



Municipality of Anchorage

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Office of the Municipal Clerk

TO: Daniel E. Smith, Election Observer

FROM: Barbara A. Jones, Municipal Clerk *BAJ*

DATE: April 3, 2022

SUBJECT: Response to Your Complaint Re Livestreaming Video & Recordings Filed March 23, 2022

Thank you for your complaint filed on March 23, 2022 regarding the livestreaming video and recordings on YouTube of the MOA Election Center. We appreciate the concerns that you raised regarding the video including the following:

- “the expectation ...that...there would be 24/7 video recordings of Election Center [activity] available to the general public;”
- “the lack of continuous video coverage/posting” on YouTube;
- “the lack of a time and date stamp” on the video on YouTube.

On March 22, the MOA Elections Team began working with MOA IT to provide technical assistance regarding the issues with the YouTube limit of recording only 12 hours of the livestream. Because the MOA Election Center is only open from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday, and policy requires two election workers around ballots at all times, as well as publicly noticing and work outside of those hours, MOA Elections staff could not enter the Election Center to restart the video either at 5:00 a.m. each day or on the weekends. On March 25, the MOA IT Direct Services Manager made a presentation to the Observers at the Election Center to address these concerns you raised as follows:

- MOA IT updated the MOA client computer used to livestream to YouTube to display the time and date stamp in the upper right-hand corner of both the livestream and the recorded video on the Municipality of Anchorage Election Center YouTube Channel.
- The MOA IT Direct Services Manager agreed to remotely start and stop the YouTube Client Computer at 8:00 p.m. (The MOA Elections Team will continue to start and stop the YouTube Client Computer at 8:00 a.m.) This assistance will ensure 24/7 video recordings on the Municipality of Anchorage Election Center YouTube Channel.
- MOA IT has been working to develop a script to remotely stop and restart the MOA client computer every 12 hours to make sure there is “continuous video coverage/posting” of livestreamed video on YouTube. The MOA Elections Team receives a report regarding the remote stop and start to confirm the process is working.

We believe this response and the action taken on or before March 25 has addressed the issues raised in your complaint.

C: Jamie Heinz, Deputy Municipal Clerk – Elections
Dee Ennis, Observer Liaison
Ralph Duerre, Observer Liaison
Observer Contacts for other campaigns



Municipality of Anchorage
April 5, 2022 Regular Municipal Election
Complaint Form

OBSERVER INFORMATION	<u>3-23-22</u> Date
	<u>DANIEL E-SMITH</u> Printed Name Of Observer
	<u>LIZ VAZQUEZ</u> Name Of Candidate Or Organization/Group Representing

COMPLAINT	SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING COMPLAINT, INCLUDING ELECTION OFFICIAL NAME, IF APPLICABLE:
	REFERENCE ATTACHED INFORMATION DATED 3/23/22 (1 PAGE)

SIGNATURES	<u><i>Daniel E Smith</i></u> Signature of Observer	<u>3-23-22</u> Date Submitted
	_____ Signature of Municipal Clerk or Designee	_____ Date Received

Video Images in and around Election Central are not available to the public at all times.
March 23, 2022

It was my expectation and that of many others there would be 24/7 video recordings of Election Center available to the general public. There are concerns about the lack of continuous video coverage/posting in and around the Election Center. In addition, the lack of a time and date stamp on each camera video is also a concern. After my conversation with Municipal Clerk Barbara Jones, it is my understanding that all cameras are continuously recording and all images are stored on a server in Election Central.

All of the images are however, not available in a recorded format to the general public at this time. There are large blocks of time missing from the video posted to the You Tube channel each day. The problem was first described to be a motion activated camera problem. No motion detected results in no video being recorded was the explanation. That turned out to not be the case. The problem as later explained to me, is that You Tube only allows a limited amount of time (11hours and 55 minutes) to be posted to each video then cuts the feed from the camera. The feed to the next post can be restarted by an election official manually pushing the start button at the beginning of business the next day. If an election official starts the video at the beginning of the day (8:00am) they get the full work day captured on video (9 hours or so of video). An election official then manually pushes the start video button at the close of business, 5:00pm. This will capture video until about 5:00am leaving a three hour gap of video unposted each day.

The following videos were recorded and posted publicly. This list shows the serious deficiencies in providing 24/7 video coverage to the public.

March 15, 2022 – 8:47:56 hours and 11:55:00 hours. Total hours recorded and posted, 20:42:56.

March 16, 2022 – 5:17:32 hours, 1:19:22 hours and 11:54:59 hours. Total hours recorded and posted, 18:31:53.

March 17, 2022 – 8:59:04 hours and 11:55:00 hours. Total hours recorded and posted, 20:54:04.

March 18, 2022 – 9:05:20 Total hours recorded and posted, 9:05:20.

March 19, 2022 – no video posted - No one came in to push the start button apparently.

March 20, 2022 – no video posted - No one came in to push the start button apparently.

March 21, 2022 – 9:07:58 and 11:55:00 hours. Total hours recorded and posted, 21:02:58.

March 22, 2022 – 8:55:40 and 11:54:59. Total hours recorded and posted, 20:50:39

If the 15 cameras are reported to be recording to a server but are not being posted to the You Tube channel, this appears to be a staffing problem at 5:00am. This problem preempts public posting of the video and is not necessarily a technological problem. It might be easily solved with technology and a means of remotely starting the video when the maximum You Tube length is exceeded. Either way, there is currently no live stream to watch or video recorded when the video posting limits are met.

Finally, none of the 15 cameras are time and date stamped making event identification difficult. It is requested that time and date stamps be added to each camera making them trackable chronologically.

Daniel Smith
Observer