Reported at 3:30 PM to witness and verify initial ballot run, on behalf of the Committee to Pay City Council Members for 52 Meetings Issue Committee. Escorted by Sydney Power (spower@bouldercounty.org), Chief Deputy Clerk and Recorder. Bell and Howell machine being run with ballots. This machine captures signatures for verification and sorts ballot envelopes. Denied access to immediate area by Power and made to observe from twelve feet away. Not able to see or witness control area. Told by Power these were mock up ballots being run. Asked to see mock-up ballot and denied.

Room adjacent marked "Signature Verification" had blinds on the glass door with people working inside room. I was not allowed into room where ballot envelopes were being counted out and put into batches. Power denied access and told me that I could not access this room.

Noticed different color-coded ballot envelopes of red, black, and blue. Asked Power what the different colors correspond to and denied. Told some ballots are delivered by USPS and some ballots were picked up at the post office by Clerk staff.

After hour and a half delay I was told first run of actual ballots being run through the B & H machine. Trays of ballots brought into end room on right marked "signature verification" from another room off the back of this room at far end of main ballot processing area. I was observing through glass window. I asked to view the room where ballot envelope counting was taking place and denied. Told ballots being counted into batches of 150 and processed.

I asked to see where ballots are stored overnight. This issue was also raised by the Canvass Board at their meeting on October 12th. Denied access by Power.

Escorted into Signature Verification room by Power. Observed person at computer workstation examining batch of signatures. Three different voters' ballots appeared on the screen at one time along with each voter's unique SCORE signature on record. At distance allowed for Watcher by Power, I was not able to see the signatures or corresponding name of voter if I needed to Challenge signature.

Outside of Verification Room, reported to Power I was not able to witness the signature clearly. Requested that one ballot be brought up on computer screen at a time in order to view a larger image of the envelope signature compared with the signature on record.
Denied and told this was their process. Without a more visible signature, I was unable to fulfill my duty to verify the signature.

I asked what categories were available on the screen to the Poll Worker for acceptance or denial of the signature. I was corrected by Power that they are an Election Judge or Election Staff . I expressed my confusion that I thought Election Judges were people appointed on a bipartisan basis from the major Parties. Power

said the term Election Judge and Election Staff were interchangeable. I was denied clarification of verification screen. Asked what "signature discrepancy" in one pull down menu meant and denied.

I asked how Watchers should be able to challenge a signature that the Election Staff accepted? Accept is the default. Told to file a written Voter Challenge and given a copy of Form Entitled "Voter Challenge- Ballot Cast by Mail". Form states Challenger must fill out form with Elector's Last and First Name and Basis for Challenge.

I was escorted back into "Signature Verification" room and now there were four different ballots coming up on the screen at one time. Witnessed Staff operator of the computer click accept in rapid succession and four ballots accepted in a blink without any opportunity to witness or verify signatures. Also Staff could not view adequately but accepted all four. Worker obviously hit the next or accept button accidently. But as a Watcher I was not allowed to challenge or slow the process. This is unacceptable. There is a button on the screen to go back and with a bipartisan team this would happen. Or if the Watcher can alert the Worker that they skipped over four pairs of ballot signatures.

Discussed issue further with Sydney Power. I inquired how I could challenge a signature if I could not see the name on the screen? Power said they hired bipartisan team members for working with the ballots, although I observed no bi-partisan teams verifying the signatures I requested a list of Election Staff and Judges and their affiliation. Power described that Ballot Resolution includes three people: worker, Democrat Judge, and Republican Judge. I discussed that if the envelope's signature was not kicked out in the initial pass, it would never be viewed by the Ballot Resolution team. It is my understanding from CRS 1-8-114.5. Verification of signatures – rules, that a sworn election judge representing a party must verify the signature. It is unclear to me whether that is happening in Boulder with the "election worker" approving the signature.

I pointed out the bar code on the ballots and inquired whether the bar code was able to connect any of the ballot process together. Not answered by Power.

I made appeal to Power that their must be a way for a bipartisan team of two people to verify the signatures. Because once this step is done, and the ballot is separated from the envelope, there is no way to trace it back to stop an ineligible ballot from being counted.   I brought up the analogy that in a precinct polling location there was a bipartisan team of Watchers. When a voter presents him(her)self to vote, they sign in and a Watcher or any voter may Challenge that voter before they cast their ballot. As the Mail-In ballots are being processed in Boulder, there is no method to reasonably verify or challenge the signature, which is the cornerstone of the mail-in ballot.

Mail in ballots will only receive the same integrity as in- person voting if a bipartisan team verifies the signature together. Alternatively, as is now happening with one Election Staff person operating the computer screen, then a Watcher needs to a)be able to see the signature comparison and b) challenge the signature if accepted by the Staff.

A written Challenge is only possible if there is sufficient time allowed for the Watcher to write down the name of the voter they are Challenging the signature of before the screen is accepted and advanced to the next. Reducing the number of ballots that appear on the screen simultaneously would be advised. Or allowing time for the Watcher to write down the name of the voter's ballot which is being Challenged.

I have personally viewed Staff operator error by them double clicking accept and four ballots at a time being missed verification totally. Again, there is no way currently for the Watcher to Challenge this and alert the Staff worker for the need to go back.

If the Clerk and Staff do not want to change their current process, then the Watchers should be set up at a workstation and be able to Challenge signatures which will then go to a bipartisan Resolution Team.

Every workstation where signatures are being verified needs to have a Watcher, especially if there is not a bipartisan team performing the verification. It is impossible for a Watcher to witness and verify at more than one workstation at a time. This would be in concurrence with the Secretary of State's guidelines, but is not being allowed under Clerk Hall's administration. At this time only one Watcher per party is being expected to witness and verify in six totally separate rooms and work areas. If bipartisan teams are not verifying the signatures, then one Watcher per workstation must be authorized.

Staff was relieved by a co-worker and told to check the 54 "kick-outs".

This Staff person then went through these and marked some as good.

Asked Power if this other Staff was of different party affiliation. Answer denied.

I believe the kicked-out ballots should be reviewed by a bipartisan Resolution team.