

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

_____)	
RASHEED WALTERS, et al.,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
v.)	Civil Action No. 1:22-cv-12048-PBS
)	
THE CITY OF BOSTON, et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
_____)	

STATUS REPORT

The defendants submit the following report to update the Court on the actions taken by the City of Boston following the May 8, 2023 Memorandum and Order (the “Order”) enjoining the defendants from using the redistricting map approved on November 2, 2022 in municipal elections. ECF No. 78, p. 41.

In the Order, this Court directed the City Council to “redraw the lines in light of traditional districting principles and the Constitution.” *Id.* at 40. The City Council did so, meeting throughout May 2023 to consider a new map establishing districts in Boston. On May 24, 2023, the City Council voted 10-2 to approve a new redistricting map. On May 26, 2023, the Mayor signed the new map into law. The new map is attached as **Exhibit A** and Report of Committee Chair for the map is attached as **Exhibit B**.

In light of the upcoming Fall 2023 municipal elections and the deadlines dictated by the Charter of the City of Boston concerning the processes for prospective candidates to appear on those ballots, the City Council also voted unanimously on May 17, 2023 to file a Home Rule Petition (“Petition”) in the General Court for a Special Law extending those deadlines. The Massachusetts House and Senate both voted to approve the Petition on May 30, 2023, and the

Governor signed the resulting act on May 30, 2023. Chapter 11 of the Acts of 2023 is attached as **Exhibit C**.

Respectfully submitted,

BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

By its attorneys,

/s/ Lon F. Povich

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June 2, 2023

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true and accurate copy of this document was filed through the Electronic Case Filing system, and will be served upon the attorney of record for each party registered to receive electronic service on this 2nd day of June, 2023.

/s/ Christina S. Marshall

Christina S. Marshall

EXHIBIT A

RETRIEVED FROM DEMOCRACYDOCKET.COM

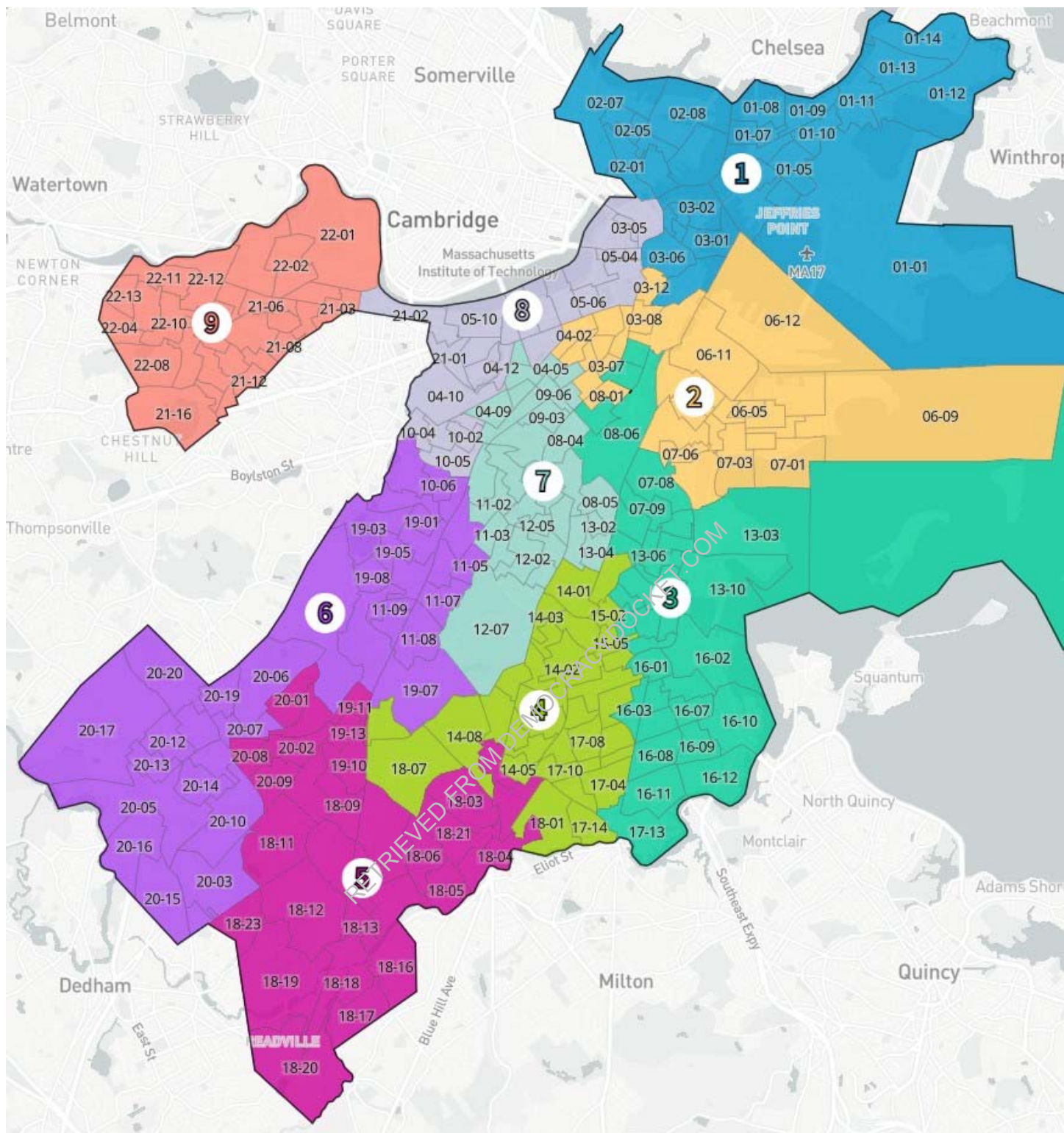


EXHIBIT B

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BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Civil Rights and Immigrant Advancement

Ruthzee Louijeune, *Chair*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

May 24, 2023

Dear Councilors:

The Committee on Civil Rights and Immigrant Advancement was referred the following docket for consideration:

Docket #0942, Ordinance Amending City Council Electoral Districts.

This matter was sponsored by Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, and referred to the Committee on Civil Rights and Immigrant Advancement on May 17, 2023.

Summary

Docket #0942 is an Ordinance amending City Council electoral districts. This docket was one of four filed on May 17, 2023, about which the Committee held hearings to draw a new map, and was used as the starting point for Council deliberations.

The districts delineated by Docket #0942 as filed included the following:

District One: consisting of precincts numbered one through fourteen of Ward One; precincts one through eight of Ward Two; and precincts numbered one through four, six, eleven and thirteen of Ward Three;

District Two: consisting of precincts numbered seven, eight, twelve, fourteen through sixteen of Ward Three; precincts one through three, and six of Ward Four; precincts one, thirteen and fourteen of Ward Five; precincts one through twelve of Ward Six; precincts one through six of Ward Seven;

District Three: consisting of precinct numbered fifteen of Ward One; precincts seven through ten of Ward Seven; precincts one, two, and six of Ward Eight; precinct one of Ward Nine; precincts three and five through ten of Ward Thirteen; precincts one, three, four, and six through nine of Ward Fifteen; precincts one through twelve of Ward Sixteen;

District Four: consisting of precincts numbered one through fourteen of Ward Fourteen; precincts two and five of Ward Fifteen; precincts one through fourteen of Ward Seventeen; precincts one and two of Ward Eighteen;

District Five: consisting of precincts numbered three through twenty three of Ward Eighteen; precincts ten through thirteen of Ward Nineteen; precincts two, four, eight and nine of Ward

Twenty;

District Six: consisting of precincts numbered six through nine of Ward Ten; precincts four through ten of Ward Eleven; precincts one through nine of Ward Nineteen; one, three, five through seven, and ten through twenty one of Ward Twenty;

District Seven: consisting of precincts numbered four, five, eight, nine, and eleven of Ward Four; precincts three through five of Ward Eight; precincts two through seven of Ward Nine; precincts one through three of Ward Eleven; precincts one through nine of Ward Twelve; precincts one, two, and four of Ward Thirteen;

District Eight: consisting of precincts numbered five, nine, ten and seventeen of Ward Three; precincts seven, ten, and twelve of Ward Four; precincts two through twelve, and fifteen of Ward Five; precincts one through five of Ward Ten; precincts one and two of Ward Twenty One;

District Nine: consisting of precincts numbered three through sixteen of Ward Twenty One; and precincts one through thirteen of Ward Twenty Two.

Information Received at Hearings

On May 8, 2023, Judge Patti Saris of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts granted Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Injunction in Case No. 1:22-cv-12048: Rasheed Walters, et al vs. Boston City Council, et al. By granting the Plaintiffs' motion, Judge Saris enjoined the map as approved by the City Council on November 2, 2022 and thereby prevented the City from conducting the 2023 election for district council seats using that map. On May 10, 2023, the City of Boston Law Department filed a letter with the City Council that explained the ruling and its resulting requirement the City Council pass another map.

The Committee held hearings on this Docket on Friday, May 19, 2023, Monday, May 22, 2023, and Tuesday, May 23, 2023. Dockets #0935-0937 were added to these hearings which were filed by Councilor Liz Breadon and referred to the Committee on May 17, 2023. These Dockets include documents related to redistricting litigation, minutes of the Committee on Redistricting, and redistricting archival records. During these hearings members of the Council used the map filed by the Chair as a starting point. Using the redistricting tool "Districtr", Councilors were able to see the "starting point" map and then make suggestions and move precincts in and out of districts in real-time.

Members of the public were invited to testify during public testimony periods at each of the three hearings in-person and virtually. The community was also invited to submit written and video testimony to the record.

Summary of Amendments

Based on Council deliberations during the hearing and public testimony, the following changes were made to the docket as filed:

- 03-15 and 03-16 moved from District 2 to District 3
- 09-01, 08-01, and 07-07 moved from District 3 to District 2
- 04-06 moved from District 2 to District 8
- 04-07 moved from District 8 to District 7
- 19-12 and 18-07 moved from District 5 to District 4
- 18-02 moved from District 4 to District 5

- 20-01 moved from District 6 to District 5
- 17-13 moved from District 4 to District 3
- 14-14 moved from District 4 to District 5
- 15-01 moved from District 3 to District 4

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Civil Rights and Immigrant Advancement, I recommend moving the listed docket from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At that time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that these matters **OUGHT TO PASS IN A NEW DRAFT.**



Ruthzee Louijeune, Chair
Committee on Civil Rights and Immigrant Advancement

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EXHIBIT C

RETRIEVED FROM DEMOCRACYDOCKET.COM

Chapter 11
of the Acts of 2023

T H E C O M M O N W E A L T H O F M A S S A C H U S E T T S

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court

AN ACT RELATIVE TO CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, in the year 2023, for the office of district city councilor in the city of Boston, the last hour and day for making application of nomination papers at the Boston election department shall be 5PM on June 13, 2023; the last hour and day for filing said nomination papers shall be 5PM on June 23, 2023; the last hour and day for commissioners to complete certification of signatures shall be 5PM on July 7, 2023; the last hour and day for filing withdrawals or objections to nominations of candidates or permissible substitutions shall be 5PM on July 13, 2023.

SECTION 2. The date of the regular preliminary municipal election in the city of Boston shall remain September 12, 2023 and the date of the regular municipal final election in the city of Boston shall remain November 7, 2023.

SECTION 3. For the office of city councilor at large in the city of Boston, all deadlines for making application and distribution and filing and certification of nomination papers and for objections to nominations of candidates or withdrawals or permissible substitutions of candidates shall remain as dictated by the charter of the city of Boston and the election calendar approved by the city of Boston board of elections on March 6, 2023 and shall not be altered by this act.

SECTION 4. Any valid signatures gathered for nomination papers and submitted to the Boston elections department for review by candidates for district city councilor prior to any subsequent approval of new Boston city council districts for the year 2023 shall be eligible for purposes of certification of candidacy under the new district lines if the signature is of a person who is a registered voter within either the new district or the district in which the candidate was initially running pursuant to the now-enjoined November 2, 2022 map; provided, however, that the candidate in

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question shall have been an inhabitant of a place within the new district for at least 1 year immediately preceding the date of the municipal election.

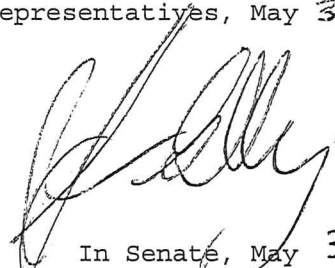
SECTION 5. If this act does not take effect until after the dates of any action taken in accordance with sections 1 and 4, the actions of the mayor, city council and elections department of the city of Boston to alter requirements or dates related to the 2023 biennial municipal election shall be ratified, validated and confirmed as if this act had taken effect prior thereto.

SECTION 6. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the Boston elections commission may add or change any dates relating to the preliminary municipal election to be held in the city of Boston on September 12, 2023 as they deem necessary for the orderly administration of the election only after approval of the secretary of the commonwealth. Such changes shall be proposed and published at least 72 weekday hours before any scheduled meeting at which a vote will be taken and sent to any affected person by posting on the Boston elections commission website and by whatever other means they deem appropriate. Any approved changes shall be sent to any affected person, posted on the Boston election department website and distributed by whatever other means the commission deems appropriate.

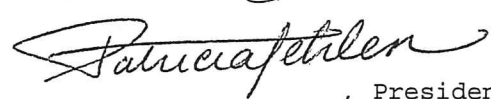
SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

House of Representatives, May 30, 2023.

Passed to be enacted,

 Speaker.
In Senate, May 30, 2023.

Passed to be enacted,

 , President.

5/30, 2023.

Approved,

at 4 o'clock and 27 minutes, P. M.

 Governor.

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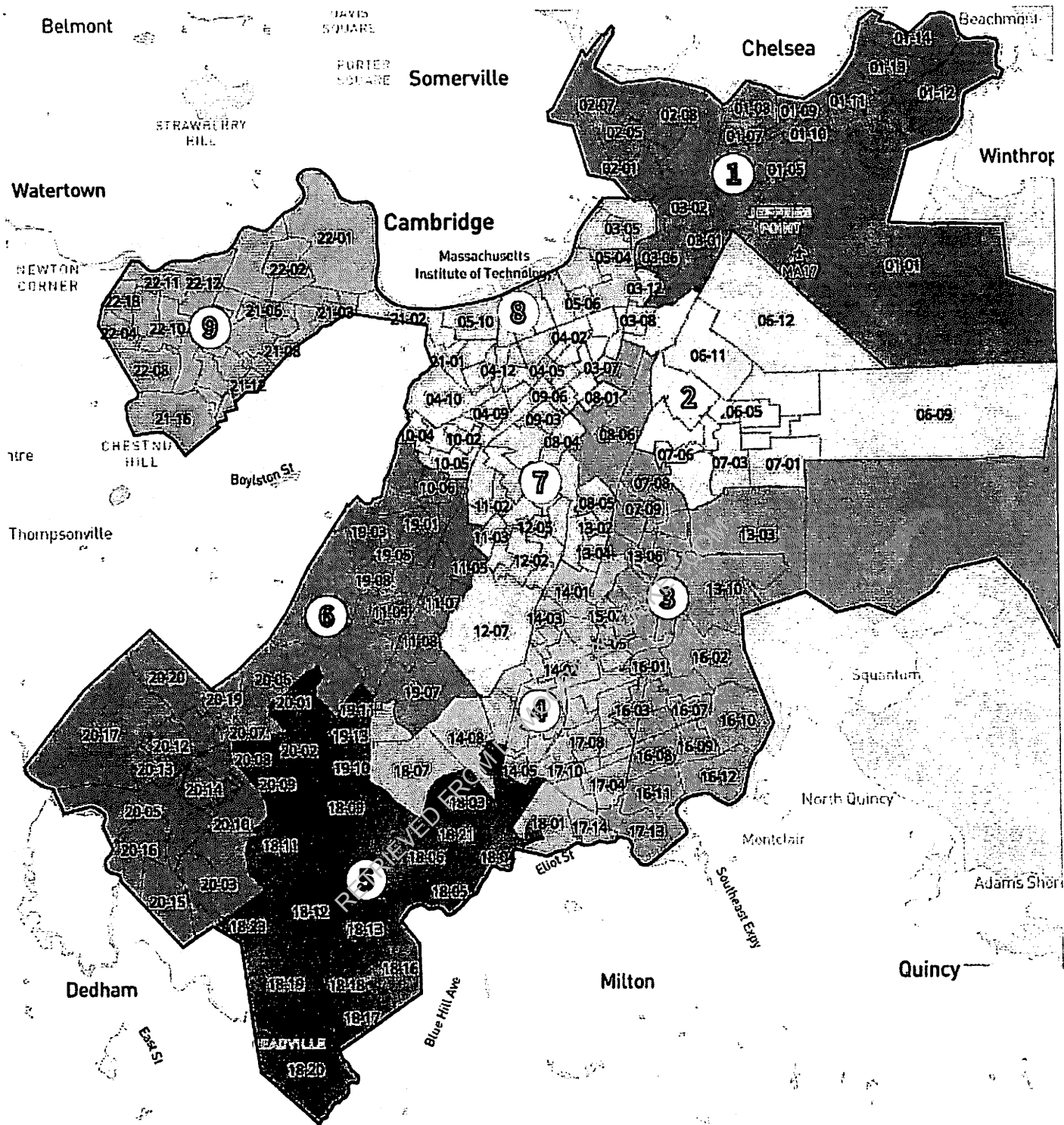


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EXHIBIT C

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H 3872

Chapter 11
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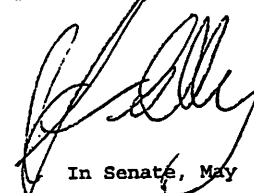
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