

MEETING OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS  
HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2008  
AT 1:30 P.M.  
42 BROADWAY, 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR HEARING ROOM  
NEW YORK, NY 10004

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P R E S E N T:           James Sampel, President  
                              Frederic Umane, Secretary

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

Marcus Cederqvist, Executive Director  
George Gonzalez, Deputy Executive Director  
Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager  
Steven H. Richman, General Counsel  
Valerie Vazquez, Director of Communications  
Phil Donahue, Director, Personnel  
John Ward, Finance Officer  
Anthony Ribustello, Bronx Office  
Jack Courtney, Temporary Attorney  
Steven Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST:    Marjorie Shea, Women's City Club  
              Aaron Belisle, CIDNY  
              Mary Lou Urban, League of Women Voters  
              Andrea Senteno, Citizen Union  
              Alyssa Usui, Voters Assistance Commission  
              Jerry Koenig  
              Mark Herman

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President Sampel called the meeting to order at 1:36 P.M.

President Sampel moved to approve the minutes of the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Polanco seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

President Sampel moved to table the minutes of February 26, 2008. Commissioner O'Connor seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

President Sampel moved the following personnel actions pursuant to Section 3-300 of the New York State Election Law:

- Eleanor Guerrieri is promoted to Administrative Associate in the Executive Office to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Victoria Bryan; and
- Pranvera Kote is appointed as Clerk in the Executive Office to fill the vacancy created by the promotion of Eleanor Guerrieri.

Both actions are effective as of February 3, 2008

Commissioner Polanco seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Executive Director reported that:

- 1) The Executive Office phone bank will be closed for upgrades. The Staten Island Phone Bank has been upgraded with a new computerized system, which will be fully operational on March 20, 2008. All calls will be directed to Staten Island and selected Executive Office phone bank staff will be temporarily deployed to that site. The anticipated completion date for the Executive Office Phone Bank upgrade is April 7, 2008.
- 2) Board staff met with staff of the U.S. Department of Justice's Voting Section, in Washington, D.C., on February 27, 2008 along with the Assistant Corporation Counsels from the NYC Law Department, the Board's outside counsels and a staff member from the Department of City Planning concerning the proposed Chinese Language Assistance Program.
- 3) Enrollment books have been distributed to the Borough Offices and copies are available at the Executive Office for sale to the public.
- 4) The Board is scheduled to testify before the Committee

on Governmental Operations regarding the Mayor's FY'09 Preliminary Budget on Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 11:00 A.M.

- 5) The New York State Board of Elections' Annual Election Officials Conference will be held Monday, April 28 – Wednesday, April 30, 2008 in Syracuse, New York.

Commissioner Soumas moved to authorize Executive Office and Borough Managers to attend the NYS Board's Annual Conference. Commissioner Schacher seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

- 6) The certified reports of the canvass of votes cast within the City of New York in the February 5, 2008 Presidential Primary Election are available on the Board's website.
- 7) Helen Swanson-Owen's appearance before the Commissioners will be scheduled.
- 8) Steve Ferguson is participating in a meeting today with the NYS Voter II Policy/Standards Committee (of which both the Executive Director and Steve Ferguson are members).
- 9) The Mayor's Election Modernization Task Force has

scheduled a meeting with NYC Board staff for Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 8:30 A.M. at the Law Department. He invited the Commissioners to attend.

The Commissioners authorized Board staff to testify before the Committee on Governmental Operations and attend the Election Modernization Task Force meeting.

- 10) A meeting was held with ES&S on Thursday, February 28, 2008.
- 11) Board staff have completed the first draft of OGS Order for BMD supplies and services; and
- 12) The Poll Site Accessibility Unit has been reviewing space issues at some poll sites with respect to adding a Ballot Marking Device.

The General Counsel provided the Commissioners with a copy of the revised draft 2008 Legislative Package for their approval. Secretary Umane moved to approve the draft 2008 Legislative Package by deleting Proposal number 6, changing the date of the Primary Election. President Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted by a vote of 8 in favor (President Umane, Secretary Umane, Commissioners Como, Dent,

Graham, Polanco, Schacher, Soumas) and 1 opposed (Commissioner O'Connor).

The Commissioners instructed the General Counsel to make the necessary corrections and distribute the package. In addition, the General Counsel is directed to seek a mutually convenient date for the Board's annual visit to Albany.

The Director of Communications reported that the New Yorker Magazine will host a New York Festival, October 3, 2008 through October 5, 2008 and requested that the Board of Elections conduct voter registration at the event. President Sampel moved to authorize Board staff to participate in this event. Commissioner O'Connor seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Director of Communications reported that the New York State Comptroller's Office has provided the NYC Board with a draft of their pending audit of absentee ballot procedures in 2005 and 2006 at the Bronx and Staten Island Borough Offices. Mrs. Vazquez reported that the Staten Island Office has begun preparing their response.

In addition, Mrs. Vazquez provided the Commissioners with a copy of the draft statement regarding the unofficial nature of the election night tallies for review. President Sampel tabled consideration of the statement until the next meeting.

Finance Officer John Ward provided the Commissioners with the Vacancy Report dated March 4, 2008.

President Sampel moved to convene an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Secretary Umame seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously.

President Sampel reported that the following actions were taken in Executive Session pursuant to §3-300 of the New York State Election Law:

- 1) Antonina Mione, a Clerk in the Queens Office, is appointed to fill the vacancy caused by Barbara Sibert's retirement, as Administrative Assistant in the Queens Office, effective March 2, 2008.

President Sampel moved to adjourn. Commissioner O'Connor seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The next Commissioner's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 1:30 P.M.