

MEETING OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS  
HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2007  
AT 1:30 P.M.  
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
NEW YORK, NY 10004

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P R E S E N T:           Anthony Como, President  
                              James Sampel, Secretary

Commissioners Dent, Graham, O'Connor, Polanco, Schacher, Soumas,  
Yennella

George Gonzalez, Deputy Executive Director  
Steven H. Richman, General Counsel  
John Ward, Finance Officer  
Phil Donahue, Director, Personnel  
Steve Ferguson, Director, MIS  
Karen Viggiano, Consultant, Gartner  
Beth Fossella, Voter Registration  
Gladys Fernandez, EVS  
Mona Huang, EVS  
Philip Mione, EVS  
Jack Courtney, Temporary Attorney  
Steven Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST:    Marjorie Shea, Women's City Club  
              Andrea Senteno, Citizen Union  
              Alyssa Usui, Voters' Assistance Commission  
              Teresa Hummel  
              Mark Herman

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President Como called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

President Como convened the meeting of the Board of Canvassers in the City of New York to certify the November 6, 2007 General Election.

The General Counsel asked the Board of Canvassers to certify the canvass of return of votes cast in the November 6, 2007 General Election in the Borough of Manhattan and the Citywide canvass for Proposal No. 1.

Timothy Gay, the Deputy Chief Clerk, Manhattan County presented the Commissioners with reports of discrepancies in the recanvassing of votes cast in Manhattan for the November 6 General Election.

Commissioner Soumas moved to certify the canvass of returns for the November 6, 2007 General Election in the Borough of Manhattan. Secretary Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

President Como moved to authorize Board staff to use the Commissioner's signature stamps on the reports of certification approved today and designated Commissioner Polanco to serve as the Republican

Commissioner of the Board of Canvassers in the absence of Commissioner Umane. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

President Como move to certify the Citywide results for Proposition No. 1 for the November 6 General Election. Secretary Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

President Como adjourned the meeting of the Board of Canvassers. Secretary Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

President Como moved to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2007 (with amendments), October 23, 2007 and October 30, 2007 meetings. Secretary Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

President Como moved to table the minutes of the November 13, 2007 and the November 20, 2007 meetings. Secretary Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Deputy Executive Director asked the Commissioners to authorize transmission of the staff's proposed recommended revisions to the State Board's draft Rules for Routine Maintenance and Testing of Voting Systems, Operational Procedures and Standards for Determining Valid Votes to the State Board of Elections.

Commissioner O'Connor moved to authorize the Deputy Executive Director to transmit the staff's proposed recommended revisions to the State Board's draft Rules to the State Board of Elections on behalf of the Board. Secretary Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The General Counsel provided the Commissioners with copies of the Draft Independent Nominating Petition Rules for 2008 for consideration. The General Counsel reported that several changes to the 2007 Independent Nominating Petition Rules have been made, in conformance with the changes approved by the Commissioners of Election in New York City for the 2008 Presidential Primary Petition Rules.

Commissioner O'Connor moved to approve the Draft Independent Nominating Petition Rules for 2008 as submitted. President Como seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Phil Donahue, Director, Personnel reported on his concern that military service men and women overseas experience difficulty with casting their Absentee Ballots during elections. He asked for approval to go to Iraq and Afghanistan at no expense to the Board, to register service men and women and collect Absentee Ballots for those eligible to vote in the 2008 President Primary Election.

After discussion, Commissioner Soumas moved to endorse Mr. Donahue's proposed mission. Commissioner O'Connor seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Finance Officer John Ward provided the Commissioners with the Vacancy Report dated November 20, 2007.

Commissioner Soumas moved to convene an Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation matters. Secretary Sampel seconded

the motion, which was agreed to unanimously.

The President reported that the following action took place in Executive Session:

- 1) A motion was made to allocate \$10,000 to each Commissioner for merit increases to be distributed by each Commissioner to BOE staff. The motion was not adopted by a vote of 4 in favor; 5 opposed.

President Como moved to adjourn. Secretary Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

President Como announced that the next Commissioners' meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.