

THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

SPECIAL CALLED STATE ELECTION BOARD MEETING

GEORGIA STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
ROOM 341
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014
3:00 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER:

BRIAN KEMP
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APPEARANCES:

Brian P. Kemp, Chairperson, State Election Board

Tex McIver, Vice Chairperson, State Election Board

David J. Worley, Member, State Election Board

Rebecca N. Sullivan, Member, State Election Board

Ralph F. Simpson, Member, State Election Board

Chris Harvey, Chief Investigator, Secretary of State Office, State of Georgia

Stefan Ritter, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

TRANSCRIPT LEGEND

-- (Dash) Interruption in speech

Quoted material is typed as spoken

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

SECRETARY KEMP: Good afternoon everyone. Let's go ahead and call the 3:00 P.M. specially called meeting of the State Election Board to order.

Our first order of business will be Mr. Simpson has agreed to lead us in the invocation and then we will stand and do the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Simpson?

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SECRETARY KEMP: Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Again I want to thank everyone for being here today especially the members of the Board who have rearranged their personal and professional schedules to accommodate this meeting.

I want to make it clear that we are here today to hear an informational update from Chief Investigator Chris Harvey regarding our open investigation with the New Georgia Project of Third Sector Development. This is not a formal hearing, simply an update in the interest of transparency.

At this time I would like to ask the Board to move the executive session part on our agenda further down to the end of our meeting. When this agenda was put out Monday, we thought we would have a legal issue to be discussed and that's not come to pass and we really don't have a need to go into the executive session at this time. We may not need it but we certainly can reserve the right to do that if the Board would like to do that.

Also I just wanted to mention I had someone from the audience to ask me about public comment. At our normal scheduled State Election's Board meeting we always have public comments at the start of those meetings and we will continue to do that. Our next meeting, I believe, is on October the 7th but in the past at our special called meetings when we are, just dealing with one specific issue we have not, in the essence of time for the Board members schedules, we have not allowed public comments because we are here not in a hearing process, but this is the informational process for the Board. There will certainly be plenty of dialogue with that, I am sure.

If the Board does not object to moving the executive session on the agenda, I will go ahead and recognize Chief Investigator Chris Harvey to begin our update, and we have his PowerPoint presentation in your packets.

Mr. Harvey?

MR. HARVEY: Thank you, Mr. Secretary and Members of the Board. The presentation this

morning is going to be a brief summary and preliminary results from what we have determined in our investigation of the New Georgia Project and problems the with voter registration.

I want to start off by pointing out to the Board Members and to the public that the security and integrity of elections in Georgia is dependent upon security and integrity of the voter registration system and I will bring to the attention of the Board recent cases that the Board has dealt with involving large canvassers, such as Fulton County and Hancock County, that illustrate what kind of problems can occur on election day when the voter registration system is not updated regularly and properly. As you know, with those cases, by the time the problem has developed, it is often too late to fix the problem and voters either have to vote provisional ballots or are turned away.

So with that in mind I would like to start the presentation briefly by going through the process of registering to vote in Georgia by mail. I would point out that as far as we are aware now, all of the issues coming from these allegations have involved registering to vote by mail with the paper voter registration applications that are available from the Secretary of State's office that are being collected and submitted by members of the New Georgia Project.

In the regular procedure an applicant or prospective voter can complete a paper application that will be transmitted to either the Secretary of State's office or to the county voter registrar. I want to remind the Board that voter registration is done at the county level. The Secretary of State's office does not register people to vote. Applications that come to the Secretary of State's office are transmitted to each respective county so that they can do the due diligence and enter the data and register electors to vote.

When the registrar gets the application, they enter the data in the voter registration system. At that point one of two things happen. If the voter applying is recognized as a voter, if they were previously registered, if they are making a name change, address change, updating their status, they are recognized in the system, and their information is updated and the voter is completely fine. The voter is registered to vote. The process ends and they are good to go. No issue. If, however, it is a new voter or somebody that is not recognized in the voter registration system then that information is sent to the Department of Driver Services for identity verification and citizenship verification. When that process is completed, the information is sent back to each county. If the Department of Driver Services verifies the application and verifies citizenship, it notifies the county registrar and that voter is registered to vote.

Should the Department of Driver Services have difficulty verifying, or if they are unable to verify the identity or the citizenship of the voter, that information will be again returned to the county where the county will then have the obligation of contacting the voter and conducting their own investigation to determine whether or not the voter is eligible to vote. If the applicant, after contact by the county, presents proper verification then the county registers that voter and that voter is registered to vote. If the applicant does not respond to the county or is not able to

produce verification that shows their identification, that shows they are properly citizens, then their application would be rejected and they would be dropped from the system.

So in a nutshell this is what happens when anyone attempts to register to vote requirement whether it is a first time registrant, somebody changing a mailing address, somebody changing a residence address, somebody changing a name, they would go through this process.

The issues that we are dealing with in this case so far involve the following potential violations of State law and State Election Board rules: forgery, making false statements on election documents, false voter registrations and providing fraudulent information on election documents. I will note that all four of these are violations of State law. Three are under Title 21. One is under Title 16. They are all felonies.

Each forged voter registration is a felony and the provisions of Title 21-2-561 allows for a sentence of up to imprisonment for one to ten years and a fine not to exceed a hundred thousand dollars or both per violation.

I would also point out, and I will get into this a little bit later, that each forged waiver of the voter to retain voter registration information is also a felony. To go back to the previous slide, a forged voter registration is actually the four violations that I mentioned. It's forgery, it's false registrations, it's false information, and it is putting false information on election documents. So one forged voter registration can be multiple felonies.

I want to go briefly over the timeline of the investigation and show how this came about. On May 5th of this year I was contacted by the Elections Director in Butts County. She told me that she was getting complaints from people in the courthouse and from citizens in the street that citizens were being contacted by people who were asking them about registering to vote. They were asking for personal identifying information; dates of birth, Social Security numbers, drivers' licenses and things like that. She said that people in the courthouse were being told by these canvassers that they had to re-register to vote or they wouldn't be eligible to vote.

When she gave me this information, I told her that was really something for local law enforcement if there was any type of identity theft going on. I recommended that she contact law enforcement if she got any specific reports of fraudulent activity. She contacted me the next day and said that she had contacted the sheriff. The sheriff had gone out and had met with people that were doing the canvassing and had spoken with them and had taken copies of documents from them and still had the documents.

On May 7th investigators from our office, including myself, went to Butts County where we met with the election official and Sheriff's Office. We looked at the documents that had been collected by the sheriff. We spoke to the election official and what we determined at that point was that it appeared to be a private voter registration drive, which is completely legal. There is certainly nothing inherently wrong with individuals or groups conducting a private voter

registration drive. There are certainly requirements and limits that somebody must maintain when they are doing these, but based on what we saw in the documents, we didn't know exactly what was going on. We didn't have contact information for the group, so over the course of the next week we continued to maintain contact with the election officials and on May 13th we opened a formal investigation regarding the allegations.

On June 3rd I spoke with Representative Stacey Abrams, who is the CEO of the New Georgia Project about the organization. I called her upon her request and we spoke briefly about what was going on. She explained what the group was about and what they were trying to do. We spoke briefly about the requirements for conducting a voter registration drive. I certainly provided my contact information so she could get in touch with me if she had any problems. We had a professional, amiable conversation. I explained to her that we were still evaluating what had gone on in Butts County, but that we were still evaluating the issue.

On June 6th of 2014, while conducting a preliminary investigation, investigators from the Secretary of State's office, including myself, met with the Executive Director of the New Georgia Project a Lauren Groh-Wargo. She came to our office with members of her staff and her legal counsel and we discussed some of the issues that had come up in the voter registration drive. We explained what we found and she actually asked for input from us on what they could do better and what would be helpful for them in terms of working with the counties. At that point I mentioned that they may want to, although it was not a requirement, it may be helpful to notify the counties as they went into the counties so that the county election officials would know that there was an organization in there conducting a voter registration drive. In case they get calls from people they would have a point of contact for the New Georgia Project. She indicated that she thought that was a good idea.

We also talked a little bit about fraud and she disclosed that they had a data base of every voter that they registered to vote. They enter it into the system and that way they kept their canvassers from double dipping and from registering the same person over and over again. They said that would be caught in the system. She did explain that their canvassers were paid, not per registrant, which you know is illegal under Georgia law, but they did say that at the end of the day and the end of the project, they would invite back the workers that had been the most productive which would be the people that had collected the most voter registration cards. So while there was not a pay per registration system there was certainly a financial incentive for people to complete voter registration applications.

On July 15th the attorneys for New Georgia Project contacted our office and said that they implemented some of our ideas for their worker's advanced training and quality control. At this point we are working well with the New Georgia Project.

On August 11th of 2014, I spoke again with Executive Director Groh-Wargo at the request of Elections Director Linda Ford for the Secretary of State's office. Two issues had come up. One

that apparently the New Georgia Project was delivering massive amounts of voter registration applications to the Fulton County Commission office and that was taxing the Fulton County's ability to process the applications. They would get them from all over the State and would end up in Fulton County and therefore Fulton County would have to separate them out taxing their system. I recommended to Executive Director Groh-Wargo that any voting list they needed they could get more easily from the Secretary of State's office. So I made the request for everybody's sake if she would either direct the county applications to the specific county or in lieu of that give them directly to the Secretary of State's office because we have the ability and the mechanism to quickly sort them and get them out to the counties. She took those two pieces of advice and our conversation ended amicably.

In Mid-August of 2014 The Secretary of State's investigators started receiving reports from Henry, DeKalb and Gwinnett counties about suspicious voter registration applications that had been turned in by the New Georgia Project. In some cases the election officials had confirmed actual forgeries of voter registration applications. Our investigation began to expand. We added each county as it was reported to us. Keep in mind, that these are not simply incomplete voter registration applications, these are voter registration applications that have the voter's signature on it and when confronted with it the voter denied every signing or seeing the document.

On August 22nd, 2014 after a meeting between Executive Director Groh-Wargo and Linda Ford, I met briefly again with the Executive Director Linda Groh-Wargo, at her request, and at that meeting in our office I expressed an additional concern that we were starting to see additional counties that were reporting fraudulent cards. She said that she would continue to work on it. At no point in any of the conversations or telephone calls that I had with Executive Director Groh-Wargo did she every point out that they knew that they had forgeries or what type of problems they were encountering.

August 20th to September 15th marked an increase in reported suspicious applications from numerous counties.

On Friday September 5th I received seven different county complaints, including two that day, from election officials, complaining about suspicious applications being turned in by the New Georgia Project. At that point, I notified a senior staff at the Secretary of State's office and recommended that we issue a subpoena to continue our investigation and on September 9th the investigative subpoena was prepared and issued to the New Georgia Project.

As I mentioned briefly, what is being forged? We are talking about forgeries here. There is a whole separate issue about incomplete cards and cards leaving out information. What we are talking about right now are actually forged voter registration applications.

As you can see on the display, I've got a copy of a blank Georgia voter registration application that the Secretary of State's office makes available to anybody conducting voter registration drives. You will note that I have identified three areas of sensitive identity information namely

the date of birth, Social Security number and driver's license number of the voter, which is to varying degrees, needed to register a person to vote. I believe, it was in asking for this information that caused a lot of consternation among people that were complaining to election officials. They were encountering these folks sometimes on the street, sometimes these canvassers were coming to their home. They are asking for this information and it's needed for voter registration but the people felt uncomfortable giving it. In this age of identity theft it is somewhat understandable that somebody would be concerned about giving that information to somebody on the street.

If you will notice, the yellow arrow indicates where the voter is to sign the oath affirming that all the information is correct. I know it is difficult to read but above the signature of the oath is where the person swears that they are a citizen of the United States. They are not serving a felony, they have not been ruled incompetent and that they are eligible to vote and on that line is where the voter and nobody except the voter is to sign their name.

You will notice to the right, the red arrow is pointing to a warning that is actually on every voter registration application. It warns anyone against fraud or false information and you can see yourself, I will read it. It says any person who registers to vote knowing that such person does not possess the qualifications required by law, who registers under any name other than such person's own name or who knowingly gives false information in registering, shall be guilty of a felony. And that warning and admonition is present on every voter registration application.

The second item we found that was being forged are canvassing sheets and waivers that are prepared by the New Georgia Project. Under State Election Board rules, if a private entity is conducting a voter registration drive they are allowed to copy and retain copies of the voter registration application, so that they can come back later and check to make sure that these people were properly registered. The only way they can go copy and keep that information is if they have a signed written consent from the voter who is giving them the application. So the State Election Board rules require that a voter sign a waiver allowing the organization to copy and keep their information.

This is a sample of a form the New Georgia Project uses and again the oath is at the top where the voter releases their right to keep their information from the New Georgia Project. You will see under the print names where the canvasser would write the name of the person that they are registering and then the signature is where the voter, and only the voter, signs the waiver which allows the organization to keep and copy their voter registration information and in the signature area is where, so far, we have found and confirmed three cases of forgery where the voter, who supposedly is registered, not only did not sign or receive the application, they also did not sign or see the waiver that was signed in their name.

I point out that at the bottom of the form is the identity of that person who obtained the signature on the application. That is critical. We know these documents exist. We know that New

Georgia Project has them and we know that if we identify a person who did this confirmed forgery we will be able to identify the person who is responsible for turning in that application and will be a considerable lead in determining who is conducting these activities.

This is a map showing the counties and the dates that we received complaints from the New Georgia Project and you can see that there are twelve represented on the map. I would add that yesterday afternoon we got additional complaints from Paulding County. So there are now thirteen counties that have reported problems with voter registration applications from the New Georgia Project. You can see the earliest that we have is May 5th, and the latest on the map is September 10th, but again I would update that to September 15th because it came in yesterday.

I am going to go quickly county by county and indicate the problems that have been reported and what our preliminary indications found.

Butts County, as I mentioned, was the first on May 5th. We have not, so far, identified any voter registration applications that are fraudulent there, however, we know that county officials were actually told inaccurate information about being required to re-register in order to vote in subsequent elections.

On August 12th, we got a report from Henry County. They reported eight suspicious voter registration applications. Six of them had been confirmed as forgeries and two of them were unknown. When I refer to a card as unknown it can be one of about three different things. It is either unknown because we have not been able to make contact with the voter to determine whether or not that is their signature. It could be unknown because the information on the card is unintelligible or the information on the card is inaccurate, as in a street name that doesn't exist. There have been numerous cards that have been turned in with street names that do not exist and also with names and dates of birth, Social Security numbers and drivers licenses that don't correspond to anybody in any of our data bases. So unknown is just that. We do not know whether or not there is a problem with it but it has been brought to our attention by the election officials. So six confirmed, two unknown in Henry County.

DeKalb County has made two reports. On August 20th, and September 5th, of four suspicious voter registration applications. We have confirmed three forgeries. We have one unknown and it is in DeKalb County where we have the three forged waivers on the sheet that I showed you before where voters have their signatures forged ostensibly allowing the New Georgia Project to keep and copy their voter registration information.

Gwinnett County has reported twice on August 21st, and September 4th, eight suspicious voter registration application cards, three confirmed forgeries, four unknown. One has been confirmed legitimate.

Cobb County reported on August 26th, three suspicious cards with one confirmed forgery and two confirmed legitimate.

Bartow County reported September 5th, 2014. They reported first that there was over a month long delay in returning completed voter registration applications from the New Georgia Project to the Bartow County election officials. They also reported that members of the New Georgia Project were giving inaccurate information to potential registrants about being required to register to vote in order to get a voter ID card. There is also a case in Bartow County where a potential registrant was confronted at her door and while speaking with the canvasser she could see and read the information that was on previously copied voter registration information. As a matter of fact, she saw some of her neighbors information out there exposed and not kept confidential.

Muscogee County reported September 5th, 2014. They reported six suspicious applications. We have confirmed three forgeries and three were still unknown.

Coweta County reported September 9th, fifteen suspicious applications, ten have been confirmed legitimate. I would point out, that all ten of these are from the same individual, who was friends with members of the New Georgia Project, and he agreed to register about every other day for them to help them get their numbers so that they would be able to turn in applications by the end of the day. Five of those in Coweta County are still unknown.

Terrell County, moving a little bit further South, reported on September 10th. We have three suspicious applications that have been all three confirmed as forgeries.

Toombs County has reported on September 10th, six suspicious applications, three confirmed forgeries, three unknown.

Tatnall County has reported on September 10th, three suspicious, two confirmed forgeries, one unknown.

Effingham County has reported on September 10th, six suspicious, one has been confirmed valid, five are still unknown.

So the totals that we have in this preliminary look at the counties, that have reported to us,, we have twenty five confirmed forged voter registration applications in seven counties. We have twenty six suspicious but unconfirmed voter registration applications in other counties. We have fourteen confirmed valid voter registration applications and keep in mind ten of those are from one individual and we have three confirmed waivers of voter signatures on waiver and canvassing forms. So we are looking at twenty five forged voter registration cards and unknown cards with the three confirmed forged waivers. I went over this already. The unknowns are unknown for one of these reasons: address, problems with names or inability to contact the voter to verify the application.

How is the forgery being done. In some voters, we have spoken to, they reported being contacted over the phone by people. So somebody will call from the New Georgia Project and

talk to them about registering. They won't get consent, not that consent can be given over the phone, but they will call and ask about their address. Do you still live at this address. Is this information still accurate. People have a phone conversation and then lo and behold a signed voter registration application turns up in the county office. When the supposed voter is confronted with it they have no knowledge of that but they do recall a conversation that happened over the telephone with somebody from the New Georgia Project.

We have voters that have absolutely no idea how their application with their names have been submitted. In some of these cases there is information that would have been accurate but is old such as an address that may have been valid about ten or fifteen years ago or a maiden name or something along those lines but the voter themselves has had no contact with any member of the New Georgia Project. They have had telephone calls and they have certainly not signed and completed a voter registration application that bears their name and apparent signature.

We know that the New Georgia Project is using some form of address list or voter list when they canvass and we've talked very briefly about the New Georgia Project, when they go into an area where there is a city or a county, they go to certain areas and to some extent they have data that they are dealing with when they are going out to meet these voters. I don't know if these lists are accurate. I don't know if they are old. I don't know if that has anything to do with inaccurate information ending up on forged voter registration cards or not.

We also know that some members of the New Georgia Project have admitted to registering family members and friends just on their own. They have told us, well we didn't know we couldn't do that. So they simply fill out voter registration applications for their family members and then they sign the family member's name, which is forgery.

A forged voter registration scenario -- and this is one of the reasons why this is going to be critical not just in November but could be critical in two years, four years, six years in special elections. If a forged voter application is submitted in my name, for example, with all of the accurate information, it's going to go to my county registrar and they are going to enter it into the system and I am going to show up, as I showed you in that first flow chart. It is going to recognize me as a voter and it is going to update the system with this information. More importantly it is going to capture the signature on my voter registration application. That is going to become my new voting signature. I get no notification of that. It is updated in the system and I don't have any idea that has happened. Fast forward six months, two years, eight years down the line I decide I want to vote an absentee ballot or I decide I want to sign a nomination petition or something along those lines. I sign it and send it into the county. The county compares my signature on my voter registration application. If my cousin filled out my voter registration application my signature will not match. If my girlfriend filled out my voter registration application my signature will not match. If somebody I don't know filled out my voter registration application my signature won't match. My ballot is rejected and my vote doesn't count. These are potential land mines that are sewn into the election system that may

take years to determine what happens. In four years someone's absentee ballot doesn't get counted. They go to the registrar's office and that's when they look at their voter registration application and says that's not my signature. The county election officials are going to do exactly what they are required to do by law. They are going to look at the signature on my absentee ballot and they are going to look at the signature on the application and they are going to say it doesn't match. Vote no good. My vote is gone.

As that scenario is just pointed out, one of the reasons why this matters is because it can change the status of a voter if inaccurate information is given. If somebody completes a voter registration in my name with an address I lived at five years ago I get redistricted. I am voting in a different part of the county where I live or possibly in a separate county that I don't live in. So it affects my ability to register to vote.

As I mentioned, it changes the voter signature on record and subjects petitions and absentee ballots for rejection and inaccurate addresses. This can result in voting for candidates for issues where the voter does not reside.

Again these are the violations that we are dealing with so far for the State law: forgery, false statements, false voter registration and providing fraudulent information on a registration document.

In addition, there are a host of rules that the State Election Board has passed that govern private voter registration drives and you can see here, there are five or six different mandates that anyone conducting a private voter registration has to fulfill. You have to notify the person that they can return their own registration form. You have an obligation to notify each registrant that they are not registered until the Board of Registrars accepts their application. You have to inform the registrant that if this is their first registration they will need to show ID. You have to inform the registrant of the availability of the online system to check voter registration status. You have to inform the registrant of their right to cast a provisional ballot if there is a problem when they vote. You have to inform the registrant that the entity cannot accept an unsealed ballot unless they have signed a waiver, and that's the waiver form I am talking about, and that when they sign that waiver they are giving the entity the right to copy and keep their voter registration information. We know that these requirements have not been completed in every case with the New Georgia Project. So there are multiple violations of these rules. I showed the violation of the State law.

This is what we are seeking as investigators in the Secretary of State's office. As I mentioned, we've had previous interaction with the New Georgia Project. They have given us some records that we know exist. So we know some of these records exist. We know we can trace specific applications to specific canvassers. We want those documents. We need those documents. We need to make the connections and identify other evidence of fraud. We need to identify counties that may have unidentified problems and we need to identify individuals who participated in this

conduct that has resulted in the multiple felonies. As demonstrated, multiple felonies, frauds and violation of State Election Board rules have been occurring on numerous and a state-wide bases.

In response to a subpoena issued last week we have been in communication with attorneys for the New Georgia Project and they have indicated a willingness to work with us and get us documents that we need by September 26th. Therefore, I recommend that the State Election Board issue a revised subpoena with that due date and that we continue this investigation.

SECRETARY KEMP: Thank you, Mr. Harvey. Any questions from the Board for Mr. Harvey?

MR. MCIVER: Yes, sir.

SECRETARY KEMP: Mr. McIver.

MR. MCIVER: Do you have any idea how long the remainder of this investigation will take?

MR. HARVEY: I don't know the extent of what is out there. We don't know how many counties they have been in. We know that they have reported to the media that they have collected approximately eighty-five thousand voter registration applications. If that is correct, it is obviously an awful lot of data, and it could take months but I can't give you a firm estimate because I just don't know what we are looking at.

MR. MCIVER: Can you estimate the impact it will have on the election in November?

MR. HARVEY: I can't give you a quantification, but as I indicated, I think it is going to have the most impact with people voting absentee and people signing petitions. It has certainly put a burden on the election officials, now, who are dealing with these voter registration applications and are having to conduct their own independent investigation before getting it to us but I think the problem is going to be -- we are going to see the problem in two areas. We are going to see the problem with absentee ballots being rejected for signatures not matching and we may well see problems with people going to where they are supposed to be registered to vote and finding that they have been redistricted because they were re-registered under an old address or an address that is not current. I think those are the two areas where we are going to see that. Whether that will be as pronounced or widespread as other problems we have seen I simply don't know.

SECRETARY KEMP: Mr. Simpson.

MR. SIMPSON: Is there any impact if the voter votes in person from the forged applications and the forged documents?

MR. HARVEY: The only impact would be if the information supplied somehow caused a problem with their districting or the information somehow matched another voter who was possibly -- see if somebody submitted an application with your name and let's say they

transpose the month and the date of birth and there happened to be another Mr. Simpson who had died two years earlier and had matched with him and it had removed you from the system that could happen. I am not saying that that's necessarily a high probability but that is a scenario that could affect an in-person voter.

MR. SIMPSON: Could the person who forged the signature come and vote in that person's name because the signatures would match?

MR. HARVEY: The signature is not inherit for in-person voting. So, no, that is not an immediate threat that somebody would show up and vote that person's name because as you know when you go to vote in person they check your ID but your signature is not compared. So thankfully that is not an issue.

MR. SIMPSON: Thank you.

MR. HARVEY: Yes, sir.

SECRETARY KEMP: Mr. Worley.

MR. WORLEY: Mr. Harvey you have indicated that the New Georgia Project have submitted to you five thousand applications.

MR. HARVEY: That is what they said. I read that in the media . That is what, I believe, Representative Abrams said.

MR. WORLEY: And as far as you know out of that there were twenty-five forgeries, and let's be clear, you do know or don't you know, those forgeries are from the New Georgia Project applications or are they from some other organization?

MR. HARVEY: These are forgeries that have come from applications turned in by the New Georgia Project.

MR. WORLEY: So there were twenty-five forgeries and twenty six you can't figure out and it might be forgeries; correct?

MR. HARVEY: At this point. Yes, sir.

MR. WORLEY: So that is fifty-one out of eighty-five thousand applications?

MR. HARVEY: That have been identified by election officials. That is kind of where I am at. Yes, sir.

MR. WORLEY: So have you done the math on that?

(Applause from audience)

SECRETARY KEMP: Ladies and gentlemen, I would appreciate it if you wouldn't interrupt the discussion. One thing the State Election Board prides itself on is having an orderly meeting. We appreciate all of you being here today. If the Board can continue their question and answer session I would certainly appreciate that. Thank you very much.

MR. HARVEY: Mr. Worley, with respect I know that is a small percentage. I also know that anytime an organization is alleged to have committed twenty-five forgeries which are felonies that may be expanded four times or five times each and you are looking at possibly a hundred felonies I know in an investigative law enforcement world that is significant.

MR. WORLEY: Well, let's talk about that for a minute. The forgeries, could you give us an example of how you know something has been forged?

MR. HARVEY: For example -- and keep in mind that the voter registration applications, by law, are protected from public disclosure, so we can't show you those publically but, for example, in one of the counties they get a voter registration application that looks suspicious for some reason. They contact the voter and they say did you turn in this voter registration application. The voter says no. I have no idea. That is not my signature. I didn't fill that out. Our investigators have gone out and spoken to those people and they have confirmed that's not my signature. I did not fill that out and like I said in some cases they got a phone call from somebody about registering to vote. In other cases, they have no idea and they are confronted with a voter registration application that purportedly bears their signature that is not their signature.

MR. WORLEY: Who do you think forged the signature? Is it some other voter that filled out a form and just didn't want to do it completely or do you think it is the canvasser?

MR. HARVEY: I think it would be interesting to get these documents from the New Georgia Project and trace that application back to the canvassing form and find out who the canvasser is and find out if we have a common canvasser. It may be that there is one person who has done all these forgeries. It may be that there are twenty-five people who have done forgeries. It may be that we can contact people up and down the canvassing list and find out, hey do you remember who signed this, or if we find that there are three in a row that have been forged from three different people, that would be some indicator.

So do I know now exactly who forged each signature? No, I can't say right now that I know who did but I know that a great place to start is looking at the form that the New Georgia Project retained where they tracked that form and I will give them credit for doing that. They track forms. They say they enter them all into a data base. So, if they would provide that data base of completed voter registration cards we can do searches and we can check. You know, when we've got a canvasser that we know has submitted forged voter registrations we can check that with other canvassing forms that that person has completed and counties may want to go back and check those voter records to make sure that those applications are good. Keep in mind, that

some of the smaller counties where the registrars know people, they can get six forms in and they may call the voter because they know who they are and at least half of our complaints have come from smaller counties where that's happened. Now a place like Dekalb or Fulton County, Gwinnett County, Cobb County you have thirty to forty people entering this information and they may not recognize that they keep seeing the same name over and over again. They keep seeing the same name with different hand writing and different signatures over and over again.

So I hope that is responsive to your question about how we would identify who is doing this.

MR. WORLEY: Based on your experience in previous elections this very small percentage seems to be far less than one percent--

(Applause from audience)

SECRETARY KEMP: Ladies and gentlemen let's hold the applause please. We don't want to have to take other actions. Thank you very much.

MR. WORLEY: How does that compare to just the regular rate of forgeries for all applications that are turned in.

MR. HARVEY: We don't get a lot of forged voter registration applications. That is a relatively rare thing to be reported to our office so I don't know that I could--

MR. WORLEY: Seems like I recall you having some cases before the Board.

MR. HARVEY: There may have been individual cases where an application or a voter registration card was completed but was forged. I know there have been forgery cases that were presented but those are, I believe, in all the cases that kind of went off of scenarios. I don't believe we have dealt with a case where we've gotten multiple cases of confirmed forgeries on voter registration applications all coming from the same source.

Keep in mind ,that if somebody were to submit these cards by mail anonymously we wouldn't necessarily have any idea that they came from the New Georgia Project but these have all specifically been identified by the New Georgia Project as, you know, hey, these are ones that we have turned in.

MR. WORLEY: In your discussions with the New Georgia Project have you gotten any idea from them about how many canvassers they have working on this?

MR. HARVEY: I have not. I know some of our investigators, who have been working on this, have had communication with them but I don't believe we have a number whether it's twenty-five or fifty or a hundred I don't know.

MR. WORLEY: In your conversations with the New Georgia Project have they been anything less than forthcoming in providing information you have asked them for?

MR. HARVEY: I believe that they have provided us with what we have asked for. There was one indication in the last meeting on August 22nd, that I had with Ms. Groh-Wargo were she had mentioned that our investigator had asked for a specific document and she said well I think it would better for him to get this document and I said well, with all due respect, you don't always know why we are asking for a document and I think that she was essentially trying to be helpful however, that would be the only indication that I would give that they have been less than helpful in giving what we have asked for.

MR. WORLEY: Do you have any indication from anything you have seen in discussions with the New Georgia Project that they had any intent to go out and forge applications?

MR. HARVEY: In speaking with the -- and keep in mind, I have spoken with Representative Abrams and I have spoken with the Executive Director I have not detected anything that they have said or done that leads me to believe that it is a goal of the New Georgia Project to go commit voter fraud. I think what is clear is that some elements within the New Georgia Project are doing just that. Where that begins and ends I don't know. I think the information we are asking for would be a good indicator of how widespread this is. Like I said, there may be two people that have done all these forgeries. There may be twenty people that have done all these forgeries. We simply don't know at this point.

MR. WORLEY: And I just want to be clear, you also don't know whether it is the canvassers doing the forging or the voters?

MR. HARVEY: Well I guess the voter whose name it bears is confirming it is not them but yes-

MR. WORLEY: But it could be another person and not the canvasser; correct?

MR. HARVEY: Yes as far as -- certainly beyond a reasonable doubt. There is absolutely no proof beyond a reasonable doubt that the canvassers are doing it.

MR. WORLEY: For instance, it could be somebody's daughter who thinks, oh, my mother should be registered, I'll fill out this form for her and I'll sign her name and they don't ever have to tell the canvasser that they are not that person.

MR. HARVEY: That is a possible scenario, yes.

MR. WORLEY: I just had a couple of questions also about your timeline of when these complaints were brought to your attention. If I could please have the map with the dates?

MR. HARVEY: Okay.

MR. WORLEY: At some point recently Secretary Kemp sent out an email and the email said that you've got six complaints about the New Georgia Project that basically said warning, warning, something is going on. When was that sent out in time relation to these complaints?

MR. HARVEY: From my understanding it was sent out on September 9th the same day the subpoena was issued. I didn't send it out myself so I don't know.

MR. WORLEY: We got a copy of it at some other time, right?

SECRETARY KEMP: Yes it was after that.

MR. WORLEY: So it was after September 9th.

MR. HARVEY: September 9th, I believe was the Tuesday--

SECRETARY KEMP: I think we sent it out the same day but it was also forwarded on to the Board so that they would receive the communication. And that was six counties not necessarily six complaints. There were six counties that had complained.

MR. WORLEY: I had just a general question about our process. Normally -- the normal process for handling a case is that a complaint comes to the Secretary of State's office and an investigation is conducted and a matter eventually comes to this Board after you have conducted your investigation.

MR. HARVEY: That is correct.

MR. WORLEY: Apparently, with this case at some point, a press conference was held and the email was broadcast all across the State and a subpoena was issued and at your request for action you are asking us to issue -- the Board to issue a revised subpoena. The Board didn't issue the subpoena that was sent out in this case and our practice in the past, as I understand it, is that frequently you will issue subpoenas in the course of your investigation; is that correct?

MR. HARVEY: In election cases it happens occasionally. I wouldn't say it happens frequently but it happens on occasion.

MR. WORLEY: I guess what I am trying to figure out here is was this subpoena validly issued that was sent out and do we have to do something to make it valid here today or has it been the practice in the past that you will not come to the Board to issue subpoenas.

SECRETARY KEMP: Let me answer that question because as you know, Mr. Worley, just like in the Chatham County case and the Fulton County case we have issued subpoenas before through the office but we felt like since we were having this informational meeting today we could bring this forward to the Board but certainly if the Board does not want to act on that that is in their prerogative.

MR. WORLEY: My concern is just setting precedence for our practice and procedures and it seems in the past we've allowed Mr. Harvey to issue investigative subpoenas without ever coming to the Board and I don't have a problem with that but if he is asking us to do something different, I want to know does that mean that every time he wants to send a subpoena to

somebody it's going to have to come to the Board for its approval. That is my concern. Legal counsel in the Attorney General's office here that -- the provision on which this subpoena was issued cited a section in the code that gives the Board the ability to issue a subpoena. (Inaudible)

MR. HARVEY: I can tell you that. In our view, it has long been a practice of the Board and also some other agencies to have investigators issue the subpoena on behalf of the Board with an understanding that it was delegated authority to do so. I certainly don't think it would hurt for the Board to make clear today, if it chooses to do so, that it is indeed formally delegated at authority to the Secretary of State's office to issue those subpoenas as part of the investigation (inaudible) investigative subpoenas were valid but right now I have no evidence that they were not but that's an issue that can be easily resolved as well.

MR. WORLEY: I just have a few more questions and I'm happy to take a break from my questions and let other people ask their questions.

SECRETARY KEMP: Go right ahead.

MR. WORLEY: You had in your PowerPoint presentation back towards the back potential SEB rules violations regarding the New Georgia Project administration and you had five -- basically you had the first five sections of rule 183-1-6-.02.

MR. HARVEY: Yes, sir.

MR. WORLEY: Now, it's unclear to me, whether you actually had any evidence as to whether those rules had been violated or is this just an assumption that some of them had been and maybe some of them hadn't been?

MR. HARVEY: We have actually spoken with people who encountered the New Georgia Project and have confirmed violations in failures to meet those requirements.

MR. WORLEY: From each one of those sections?

MR. HARVEY: To varying degrees. In one case, I can think of, where they actually mentioned the ability to vote provisional ballot but they didn't mention some of the others. We got a questionnaire dealing with the voters where we are asking very specific questions about whether or not -- what was the communication. Did the canvasser mention this. Did they mention this, did they mention this and then conversely as you know, there were five or six provisions for why you are conducting private -- and we asked about those too so I don't have the totals for all of that but we are looking at each one of these things specifically with each voter.

MR. WORLEY: Just to be clear, the core provisions that you cite that may have been violated they require intent, right?

MR. HARVEY: Yes, sir.

MR. WORLEY: I just wanted to be clear. And so far you don't have any evidence that the management of the New Georgia Project had any intent to violate them?

MR. HARVEY: Right now, having had very limited contact with the people, the correct answer to your question is yes, we have no evidence, however, we have not spoken to many of the people that we think we need to speak to yet.

MR. WORLEY: Right, but you don't have any evidence that Representative Abrams or Ms. Groh-Wargo had any intent?

MR. HARVEY: No, sir. There is no evidence that I'm aware of that they--

MR. WORLEY: And the reason that that's a concern to me is that I see a story on the news that says Representative Abrams charged with voter fraud and there is not any indication anywhere that Representative Abrams--

MR. HARVEY: And I don't believe that I have indicated anywhere that anybody is specifically accused of voter fraud. We are simply reporting facts about fraudulent activity that has been tied to an organization. As I just said I have no evidence that Representative Abrams has committed or orchestrated voter registration fraud. That is not what this is about. This is about confirmed felonies, confirmed forgeries of people's voter registration information that seriously may compromise their ability to cast a ballot.

MR. WORLEY: For those twenty-five people?

(Laughter from the audience)

MR. HARVEY: I would say yes--

MR. WORLEY: Twenty-five per person.

MR. HARVEY: Twenty-five people that we--

MR. WORLEY: And I am not making light of the fact that for those people it is quite a serious thing.

MR. HARVEY: And I would share that and I would say that's why we are here. There may be twenty-five more, there may be twenty-five hundred more but for twenty-five people to have their voter registration information changed without their knowledge or consent is a serious enough matter, I think, to bring to the Board's attention and to pursue as far as possible and so, yes, if people think that twenty five is not a sufficient number of people to sustain or substantiate this investigation they may feel that way. I, however, feel that twenty-five forgeries compounded with multiple felonies is a significant thing that needs to be investigated.

MR. WORLEY: Well and I would certainly agree with you about that. The thing that concerns

me is that I agree with you completely that it is something to be investigated, to be brought to this Board's attention, to be treated very seriously and have those completed investigations to be brought back to the Board. What concerns me is that in all of the other matters that we have had before this Board we have done all of that without having to do press conferences--

(Applause from audience)

MR. WORLEY: --to bring back to the Board. If you were comfortable with what you had I'm sure you would come to the Board and ask us to find probable cause and send it on to the Attorney General's office but that is not what we are doing here today.

MR. HARVEY: I would say that in other cases we have done just that. We did that in Fulton County. We did that in Chatham County.

MR. WORLEY: Well, actually those were different instances because in the case in Fulton County that was something that was a major news story that first they came to us and then we investigated it and then with Chatham, it was really the same way, so I do think that those are different situations. But I had one more question. I have read various things in various news stories and I'm just trying to verify if they are accurate or not. One of the news stories indicated that the New Georgia Project had come to the Secretary of State's office and asked for the Secretary of State to review and approve the New Georgia Project's training manual. Is that correct?

MR. HARVEY: I believe they submitted a copy of the training manual to the Secretary of State's office to the Elections Director. They gave us a copy of their training manual upon our request as part of our investigation. As far as I'm aware, certainly at the investigative division we had no endorsement or approval or critique of their training manual. I don't believe that ever happened in the elections division either.

MR. WORLEY: Are you saying that you didn't find anything improper in their training manual? Their training manual instructed the canvassers in a way that complied?

MR. HARVEY: I think that I could say that the training manual didn't instruct people to break the law. I don't know that it was complete in all the details necessary to conduct a private voter registration drive. Frankly, it has been a little while since I have seen it so I don't want to speak too authoritatively about it but I remember expressly telling the Executive Director that we will not be endorsing or proving your actions.

Like I said, we spoke with them in a sense of professional dialogue. We pointed out things like it would be helpful if you would make contact with the counties and certainly I went out of my way to say it is not required by code. It is not required by State Election Board rules that you send a letter to the county election officials when you go in there. I said, but if you are trying to maximize your effectiveness I think it would be helpful to send the letter and say these are our

contact numbers, if you hear about problems with our organization please call us so we can take appropriate action. I mentioned that to them. They reported back that they had taken that advice. I thought that was something that would be reasonable. I thought it would be helpful and it also indicates that -- we have not had a particularly contentious relationship with the New Georgia Project. We have met with them. We shared information with them and initially when we were just out here doing Butts County we thought it was essentially a large misunderstanding with locals and not dealing with private voter registration drives. It wasn't until we got repeated confirmed forgeries that we realized this is bigger than just one isolated incident.

MR. WORLEY: All right and then finally you said that the New Georgia Project, you believe, had said that they have submitted eighty-five thousand applications. How many of those have been processed so that those are new voters?

MR. HARVEY: I have no idea. As I've said before, they have not been submitted to the Secretary of State's office. They have been submitted to individual counties. So I don't know when they've been submitted. I don't know if they have been submitted six months ago, six days ago. Again, I think, that was one of the goals in reaching out to the counties to see has anybody had problems and like I said Bartow reported that there had been over a month delay in getting applications but I don't know when and where they were all submitted.

MR. WORLEY: Somebody stopped me as I was coming into the Capitol today and said that there was a press conference earlier today and I don't know if this is true or not where the New Georgia Project had said that fifty-one thousand of those applications had not even been processed. Fifty-one thousand is a number that concerns me a lot more than twenty-five.

SECRETARY KEMP: Well, I think, Ms. Ford can get up and explain the voting registration process. We can go through it again and explain the voter registrations go to the county. They enter information and, like in the presentation, if there is missing information they can't process that application. They have to reach back out to that individual to complete the information that is required by law, by rule in the State of Georgia to be registered to vote before those forms can be processed. Anybody right now with a driver's license in Georgia can go online and register to vote right now while you are sitting in the audience, if you would like to. With a paper application there is certain information that has to be filled out. If that is incomplete and the county does not have that information they actually have to try to find the voter and get that information from them to complete applications. There is certainly nothing wrong with the New Georgia Project or anybody else submitting an application that is incomplete. That is actually required but it does end the process if we don't have the information. And the number of others that may or may not be in the system really moves daily because every day the county processes the applications and the statewide voter registration system keeps up with that. They process those votes and then the next day you have got a whole new batch. I think those names only stay in the system four days before they are moved out, so that number is already moving and I don't know, Ms. Ford, if you want to add anything else to that.

MR. HARVEY: While she is coming up, Mr. Worley, I want to say that I spoke with Ms. Boran in Muscogee County I think it was on September 5th. She said that they had I think received about six thousand from the New Georgia Project. Seven hundred and fifty which were in the unverified status meaning that there was some kind of problem with the information that was put in. Now how all that is being resolved, I don't know.

MR. WORLEY: And before Ms. Ford responds, that raises another issue that I have again read about in the paper and I just want to get verification of this, but the New Georgia Project says they have to and they are required by law to submit an application, even if it is not entirely complete or if they make a mistake on it, but that is not the problem that you are talking about today?

MR. HARVEY: That's not the problem we are talking about today, however, in terms of the problem that you are talking about, with the allegedly fifty-one thousand that have not been processed, that may well be the problem with that because we have seen -- you know some of the ones that have been reported to us as suspicious have addresses that simply don't exist in counties and the county can't do anything with that. They can put a name in or a missing date of birth but you know you if don't have a last name there is only so much the county can do. And again that is just one example of seven hundred and fifty. I asked how many she normally has at a time, in a not verified status, she said forty to fifty. So I think that is the answer to that. Ms. Ford?

SECERTARY KEMP: Any other questions from the Board members?

(No response)

SECRETARY KEMP: A couple of things I just wanted to get a few clarifications on. Number one, you know, we have been working with the New Georgia Project for many months and I think Mr. Harvey had a good point in explaining this that the issues that we had, did not raise to this level until the last couple of weeks when we started getting documented, in our eyes, cases of forgeries. We have had a lot of complaints from the counties that they were giving us from individuals about their personal information being taken and they were concerned about giving out driver's license numbers, Social Security numbers, dates of birth and things of that nature which is why several weeks ago, before all of this started, we put out a press release just letting Georgians know they were eligible to register to vote, there is a way to do that, several ways, without having to give that personal information. Just trying to raise awareness to the issue, so I just wanted to make sure that was clear.

Also just the process of how this works. There has been a lot of talk about process. This investigation has come about just like all the other ones do. We had gotten in complaints from six counties originally and that has expanded to thirteen, or even suspicious information that they are sending along to us and as an investigative body this is our duty to look into those complaints and that is where this investigation is gone. I think anybody that has watched an investigation in

the Secretary of State's office knows that we follow the information that we got and it will take us where it's going to lead us and that's where we go, that is we are wanting to continue the investigation--

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What about Quitman?

SECRETARY KEMP: --to address the point about the number of registrations, you know, to me twenty-eight felonies that account for three of the forgeries that were on the canvassing forms is a lot. I know in the last Presidential Election we had a handful of Morehouse College students who were disenfranchised because they didn't get properly registered to vote. I could only imagine what would have happened if we had not investigated that. So we take all of the complaints that we get wherever they come from and we look into them and if they lead us some where we will go there and if they don't then we will come back and move for dismissal and not bring the case forward to the Election Board but I think it is important for everyone to know that, because like Mr. Worley was saying, we've all been reading a lot in the press. I think a lot quite honestly has been speculation and a lot of it has been exaggerated--

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Quitman.

SECRETARY KEMP: --but one thing I will tell you is we will continue to do the investigations like we always have in the Secretary of State's office. And certainly if any of the Board members will have any questions about that feel free to contact Mr. Harvey or myself or Ms. Ford as far as the number of voter registration forms we have outstanding around the State with the counties and we will be glad to provide that information.

Any other information from -- well I'm sorry Ms. Ford why don't you add anything you would like to that I may have missed on the process.

MS. FORD: I don't really have much to add just to clarify the way the process works I can't speak to the specific fifty-one thousand I might not see that number--

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I delivered them to the Secretary of State's office today.

SECRETARY KEMP: Sir, I am not going to allow you to do that please. If you would just let us continue with the meeting. I certainly appreciate that.

MS. FORD: Mail forms are either mailed directly to the counties. The county processes them or they come to our office, the Secretary of State's office, and we then give those out to the county and currently we're caught up so to speak. We don't have anything outstanding in the mailroom. We of course have in our budget and in our plan leading up to the election plans to hire help to make sure we get the mail out to the counties as we should. The counties process them, then as Mr. Harvey said, some of those went into pending status. So those may appear to be unprocessed but they are processed. They are just not completely through the system to turn that voter active.

SECRETARY KEMP: Any questions for Ms. Ford?

(No response)

SECRETARY KEMP: Any other questions for Mr. Harvey?

MR. MCIVER: Mr. Harvey one of Mr. Worley's questions has prompted me to ask this one. How long have you been in this position with the Secretary of State's office?

MR. HARVEY: Over seven years.

MR. MCIVER: And to your knowledge have you and/or your predecessors of which there has been many have we ever encountered an investigation of this scope before?

MR. HARVEY: I don't think we have encountered one that encounters the number of counties -- the brethren counties, that deals with something of this serious nature. I can speak for the time that I have been here. I can't speak too much beyond that, but knowing what we know now twenty-five confirmed forgeries in seven counties, I think it is one of the larger ones we have dealt with. That is one of the reasons why when it came -- when I realized toward the end that first week of September we were getting more complaints and we were getting multiple complaints from counties and I got two phone calls that day from counties complaining of problems, I said, I think we need to move this forward. I think we need to treat this very, very seriously.

SECRETARY KEMP: Any other questions for Mr. Harvey?

(No response)

SECRETARY KEMP: All right we have a recommendation on extending the subpoena for next Friday September the 26th. Do we have a motion or any other discussion from the Board?

MR. MCIVER: I'd like to make a motion when it is appropriate. Judge?

MR. SIMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I would think that the New Georgia Project would welcome the assistance of the Office of the Secretary of State to help investigate this. I'm sure that that organization, if there are irregularities in their process and if they have people out there that are registering people improperly or committing forgeries, that they probably don't have the capability to investigate that like the Secretary of State's office has. It would appear to me that they would welcome the assistance so that they can get to the bottom of it and they can make the corrections if they find corrections are necessary and I don't see this as an adversary situation. It seems like to me that by moving forward with the investigation is just as helpful to the New Georgia Project as it is to the Secretary of State's office.

We all have the same objective and that is to make sure that everyone that is entitled to vote has an opportunity to vote but we also don't want a process being used which will have the

unattended consequence of disenfranchising voters because of forgeries and other things like that. So I would certainly urge that we move forward with the investigation and do whatever necessary and I see that as not an adversary process but a helpful process for the New Georgia Project just as much as for the Secretary of State's office and to fulfill our responsibility.

SECRETARY KEMP: Thank you, Mr. Simpson. Mr. McIver?

MR. MCIVER: I make a motion the Board issue a subpoena which is consistent with the Secretary's already sent subpoena directing the respondents to produce documents no later than September 26th, 2014, which I understand is the date they requested to be able to comply. Also that the Board authorize the Secretary of State to issue that subpoena in the work of the New Georgia Project and other organizations to obtain all documents required for complete investigation.

SECRETARY KEMP: All right, we had a motion. Do we have a second?

MS. SULLIVAN: I second.

SECRETARY KEMP: We had a second from Ms. Sullivan. Any other discussion from the Board?

MR. WORLEY: I just want to be clear on a couple of things. I don't think the Board has to do that or needs to do that. I think Mr. Harvey has the Board to issue the subpoena. I don't think the Board needs to vote on it. Frankly, I don't think there is any real point to this meeting other than having the opportunity to slap on the New Georgia Project a little bit. That being said, I don't have a problem with the subpoena as I understand (inaudible) the New Georgia Project and use that in accordance to request this information and I think we have an obligation to investigate complaints when they come to us. I just think this could have been done in a much less news worthy and confrontational manner and I just don't think it is helpful to brand an organization and to call into question its worth right before the election in a way that may have the effect of discouraging people to register to vote.

(Applause from audience)

MR. WORLEY: So with that being said I would still support the subpoena.

SECRETARY KEMP: Thank you, Mr. Worley. Let me just say that I know myself and I think I can speak for Mr. Harvey here that we did not, I don't think, said anything derogatory about the New Georgia Project For the Third Sector Development. Certainly I have not said anything about Representative Abrams who I have worked with on many occasions. So I don't want that to be the impression even though it has been written that way. That is certainly not what the Secretary of State's office has said and I don't think anything that we are doing is trying to keep people from registering to vote. Matter of fact, the voter registration drive is still going on. I got an email from somebody in Cobb County the other day that one of their members of their group

had emailed me about some of the solicitations that they've gotten from individuals but there is nothing improper about that, so we did not send that on. It was just more of the same complaint but when something does escalate to an individual Georgian who's having their signature forged then that is against the law. It is a felony in Georgia and I took an oath in our office to protect and defend the Constitution and the laws of this State and that is one of the prime functions of the Secretary of State's office Investigative Division so we have a duty to do that. Down the road the Board might want to discuss how we do that which I'm certainly amenable to having that discussion.

Any other discussion from the Board before we take a vote?

(No response)

SECRETARY KEMP: Hearing none. All in favor of Mr. McIver's motion please signify by saying, "Aye."

(Whereupon, the vote was unanimous)

SECRETARY KEMP: All opposed, same sign.

(Whereupon, there was no response)

SECRETARY KEMP: The motion carries and we will continue to work to get the information we need from the New Georgia Project to continue the investigation.

We also have an executive session on our agenda I don't know if any of the Board members still want to go into the executive session to discuss any legal issues that we have and we certainly look to Mr. Ritter to weigh in on whether we should or we should not do that but if he thinks he needs to but I motion for that and we can move to adjourn.

MR. RITTER: Mr. Secretary, I don't see any need for an executive session.

MR. WORLEY: I move we adjourn.

SECRETARY KEMP: All right Mr. Worley moves we adjourn. Do we have second?

MR. SIMPSON: Second.

SECRETARY KEMP: A second by Judge Simpson. All in favor signify by saying, "Aye."

(Whereupon, the vote was unanimous)

SECRETARY KEMP: All opposed, same sign.

(Whereupon, there was no response)

SECRETARY KEMP: We have adjourned. Thank y'all for being here today.

(Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded)

CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF FULTON

I hereby certify that the foregoing meeting was reported as stated in the caption and the proceedings were reduced to writing by me; that the foregoing 29 pages represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of the proceedings given on September 17, 2014.

I certify that I am not disqualified for a relationship of interest under O.C.G.A. 9-11-28(c); I am a Georgia Certified Court Reporter here as a representative of Happy Faces Court Reporting Firm; I was contacted by Happy Faces Court Reporting Firm to provide court reporting services for this proceeding; I will not be taking this proceeding under any contract that is prohibited by O.C.G.A. 15-14-37(a) and (b) or Article 7.C. of the Rules and Regulations of the Board; and by the attached disclosure form I confirm that Happy Faces Court Reporting Firm is not a party to a contract prohibited by O.C.G.A. 15-14-37 or Article 7.C. of the Rules and Regulations of the Board.

This 1st day of October, 2014

LaTasha D. Bethel
Certified Court Reporter
Georgia Certificate #2660