

METROPOLLITAN WASHINTON COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – SPECIAL MEETING

September 28, 2020

Scheduled: (Actual meeting time:)

Call to Order and Welcome: MWC President Dyana Forester

Roll Call: *Present:* Andrew Washington, Jim Griffin, Robin Burns, Dave Richardson, Eric Bunn, Greg Bowen, Chuck Clay, Jaime Contreras, Liz Davis, George Farenthold, Dan Fields, Stephen Frum, Don Havard, Roxie Mejia, Doris, Wanda, Michael Spiller, Gina Walton, Djawa Hall. *Absent:* Dena Briscoe, Donna Brockington, Herb Harris, Robert Hollingsworth. A quorum is present.

This special meeting is being held to address the motion put forth at the September 21, 2020 Executive Board meeting to address the protest against the Elections Committee submitted by Eric Bunn.

Motion put forth by Liz Davis at the September 21, 2020 Executive Board meeting:

...authorize a hearing on the merits filed by Eric Bunn to be conducted no later than October 9, 2020 by an outside hearing officer selected by the Executive Board and that hearing officer shall be selected at a Special Meeting on September 28, 2020 and shall submit their findings to the Executive Board no later than October 19, 2020

Amendment to the Motion – friendly amendment made by Herb Harris – we will adjust the hearing process as needed with the guidance or advice of the AFL-CIO

Motion was seconded – Dena Briscoe

Discussion

President Forester – stated that there is an issue with the motion; Constitution, specifically Article 11, Section 4, controls; the constitution doesn't speak to having an outside hearing officer and so the motion was out of order based on the constitution. The motion as presented cannot move forward as it is in direct conflict with the constitution. A motion is not necessary because the constitution already calls for a hearing and this will be moved forward at the next Board meeting.

Chuck Clay – hearings are a laborious process and suggests to not conduct the hearing in the context of a regular Executive Board meeting as it would be way too long and arduous.

President Forester – will consult with the AFL-CIO and other Unions with respect to internal hearings. The guidance from the AFL-CIO is to go through any and all internal processes first and to exhaust them all before going to an outside body. Will work with the AFL-CIO to present a plan to have a hearing. Charges are between Eric Bunn and the Elections Committee. Will work on getting a clear process at the next Board meeting and that time is provided outside of the Board meeting to address this matter.

Dena Briscoe – Why weren't the conflicts not mentioned when the original motion was presented? Was that the only conflict, the hearing officer?

Liz Davis – Does the motion suggesting outside hearing officers override the Constitution?

President Forester – the motion is in direct conflict with the constitution

Liz Davis – requested that the relevant constitutional language be placed on the screen

David Richardson – read the relevant sections of the Constitution

Jim Griffin – next step is a hearing

Liz Davis – seeking clarification

President Forester – a hearing is the next step in the process per the Constitution

Eric Bunn – Who will be facilitating the hearing? The intent of Liz's motion was for a neutral body, an outside neutral party to do the hearing.

Jim Griffin – the President of the Council has the authority to interpret the Constitution so this is really a waste of time as the interpretation has been made. This Council cannot be a part of an illegal process

African-American male in glasses and a hat spoke – President Forester will create a hearing process

President Forester – will create a fair process and will facilitate the process. Whatever process is created will ultimately be voted on by the Executive Board.

Eric Bunn – I just want to know how the President came up with the interpretation

Roxie Mejia – it was my understanding that the Constitution requires that everything within labor be exhausted first and then move outside.

Andrew Washington – cannot take the authority from the Executive Board and place it somewhere else. Motions cannot be in conflict with the Constitution. We have to follow the language of the Constitution. This matter needs to be taken to the Executive Board for a hearing and if there is not a decision made at the hearing, then it can be taken further. We are here because we didn't follow the Constitution in the first place. The AFL-CIO, in a statement to me, has advised that the Board follow the constitution as written.

Motion to end discussion and adjourn until next meeting – Andrew Washington

Motion seconded

No Discussion

Call the Question

Motion Passes – unanimously

Meeting adjourned @