

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK



INEZ M. BROWN
CITY CLERK

August 21, 2020

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson
430 W. Allegan Street
Richard H. Austin Building, 4th Floor
Lansing, MI 48918
BensonJ4@michigan.gov

RE: Personal Protective Equipment Box Containing Voter Registration Applications and Additional Late Arrival of Absentee Ballot Applications Post August 4, 2020 Election from the Bureau of Elections

Dear Secretary of State Benson:

As you are aware, clerks across the country and the state of Michigan have a very important Presidential Election scheduled for November 3, 2020. My goal is to make sure that every absentee ballot application request received is processed immediately and every vote is counted. Therefore, we must address ongoing and unresolved issues that impact the November 2020 election.

Immediately after the August 4 Primary Election, the Flint City Clerk's Office received another box from the Department of State that was labeled as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). When my staff opened the box, it contained over a hundred voter registration applications.

On August 17, 2020, the Bureau of Elections (BOE) emailed my office two absentee application requests sent to the BOE that were dated June 16, 2020 and July 29, 2020. They were received by my office 13 days after the August primary election. The only explanation received from the BOE was that, "Unfortunately, the State mailroom gets sorted and backlogged pretty easily, so there has been some delay in receiving these. However, please do what you can with them now."

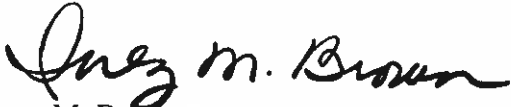
This, again, is unacceptable and we need a remedy. If this happens in November, the applicants' votes will not be counted for the Presidential Election. I am requesting that there be a solution to this mailroom back up. I would ask that additional staff be hired by the State to sort and get through the backlog immediately, and if AV ballot applications or voter registrations are found, that they be scanned and sent by email immediately to the Flint City Clerk's office at gboone@cityofflint.com. I would also request the same on behalf of all Clerks' offices throughout the State of Michigan.

Finally, I am asking for a written response outlining the process that the State will follow to remedy this

issue and that this communication be shared with my fellow Clerks' offices.

I look forward to receiving a response in advance of the November 3rd election.

Sincerely,



Inez M. Brown
City Clerk

cc: Monica Galloway, City Council President, 7th Ward
Maurice D. Davis, City Council Vice President, 2nd Ward
Eric Mays, 1st Ward Councilman
Santino J. Guerra, 3rd Ward Councilman
Kate Fields, 4th Ward Councilwoman
Jerri Winfrey-Carter, 5th Ward Councilwoman
Herbert J. Winfrey, 6th Ward Councilman
Allan Griggs, 8th Ward Councilman
Eva Worthing, 9th Ward Councilwoman
Mayor Sheldon A. Neeley
Clyde D. Edwards, City Administrator
Jim Ananich, State Senator
John Cherry, State Representative
Cynthia Neeley, State Representative
Tim Sneller, State Representative
Sheryl Kennedy, State Representative
Mark Totten, Chief Legal Counsel to Governor Whitmer
Mike Brady, Secretary of State Chief Legal Counsel