



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

LAW DEPARTMENT
One Parkway
1515 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102-1595

Shelley R. Smith
City Solicitor

Christopher R. DiFusco
Deputy City Solicitor
(215) 683-5019 (Tel)
(215) 683-5069 (Fax)

August 22, 2008

Ed Goppelt
Hallwatch
P.O. Box 25096
Philadelphia, PA 19147
webmaster@hallwatch.org

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL & REGULAR MAIL

RE: Request for access to electronic voting returns

Dear Mr. Goppelt et. al.:

This response is to your letter of July 18, 2008 addressed to Chairwoman Tartaglione. Our office sent its initial response to you on July 25, 2008, asserting the need for up to an additional 30 calendar days to address your request. In your letter, you requested "a password to view electronic, division-by-division, election results from the City." Please note that at last count (according to your website, www.hallwatch.org), the City had received at least 375 requests for the same information, all of which originate from your fax machine. As such, we are treating them as one request for the purposes of our response to you.

The system for which you request access to is only equipped to handle 150-200 users at one time. Going forward, access will be strictly limited to employees of the City Commissioners and the personnel from the Department of State. These employees will use the internal system to provide needed returns and data to both the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the new hosted site (explained in detail below). No passwords for this internal system will be provided to anyone outside of this group.

The City is currently developing a system to allow the public access to a hosted website where election results will be provided. The plan for the next election in November is to provide near real time summary results and the ability to drill down into election details (ward-by-ward, division-by-division, etc) on this hosted website. Polling

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data and returns should be updated approximately every 10 to 15 minutes as the returns are verified by the City Commissioners. Furthermore, there will be a link on both the City of Philadelphia's main homepage and the City Commissioner's homepage directing interested users to this hosted website.

Therefore for the above stated reasons, your request for a password to access the internal system is denied. You may appeal this decision by either:

- (1) filing exceptions with the City Solicitor within fifteen days of the date of this letter; or
- (2) filing an appeal directly to Common Pleas Court within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,



Christopher R. DiFusco
Deputy City Solicitor

cc: Bob Lee, Voter Registration Administrator
Dan Urevick-Ackelsberg