pronouns matter \[linkprotect.cudasvc.com\]](#)

114 Touro Street, Newport, RI 02840 [\[maps.google.com\]](#) | 624 Main Street, Warren, RI 02885 [\[maps.google.com\]](#)

Office: [\[maps.google.com\]\(401\) 236.8344](#) | Direct: (401) 856.4394 | Fax: (401) 848.0910 | Cell: (401) 595.9068

Connect with us: [Website \[linkprotect.cudasvc.com\]](#) | [Facebook \[facebook.com\]](#) | [Twitter \[twitter.com\]](#) | [LinkedIn \[linkedin.com\]](#) | [Instagram \[linkprotect.cudasvc.com\]](#)



Women's Resource Center

"Working with our community to end domestic violence."

This communication (including any attachments) may contain privileged or confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose, and is protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, you should delete this communication and/or shred the materials and any attachments and are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, or distribution of this communication, or the taking of any action based on it, is strictly prohibited. Thank you.



50
OBT 14

October 9, 2020

Board of Canvassers
City of Newport
43 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840

To the Newport Board of Canvassers:

We are writing to you today because of our concern about the decision made by the Board of Canvassers on Oct 7th to close the Park Holm Senior Center as a polling location. We believe this will have a negative impact on voter access in the upcoming presidential election on Nov. 3rd. Some members were not able to read our letter submitted on Oct 6th before the meeting occurred and it is also attached below.

The Newport Health Equity Zone is a place-based, resident-led collaborative that helps to make Newport a city where everyone can thrive. Our focus is on the North End and Off-Broadway neighborhoods. We apply a racial-equity lens to all our work. We value long-term policy and advocacy solutions to health disparities and we believe civic engagement and voting are lasting ways to achieve those goals.

Closing the Park Holm Senior Center polling location would disproportionately affect low-income residents, Black people and other people of color, seniors, and disabled people living in or near those polling locations, particularly in subsidized housing. These residents have already experienced historical marginalization in voting access, as well as current barriers such as limited transportation options. We feel it is imperative that the Board of Canvassers make every effort to accommodate and center the voters in these precincts.

At the Board of Canvassers meeting on Oct 7th, all the public input pointed to the hardship closing Park Holm Senior Center would create. While COVID-19 safety issues were cited as the primary reason to close this polling location, the Board never referenced a safety standard and the decision to close seems arbitrary since other Newport polling locations have similar cramped conditions. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID safety guidelines for elections can be found online here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/election-polling-locations.html> The CDC recommends that the maximum number of polling locations be open and recommends against the consolidation of polling places. We do not believe the poll workers are any more unsafe in Park Holm Senior Center than the other polling locations. Closing is not worth creating difficulty and confusion to the hundreds of voters within the affected precinct.

We understand that the current pandemic creates many safety challenges. Since the Newport Housing Authority is willing to open the Park Holm Senior Center and clean it to COVID-19 safety standards, we



feel this polling location is best kept open so as to provide the best service to residents voting November 3rd.

The Newport Health Equity Zone has a stock of both cloth and disposable masks, as well as hand sanitizer, that we can make available to any polling locations in need. We can also provide popup tents as shelter for any voters waiting in line outside the Park Holm Senior Center. We can provide box fans if air circulation is needed inside that location. Please reach out if we can help make the voting process smoother and safer for residents of the North End neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex LeBeau".

Rex LeBeau
Strategy Specialist

On behalf of the Newport Health Equity Zone



October 6, 2020

Board of Canvassers
City of Newport
43 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840

To the Newport Board of Canvassers:

We are writing to you today because of our concerns about proposed changes in polling locations and their potential negative impact on voter access in the upcoming presidential election on Nov. 3. The Newport Health Equity Zone is a place-based, resident-led collaborative that helps to make Newport a city where everyone can thrive. Our focus is on the North End and Off-Broadway neighborhoods. We apply a racial-equity lens to all our work. We value long-term policy and advocacy solutions to health disparities and we believe civic engagement and voting are lasting ways to achieve those goals.

We are very concerned about the potential closure of the Park Holm Senior Center and Donovan Manor polling locations. These changes would disproportionately affect low-income residents, Black people and other people of color, seniors, and disabled people living in or near those polling locations, particularly in subsidized housing. These residents have already experienced historical marginalization in voting access, as well as current barriers such as limited transportation options. We feel it is imperative that the Board of Canvassers make every effort to accommodate the voters in these precincts.

We understand that the current pandemic creates many safety challenges. Since the Newport Housing Authority is willing to open the Park Holm Senior Center and clean it to COVID-19 safety standards, we feel this polling location is best kept open so as to provide the best service to residents voting November 3rd.

If the Donovan Manor polling location is not able to be a safe voting location in regards to COVID-19, and if moving the site to the Edward King House is the only solution the Board of Canvassers can implement, we hope to see a high level of communication and support to the affected residents around this change. We hope to see a mailer to residents explaining the change in polling location and ways to find a ride to the polls.

The Newport Health Equity Zone has a stock of both cloth and disposable masks that we can make available to any polling locations in need. Please reach out if we can help make the voting process smoother for residents of the North End and Off-Broadway neighborhoods.

Sincerely,



NEWPORT
HEALTH EQUITY
ZONE

Rex LeBeau

Rex LeBeau
Strategy Specialist
On behalf of the Newport Health Equity Zone

Chatelle, Patricia (BOE)

From: Sue Lamond <stlamond@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 5:06 PM
To: Chatelle, Patricia (BOE); BOE.Elections
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Park Holm Newport Poll Site

Hello-

I am writing to say that I am against the closure of the Park Holm senior center in Newport for the November elections. As a poll worker, I am aware that this election is projected to have a large turnout and that every option available to citizens should be utilized.

The Park Holm site is in the North End which is in the midst of a once in a lifetime development and the voices of this neighborhood need to be heard. The Park Holm neighborhood has the majority of Newport's elderly voters, people of color and low income voters and it is crucial that these demographics have equal access to the polls in their own neighborhoods.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Susan LaMond
140 Broadway
Newport, RI

DA
OBJ 13

Nelson, Tracy

From: Sue McNally <sue@suemcnally.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 3:02 PM
To: Nelson, Tracy
Subject: Polling closing

To Whom It Concerns,

Please accept this official complaint regarding the closing of the polling location at Park holm.

The North end Neighborhood is physically isolated by Admiral Kalbfus, Connell Highway and West Main road making folks with transportation and mobility issues at a disadvantage to travel to far afield voting locations.

Park Holm is an easily accessible location and removing that polling place is a disservice to the community and the people that live in that area.

Sue McNally

Chatelle, Patricia (BOE)

From: Susan Barnes <susujbarnes@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 4:57 PM
To: Chatelle, Patricia (BOE)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] : Park Holm Senior Center as polling place

Dear people,

As a Newport resident, and a senior myself, I am dumbfounded by the decision not to offer the residents of Park Holm the opportunity to vote in their customary place. There is no excuse for this decision and it smacks of racism and ageism.

I implore you to reverse this decision.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Susan J. Barnes
45 Weaver Avenue
Newport

5a
IBJ #20

Nelson, Tracy

From: taryn.mazza@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 7:37 PM
To: Nelson, Tracy
Subject: Park Holm Closure

Hi Tracy,

I know there was a 4pm deadline today but I still wanted to voice my extreme Concern of the closing of the Park Holm polling location.

By closing this location, the BoC is not only doing a deep disservice to most of our BIPOC community, but it is blocking access to polls for a lot of our full time, deeply rooted community. There is no way the BoC can not know how much this will affect the community.

In a time of great panic and despair, when this election is more important than ever, this is an absolute disgrace.

Thank you,

Taryn Mazza

5a
OBJ # 9

Nelson, Tracy

From: William Kimes <kimes.william@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 1:25 PM
To: Nelson, Tracy; anna kimes
Subject: Park Holm Voters

Hello Tracy.

We have been told you are collecting concerns etc regarding the closing of the voter location in Park Holm. Voting is a fundamental right of a US citizen. A decision to change to access, in this manner, location and in this neighborhood, is worrisome. It appears that the Newport Housing Authority has indicated the location is acceptable.

Please include in communication with the chair that my wife and I, along with many voters, believe the location should remain open for our neighbors and remains available for voting in Park Holm.

Best,

William Kimes
Anna Kimes.

--
William Kimes