



FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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Count and Recount – But Still No Accountability

As noted by FBN, the Board of Elections and Ethics allowed the September 9 DC primary election veered off-course, something that also occurred in the now-distant February national primary. The BOEE September 24 deadline to certify the primary races came and went. And good government watchdog, Dorothy Brizill of DCWATCH.com, shared her observations of the Board's attempts to resolve the election night fiasco.

"Last week, BOEE's interim executive director, Sylvia Goldsberry-Adams, with the approval of the elections board, conducted what was billed as an 'audit' of the September election returns." She related that for two days, starting on September 18, Adams and BOEE staffers manually counted the paper ballots from four pre-selected precincts (13, 21, 22, and 44) of the District's 144 total. This manual count was compared with the totals reported from the election

night cartridges containing optically scanned paper ballots in those precincts.

The audit did not go smoothly. In Precinct 21, there were nineteen races (out of seventy total races) in which the manual count of the votes cast did not match the machine tabulations for those races, for a discrepancy rate of 27 percent. For all four sample precincts, the BOEE staff had to repeatedly recount the paper ballots (in the case of Precinct 13, more than ten recounts were done) in an effort to get manual results that approximated the optical machine count of those same paper ballots. As Brizill noted, "By the time I left BOEE's offices on Friday afternoon, votes were still being recounted manually."

The morning of "election certification day (September 24)," Brizill continues, "the DC BOEE held a public hearing for the purpose of certifying election results from the primary, pursuant to

DC Code. The meeting was especially significant since, prior to the hearing, the Board and its staff had refused to explain or respond to inquiries regarding the irregularities that occurred during the primary. This included thousands of write-in votes that were initially tabulated and reported at 9:35 p.m. on election night, but which had miraculously disappeared from the final returns reported by the Board at midnight."

Despite public concern, including citizens attending the hearing, the Board continued its stonewalling. Goldsberry-Adams asked the BOEE to postpone certifying the election results until a hand-tally was done of the paper votes that had been cast at the Ward 2 Reeves Center Precinct 141. This was the precinct where most of the phantom votes had appeared, supposedly as a result of one voting machine's malfunctioning cartridge. The Board authorized the hand tabulation but with the

counting still incomplete at 4:45 p.m., the recount was halted and the Board meeting was reconvened only to give a further extension of time, Brizill reported.

The recount recommenced Thursday morning, with certification scheduled for 2:00 p.m. During the reconvened afternoon meeting, Goldsberry-Adams tried to mislead the Board and the public by stating that the initial results of the recount of Precinct 141 showed a "match" with the returns reported by the Board on election night in at least ten of the election races. "However, Goldsberry-Adams failed to note that the 'match' was only among the results of the hand counts of the paper ballots done by three tabulators that afternoon, not between those hand counts and the election-night results reported by the precinct's touch-screen voting machine and optical scan machine that reads the paper ballots," Brizill concluded.

On Friday morning, the

BOEE declared the primary officially certified. FBN is at a loss to explain what the so-called "sample" recount has changed to make the results any more valid than they were on September 9. The BOEE has likewise failed to respond at any level to the other reported discrepancies and irregularities that occurred on primary day. Apparently the advocates of a "world class city" don't see that the BOEE is currently operating as a "third world agency"—one that has repeatedly failed the voters of DC, Ward 2 in particular.

It is critically important for our leaders to continue the reform of our city government, and to demand an immediate and full Ward 2 primary recount. It is clearly the appropriate and responsible civic action. This must include a total of all primary voter signatures in the register that is then reconciled with touch-screen and paper ballots. Anything less is meaningless. — FBN

SAVE THE DATE!

WED, OCT 1. – 6:30 TO 8:30 PM

THE FUTURE of the WEST END PUBLIC LIBRARY with the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) DISCUSSION at West End Library. Resident feedback is extremely important to this process.
West End Branch Library, 1101 24th Street, NW

OCTOBER 11 – 11:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
NEIGHBORHOOD CELEBRATION OF FOGGY BOTTOM OUTDOOR SCULPTURE EXHIBIT.

Come by foot or hop on the special trolley that will be circling the neighborhood from noon to 3 pm. (Look for Sculpture Exhibit Bus Stop signs.) Whether it is your 1st visit or your 10th, join the FBA for a fond send-off of our ground-breaking exhibition which closes on October 25.

11 AM – SCULPTOR-LED WALKING TOUR

Begin the tour at the corner of New Hampshire Avenue and I Street, NW with sculptor Sam Noto.

12 NOON TO 3 PM – TROLLEY TOUR.

Hop on and off (or not, as you prefer), the "Arts in Foggy Bottom" trolley circles the sculpture exhibit and neighborhood. Hear commentary by the curator, Shirley Koller, and several of the sculptors.

The trolley is wheel chair accessible.

For information regarding the day's events visit www.savefoggybottom.com

Special thanks to:

The Exhibit is a project of the Foggy Bottom Association. Generous support has been provided by the Foggy Bottom Association Defense and Improvement Corporation.

THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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The *Foggy Bottom News* is published by the Foggy Bottom Association as a service to its members and provides information on FBA and neighborhood news, programs, activities and other events of interest to FBA members. Contributions and story ideas are welcome, but the *FBN* reserves the right to edit or hold pieces as space requires.

The Foggy Bottom Association was formed by a group of citizens in 1955 and was formally incorporated in 1959. Attendance at FBA meetings is open to all residents of Foggy Bottom and the West End.

FBA Officers:

PRESIDENT – Joy Howell
VICE PRESIDENT – Jacqueline G. Lemire
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MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – Marilyn Rubin

FBA Board of Directors:

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Donald W. Kreuzer, Lawrence G. Mrozinski, Greg Snyder
Ex-Officio: Ron Cocome (Immediate Past President);
Susan Trinter (FBN Editor)

IT'S ABOUT THE CHILDREN

DC's own public schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee has been the subject of national publicity and press the likes of which residents have not seen before. On July 14, 2008, Rhee was interviewed—with the focus on her announced culture of accountability—and it was broadcast on New York's PBS CHARLIE ROSE Show. Rose framed the talk by highlighting DC's schools as some of the worst in the country—funded 50% higher than other American

schools—and Rhee's closing of 24 schools and firing of 34 principals.

Then there is the September 2008 FAST COMPANY article, available online, "Fixing DC's Schools" where Rhee is dubbed "The Iron Chancellor." One clearly unsatisfied commentator states "she may be a crusader but not all crusaders are informed, capable or successful."

It seems that not a week (sometimes, not a day) goes by without Rhee being

quoted, mentioned, reviewed, praised or criticized in the WASHINGTON POST, and various local media.

Even the less visible venue, Nathan's "Q&A Café" hosted Rhee at \$35 per head this past Monday in Georgetown. FBN is curious and perhaps a tad envious. Since she is an appointed and handsomely paid public servant, to paraphrase one blogger, "Who would pay to hear Rhee? As a taxpayer you've already paid for her once." — FBN

Ward 2 GOP Council Challenger, Christina Culver

Christina Erland Culver is Jack Evan's challenger for Ward 2 Council in the November election. She brings a wealth of political, policy, and nonprofit experience to a growing education practice. At the US Dept of Education, she served as Acting Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs, as well as Managing Director of Foundations, External Relations, and Regional Services in the Office of Communication and Outreach. She oversaw federal relations with state governments and was responsible for external relations with corporate

partners, foundations and community organizations on the federal No Child Left Behind law. Prior to that she served as VP of Public Affairs for Children First America, a national nonprofit organization in support of K-12 scholarship programs for low-income families where she advanced school choice public policy at the state and federal level giving thousands of disadvantaged children better education options.

She worked at the White House in the first Bush Administration for President George H.W. Bush, and the US Department of Education under Secretary Lamar Alexander, where she worked on education reform programs in partnership with

major corporate, nonprofit and community partners. A native of Lawrence, Kansas, she got her start working for the Kansas Secretary of State and then for Senator Bob Dole's presidential race in 1988. Christina also serves on the board of the Kansas based Innovative Learning Systems (ILS) a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that conducts educational research and media-based accelerated learning programs to help individuals with learning disabilities. Christina is a recent graduate of the US Naval War College with a Masters Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. Christina has resided in Ward 2 since September 2001.

— FBN

Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, the NYC Broadway Musical, Saturday Dec. 6

Encore! presents their Holiday Bus Trip Saturday December 6 to NYC for this new Broadway Musical (matinee) **Irving Berlin's "White Christmas."**

This wonderful movie is now a Broadway musical.

Remember: *Happy Holiday, Love and the Weather, Sisters, Blue Skies, How Deep is the Ocean, I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm, and of*



course, *White Christmas*.

\$260 includes transportation, orchestra seat, and lunch.

The first 20 FBA members that call will receive the **Special FBA rate of \$210.** Residents **must be** FBA members to qualify. **Leave Dec. 6 at 7 am, return 10:30 pm** with a dinner stop (oyo) on return trip.

Call NOW! Reserve by Sun. Oct. 5. For information and reservations,

call Marilyn Rubin 202.223.1259.

Other one-day bus trips offered by Encore! include:

Sat. Oct. 11, Pennsylvania Dutch Country, \$110.

Includes: transportation, guided tour, & lunch.

Sat. Nov. 1, Hershey, \$115.

Includes: transportation, guided tour, lunch at Hershey Hotel and visit to Chocolate World.

— FBN