**MEMORANDUM**

**To**: Elections Division

**From**: Kevin Tipton

**Date**: November 9, 2020

**Re**: Election Inspector Report – Harris County Central Counting Station

I was present at the central counting station from approximately 6:50PM on November 3, 2020 until 6:45AM on November 4, 2020. At that time, the central counting station went on recess and I was advised by the Elections Division that I should return to Austin.

Poll watchers were present and the county officials and election judges made considerable efforts to ensure the poll watchers had the ability to observe all aspects of the count and an understanding of the processes employed at the counting station.

Two irregularities were observed during the counting:

• Two poll watchers were asked by the Election Judge to leave the polling location due to their separate uses of an electronic device. I learned of the removal after it had already taken place.

• The polling location was located in a roped off area in an exhibit hall. Anyone who was removed could still see within the polling location and interact with those inside. This meant that the poll watcher remained nearby, with the general public and media, after their removal from the polling location.

• While speaking with her to hear her understanding of the removal, Ms. Syed asked “Are you seeing this?” in reference to Mr. Musgrove, who had his phone out in front of him at the end of the table in the polling location. Ms. Syed called Mr. Pesota over and reported the incident. Mr. Pesota asked directly whether I had seen Mr. Musgrove use his phone. I indicated that the poll watcher had his phone out in front of him, but that I did not know whether the phone was in use or simply being held. Another poll watcher corroborated that he had his phone out in front of him as well. The poll watcher was asked to leave the polling location. After some discussion, the poll watcher left.

• The poll watcher later returned to the polling location to pack up his belongings and say goodbye to the other poll watchers. The election judge approached the poll watcher with a sheriff’s deputy and asked the poll watcher to leave immediately or be escorted out by the deputy. The poll watcher requested an escort by the deputy and left the polling location.

• At approximately 6:00AM, the final memory card from a voting machine was not able to be read. A backup was available at the original polling location, a school in Pasadena. Upon retrieval of the backup, it would need to be brought to another location for backup before it could be brought to the central counting station. The county representatives estimated they would not finish this process until approximately 12:00PM that day. Fusion of the voting totals could not occur until after the last votes were properly tallied into the system. Based on the information available, the judges decided to take a recess at approximately 6:45AM with intent to reconvene on November 5, 2020