

MEETING OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2009
AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR COMMISSIONERS' ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: President Frederic Umane
 Secretary Julie Dent

Commissioners Araujo, Sampel, Schacher, Silie, Sipp, Soumas, Stupp

Marcus Cederqvist, Executive Director
Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager
Steven H. Richman, General Counsel
John Owens, Jr., Director, Campaign Finance Enforcement
John Ward, Finance Officer
Dorothy Delayo, Director, Personnel
Valerie Vazquez-Rivera, Director, Communications and Public Affairs
Katherine James, Deputy Chief Clerk, Queens Borough Office
Christopher Manos, Temporary Attorney, Office of the General Counsel
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Marjorie Shea, Women's City Club
 Teresa Hommel, Community Church of New York
 Jerome Koening
 Andrea Senteno, CUF
 Glenn Magpantay, AALDEF
 Mark B. Herman, SIDA
 T.K. Small
 David R. Zukerman
 Alan Flacks, Member of NY County Democratic Committee

President Umane called the meeting to order at 1:40 P.M.

President Umane requested to amend a motion in the minutes of the Finance Committee for October 20, 2009. The General Counsel stated the recommended revision as follows: “Commissioner Soumas moved to re-bid the 2010 poll worker training video project in order for the Board to obtain a new scope to meet the new requirements where no DVD replication will be done and BOE personnel will be used instead of actors; this will also give the maximum bids possible. President Umane seconded the motion, with an amendment to allow the vendors to use their same submission. The motion was adopted unanimously.” President Umane moved to approve the amended minutes of the Finance Committee for October 20, 2009. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Araujo moved to adopt the minutes with any necessary corrections of September 22, 2009, October 13, 2009, October 13, 2009 – Finance Committee, October 20, 2009 and October 20, 2009 – Finance Committee. Commissioner Silie seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Executive Director presented the HAVA update. He reported that a copy of the weekly State Board status report is in the agenda. Mr. Cederqvist noted that the report indicates that the status for “Testing,

Certification and Selection” of new voting machines is slightly behind schedule for one vendor. However, the report states that the weekend is needed for completion of testing for the vendor and the delay will not affect other dates in the time line.

The Executive Director reported that he did not receive information on the State Board’s HAVA Pilot Program yet, but several news reports are in the agenda. He will report on the HAVA Pilot Program once he receives the information.

The Executive Director reported that he has been in touch with the New York City Council staff, at the Commissioners’ direction from a previous meeting, to schedule a meeting to provide a status report to members of the Council’s central staff for the new voting system implementation. He indicated that the person he spoke with from the Council thought that they should be able to schedule such a meeting for early December 2009.

The Executive Director presented a preliminary report on the November 3, 2009 General Election. The recanvassing of the voting machines started today at 10:00 A.M. in all voting machine facilities and the

canvass of the absentee, affidavit, and military ballots and recanvass of emergency and BMD ballots will begin on Thursday at the respective borough offices. The public may observe and monitor the canvassing process. Mr. Cederqvist also provided some the preliminary numbers from the General Election:

- Approximately 1.1 million voters turned out on Election Day compared to 2.64 million in the 2008 General Election and 1.32 million in 2005, the most recent city cycle.
- The Board's website received 11,432 "hits" the day before the General Election, and on Election Day it received 32,135 "hits;" approximately 20,000 of those "hits" were used for the poll site locator. In the 2008 General Election, there were approximately 100,000 website "hits."
- The Board's Phone Bank received 3,945 calls compared to the 2008 General Election which received approximately 20,000 calls. In the 2005 General Election, the Phone Bank received approximately 6,000 calls.

President Umame inquired if the Board received numbers from the 311 Call Center. He stated that at a previous meeting with their staff they compiled enormous numbers. The Executive Director replied that he has

not received any information from them to this date. He reminded those present that the 311 Call Center can only answer questions for poll site locations and Election Day hours, which are the most common questions from callers; all other inquiries are transferred to the Board's Phone Bank. Mr. Cederqvist speculated that the 311 Call Center probably experienced a similar drop-off in calls as did the Board's Phone Bank.

The Executive Director reported on additional work space at the Executive Office. The Board tried to obtain the 3rd floor in 42 Broadway for several years, but DCAS was not able to secure the space and the landlord has since rented the floor to another tenant. There is work space located on the 11th floor and DCAS has indicated that they believe they will be able to secure it for use beginning in late February or early March 2010 with a one (1) year licensing agreement, with an option to lease the space long term.

The Executive Director reported that the letter sent to the State Board regarding the photocopying of ballots is posted on the Board's website per the Commissioners' direction. A copy of the letter is in the agenda.

The Finance Officer reported on the Vacancy Report dated

November 10, 2009 and Comparative Expenditures dated November 3, 2009. Mr. Ward noted that the overtime and payroll numbers are higher than usual due to the retroactive raises from Local 1183.

The Executive Director received 311 Call Center numbers from Daniel Lavelle, Supervisor for the Board's Phone Bank. He reported that on Election Day, the 311 Call Center received 4,082 calls for the two (2) questions that they can answer for the Board.

President Umame moved to convene an Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation matters. Commissioner Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Following the Executive Session, the open public session resumed and President Umame reported on the actions which were taken in Executive Session:

- I. Unanimously approved Troy Johnson, Coordinator of the Candidate Records Unit, and Stewart Liberman, Agency Chief Contract Officer, to receive the salary of their predecessors adjusted for the pay increases retroactive for the day of hire for the specific positions they now hold.

President Umane adjourned the meeting.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 1:30 P.M.