

MEETING OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 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, Polanco, Silie, Sipp, Soumas, Stupp

Marcus Cederqvist, Executive Director
Steven H. Richman, General Counsel
John Owens, Jr., Director, Campaign Finance Enforcement
John Ward, Finance Officer
Dorothy Delayo, Director, Personnel
Troy Johnson, Coordinator, Candidate Records Unit
Tom Sattie, Associate Staff Analyst, Candidate Records Unit
Michael Carmicino, Administrative Associate, Candidate Records Unit
Valerie Vazquez-Rivera, Director, Communications and Public Affairs
Gregory Lehman, Chief Clerk, Manhattan Borough Office
Timothy Gay, Deputy Chief Clerk, Manhattan Borough Office
Dawn Sandow, Deputy Chief Clerk, Bronx Borough Office
Anna Torres, Deputy Chief Clerk, Bronx Borough Office
Katherine James, Deputy Chief Clerk, Queens Borough Office
Robert Pataky, Administrative Associate, Queens Borough Office
Amanda Conacchio, Clerk, Queens Borough Office
Diana Haslett Rudiano, Chief Clerk, Brooklyn Borough Office
Maryrose Sattie, Deputy Chief Clerk, Brooklyn Borough Office
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Rima McCoy, CIDNY
 Marjorie Shea, Women's City Club
 Teresa Hommel, Community Church of New York
 Andrea Senteno, CUF
 Jerry Koening
 Jonathan Fleek, Member of the Green Party
 Alan Flacks, Member of NY County Democratic Committee

Secretary Dent called the meeting to order at 1:45 P.M.

Secretary Dent convened the meeting of the Board of Canvassers in the City of New York to certify the results of the November 3, 2009 General Election.

The General Counsel called upon the Chief and Deputy Chief Clerks for each of the five (5) boroughs to present the Statement and Return of Canvass for various contests of the November 3, 2009 General Election for certification.

Greg Lehman, Chief Clerk, and Timothy Gay, Deputy Chief Clerk, requested that the Board of Canvassers certify the Statement and Return of Canvass for various contests in New York County. There were reported discrepancies which were explained and did not affect the outcome of the election results. President Umame moved to certify the Statement and Return of Canvass for various contests in New York County. Commissioner Soumas seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Diane Rudiano, Chief Clerk, and Maryrose Sattie, Deputy Chief Clerk,

requested that the Board of Canvassers certify the Statement and Return of Canvass for various contests in Kings County. There were reported discrepancies which were explained and did not affect the outcome of the election results. Secretary Dent moved to certify the Statement and Return of Canvass for various contests in Kings County. President Umane seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Secretary Dent commended the Brooklyn Borough Office for doing a fantastic job conducting the November 3, 2009 General Election.

Anna Torres, Deputy Chief Clerk, and Dawn Sandow, Deputy Chief Clerk, requested that the Board of Canvassers certify the Statement and Return of Canvass for various contests in Bronx County. There were reported discrepancies which were explained and did not affect the outcome of the election results. Commissioner Silie moved to certify the Statement and Return of Canvass for various contests in Bronx County. Commissioner Polanco seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Commissioners Polanco and Silie commended the Bronx Borough Office for doing a job well done.

Katherine James, Deputy Chief Clerk, Robert Pataky, Administrative Associate, and Amanda Conacchio, Clerk, on behalf of Barbara Conacchio, Chief Clerk, requested that the Board of Canvassers certify the Statement and Return of Canvass for various contests in Queens County. There were reported discrepancies which were explained and did not affect the outcome of the election results. Commissioner Araujo moved to certify the Statement and Return of Canvass for various contests in Queens County. Commissioner Stupp seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Araujo thanked the Queens Borough Office for their hard work and doing a job well done.

On behalf of the Staten Island Chief Clerk and Deputy Chief Clerk, Commissioner Sipp presented the Statement and Return of Canvass for various contests in Richmond County. There were reported discrepancies which were explained and did not affect the outcome of the election results. Commissioner Sipp moved to certify the Statement and Return of Canvass for various contests in Richmond County. Secretary Dent seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

President Umame moved to approve and adopt the recap Statement and Return of Canvass for the November 3, 2009 General Election for the citywide offices and those Council Districts which cross county lines. Secretary Dent seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Araujo moved to authorize the use of the Commissioners' signature stamps as appropriate on each Statement and Return of Canvass. Commissioner Polanco seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

President Umame designated Commissioner Stupp to serve as the second Republican Member of the Board of Canvassers on the Statements and Returns of Canvass for Manhattan and the citywide offices.

Secretary Dent designated Commissioner Soumas to serve as the second Democratic Member of the Board of Canvassers for the Statements and Returns of Canvass for Brooklyn and the citywide offices.

President Umame congratulated those who were elected in the November 3, 2009 General Election. On behalf of the Commissioners and the citizens in the City of New York, he thanked all borough offices for their

hard work and diligence in executing the citywide General Election.

President Umame moved to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Canvassers and convene the stated meeting of the Board of Elections. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Secretary Dent thanked the Executive Director for doing a wonderful job at last week's presentation. She stated that it was very informative and is happy to hear that it will also be presented to the New York City Council.

Commissioner Polanco requested to be added to the agenda to give a report on the meeting of the Commissioners' Committee on Public Education which was held last Friday.

Secretary Dent moved to adopt the minutes of October 6, 2009, October 6, 2009 – Finance Committee, November 17, 2009 and November 17, 2009 – Finance Committee. Commissioner Silie seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Executive Director presented the HAVA update. He stated that in the State Board's HAVA Compliance Update all activities are on

schedule for the State Board to certify new voting systems by December 15, 2009. The State Board's independent testing authority has submitted a certification report that their Commissioners and staff are reviewing.

The Executive Director reported that there are news articles in the agenda regarding the State Board's HAVA Pilot Program.

The Executive Director stated that he scheduled a meeting with the staffs of the New York City Council's Finance and Government Operations Committees for Friday, December 4, 2009. Mr. Cederqvist will give the staff a PowerPoint presentation which was previously viewed by the Commissioners.

The Executive Director reported that the Board received an inquiry from the staff of Senator Charles Schumer regarding the new voting system. A briefing has been scheduled for December 3, 2009.

The Finance Officer presented the Vacancy Report dated November 24, 2009.

Commissioner Polanco presented a report from the Commissioners'

Committee on Public Education which held a meeting last Friday. He stated that the committee met with representatives of Burson Marsteller to discuss the advertising initiatives they will develop for the Board of Elections in an effort to educate the public about the new voting system. The committee previously met with their staff several times and gave them their recommendations for a potential focus group. He stated that the Committee felt there was major improvement from the last meeting. The committee had recommendations for borough focus initiatives on landscapes and celebrities. Commissioner Polanco stated that it is a work in progress and is a very good venture for the Board. Commissioner Soumas added that the meeting was a tremendous improvement from the last and Burson Marsteller revised their proposals based on the Commissioners' recommendations. Commissioner Polanco stated that the full Board will be impressed. President Umane cautioned the Board and its consultants to not waste money on focus groups. He stated a new voting system is not a new product with tag lines. Commissioner Polanco responded that he believed the new voting system is a new product. Commissioner Sipp inquired if he could view what the committee and Burson Marsteller are targeting for Staten Island. Commissioner Soumas replied yes. He added that the project is going to use the focus group to fine tune the Board's message, which the committee feels is necessary.

Commissioner Soumas invited the Commissioners to the next meeting of the Commissioners' Committee to view the picture boards and still shots. The proposals will be for citywide focus as well as individual boroughs and neighborhoods. He stated that originally the proposed ads looked like they were designed by people who never been to New York or know what New York is all about. There was a dramatic difference after that meeting. Commissioner Araujo inquired if the Commissioners can attend the focus group as well. Commissioner Stupp stated the public focus group might be able to reveal more ideas where the Board might be heading, better than the Commissioners, because they are a little too close to the issues at hand. She added that the public focus group will be beneficial. Secretary Dent asked Commissioner Polanco about his claim that public funds were saved, which he mentioned in his report earlier. Commissioner Polanco stated that he thought that the first set of advertising picture boards were insulting and insensitive to this City's cultural differences. The committee gave recommendations to Burson Marsteller to tone them down to be more appropriate for our City. Commissioner Soumas stated that the project is moving forward.

Secretary Dent moved to revise the previous motion and table the minutes for November 17, 2009 Commissioners' Meeting in order for all

Commissioners' to have a chance to review them. The motion was adopted unanimously.

President Umane moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Polanco seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

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