

Item 23-0028: Resolution Changing the District 12 Polling Place

Common Council

Wed, Jan 18, 2023 7:00PM

Mayor Jake Woodford 01:33:45

Alright, move on to our next item. We're going to take up the item from safety and licensing next. This is item 23-0028 resolution changing the district 12 polling place. We have a motion and a second to approve. Alder Wolff.

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 01:34:11

Thank you Chair. I'm just going to basically sum up my constituents, you know, concerns with this. Um just a voice what they've asked me to voice. One did want to come here and speak tonight but couldn't because they were sick. So that is why I am bringing this up. I know that this is probably a foregone conclusion at this point so that's why I'll make it brief.

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 01:34:34

Some of my constituents and I know that some of the people in this community do have problems voting in churches and using churches as polling locations. They're also frustrated with it being outside of the district. And some are also against it being in schools. There are a lot of conversations that are happening about polling locations. So I think that it would be important to, you know, get in touch with your constituents and have those discussions so that we can relay that information and figure out, you know, whether it's working for us. I know that a lot of our polling locations aren't in the districts that they are in. So it's something that we could potentially look at. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 01:35:25

Alder Fenton.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 01:35:26

Thank you, your Honor. In this particular matter, the polling place, the proposed polling place for district 12, is within the boundaries of District Six. So, I have also heard from my constituents about this. And I do not want to recreate the safety licensing committee meeting, but I would like to thank the clerk for her answers in that committee meeting and refer all our constituents to the minutes and the video of that meeting, for a very detailed explanation of the work that the clerk's office goes through in finding polling places and under the restrictions that they have. So while it is disappointing to me personally not to be able to go and walk two blocks to the now district 12 polling place, I accept the situation and I'll be voting for this item. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 01:36:26

Any further discussion? Hearing none, we have a motion and a second to approve. Alder Meltzer. Okay, go ahead Alder Meltzer.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 01:36:37

Thank you. I just—I'd like to take this opportunity to remind the public and just to mention again that we can't compel anyone to be a polling place. The more polling places a community has, the better. If you're out there, and you're qualified to be a polling place, and you're interested, please let us know. The more polling places we have, the more accessibility there is. The shorter it might be for people to travel.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 01:37:06

You know, my constituents have been voting outside of their polling place for a long time. My district after redistricting got a lot longer from north to south. So now there are people who are really making quite a considerable trek. And this isn't a problem that we can just come up with an engineering solution for. This is a problem that we need a community solution to come forward. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 01:37:34

All right. Now there being no further discussion, we have a motion and a second to approve. Please cast your votes. Motion passes 15 to zero. The item has been approved.