

MEETING OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2008
AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

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

Commissioners 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 Vasquez, Director of Communications
Phil Donahue, Director, Personnel
John Ward, Finance Officer
Joseph LaRocca, Coordinator, Candidate Records Unit
Dawn Sandow, Deputy Chief Clerk, Bronx
Diane Rudiano, Chief Clerk, Brooklyn
Maryrose Sattie, Deputy Chief Clerk, Brooklyn
Timothy Gay, Deputy Chief Clerk, Manhattan
Steve Ferguson, Director, MIS
Rosanna Rahmouni, Coordinator, EDO
Beth Fossella, Coordinator, Voter Registration
Lisa Swanson, Gartner Consultant
Steven Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Adrienne Kivelson, League of Women Voters
 Marjorie She, Women's City Club
 Andrea Senteno, Citizens Union
 Israel Rodriguez, NYC Council
 Teresa Hummel, Community Church of New York
 Jerry Koenig
 Mark Herman

President Sampel called the meeting to order at 1:42 P.M.

The President welcomed former Queens Republican Commissioner Anthony Como to the meeting and thanked him for his years of service, dedication, and hard work to the NYC Board. Commissioner Como resigned from the New York City Board of Elections on Friday, April 18, 2008.

President Sampel moved to table the minutes of the April 1st and April 8th meetings. Commissioner Schacher seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Executive Director reported that:

- 1) Board staff is working with ES&S to address technical and software issues with the AutoMark Device's Election Management System. He reported that the EMS software does not recognize fonts necessary to properly display all the languages.
- 2) The State Board of Election's website list voter registration and enrollment data by Congressional District,

Senate District, Assembly District and Election District for each county but does not include totals for NYC Civil Court and City Council Districts. He asked the Commissioners for guidance.

Secretary Umane moved that Board staff, using the State Board's database, shall promulgate the enrollment total for the NYC Civil Court and City Council Districts in accordance with the statute and link the NYC Board of Election's website to the NYS Board's website. Commissioner Polanco seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The President opened the floor for brief comments from members of the public:

- A) Teresa Hummel
- B) Jerry Koenig

The Executive Director reported that Commissioners Dent, Graham, Polanco, Schacher, and Umane attended the Information and Education Day along with himself, George Gonzalez, Pamela Perkins, and Steve Richman. He stated that the meeting was productive and many of the Legislators were very interested to their proposals. He also reported that

the Board met with Senator Joe Griffo, the Chair of the Senate Elections Committee and Assemblywoman Ann Corrozza, the Chair of the Election Law Committee.

Commissioner Polanco stated that he was impressed by the “fantastic” job that Marcus Cederqvist, George Gonzalez, Pamela Perkins, and Steve Richman did on behalf of the Board.

The General Counsel reported with respect to Legislative Proposal # 08-13, which seeks to have Primary Day set aside as a day without students within school buildings, that both houses strongly recommended that the NYC Board reach out to the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) and the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators (CAS) to outline their concerns and encourage support.

Secretary Umame moved to authorize Senior Management to seek support from the United Federation of Teachers and the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators in addition to the New York City Department of Education. President Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Executive Director reported that the Mayor's Election Modernization Task Force meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 8:30 A.M. at the Law Department. He invited all the Commissioners to attend.

The Deputy Executive Director reported that the River Bay Corporation in Co-op City request 70 voting machines for their Annual Board of Director elections. Commissioner Polanco moved to approve River Bay's request provided that they incur all cost. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.

The Deputy Executive Director provided the Commissioners with a copy of a letter from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission inviting him to participate in an upcoming Election Management Guidelines (EMG) Program on Tuesday, June 10, 2008 in Washington, D.C. Secretary Umane moved to authorize the Deputy Executive Director to attend. President Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Chief Voting Machine Technician provided the Commissioners with a list of private sites whose building managers are requesting an

increase in pay to serve as poll sites on Election Day. The Administrative Manager explained that it is very difficult to acquire private sites for use as poll sites due to the minimum fee offered by the Board which does not cover the cost for electrical use, heating and/or air conditioning and other maintenance issues.

Following discussion, Secretary Umane moved to table the consideration of the Chief Voting Machine Technicians request until the Chief and Deputy Chief Clerks' could provide a report detailing potential poll sites that would remain as a result of the pay increase.

The Coordinator of Election Day Operations provided the Commissioners with the Revised Draft of the 2008 Election Day Personnel and Cost Proposal for BMD Implementation for their review and consideration.

After discussion, Secretary Umane moved to authorize Board staff to submit budget requests for Additional Poll Workers and Poll Worker Training but tabled consideration of the Plan B BMD Implementation plan

until further review. Commissioner Polanco seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner O'Connor moved to authorize Board staff to include, in the budget request, the pay increase for private sites. Commissioner Polanco seconded the motion, which was adopted by a vote of 9 in favor (President Sampel, Commissioners Dent, Graham, O'Connor, Polanco, Schacher, Soumas, Yennella) and 1 opposed (Secretary Umane).

President Sampel asked Ms. Rahmouni to explain why four schools on Staten Island have not been resurveyed and requested that she appoint someone to visit the schools on Monday, April 28, 2008 at 10:00 A.M.

The General Counsel reported that the New York City Board is required to submit its designation of poll sites to the U.S. Department of Justice for Pre-clearance under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act by June 1, 2008. In accordance with the Voting Rights Act, the Board of Elections must designate specific poll sites and/or poll rooms by May 1, 2008, or we have no legal right to compel those sites to remain open on Election Day.

President Sampel moved to appoint himself, Secretary Umame, Commissioners Soumas and Yennella as the Committee of Commissioners to review/approve the Poll Site Designation List at a meeting on Tuesday, April 29, 2008 at 1:30 P.M.

The Director of the MIS Department reported that 311 representatives request a meeting with the Board of Elections to review expanding their assistance for Election Day calls.

Commissioner Graham moved to authorize Steve Ferguson to meet with 311 representatives with respect to exploring option for election dates. President Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Coordinator of the Candidate Records Unit provided the Commissioners with a copy of the Updated 2008 Agency Cell Phone Procedures for their review and approval.

Commissioner Schacher moved to adopt the 2008 Agency Cell Phone Procedures as submitted. Commissioner O'Connor seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Coordinator of the Candidate Records Unit reported that the Mayor's Office has cut 20% of the Agency Parking Permits issued to City employees. He explained that in-house permits, printed by Board staff, for personal vehicles are no longer valid. DOT permits for agency vehicles will remain in effect.

The Coordinator, Candidate Records Unit provided the Commissioners with the Candidate Committee Disclosure Report for their review.

The General Counsel asked the Commissioners to appoint a cover sheet/petition review committee for this afternoon. The following Commissioners were appointed for the dates specified:

April 22, 2008 – Secretary Umame & Commissioner O'Connor

April 29, 2008 – President Sampel & Commissioner Soumas, if needed.

Finance Officer John Ward provided the Commissioners with the Comparative Expenditure Report dated April 13, 2008 and the Vacancy Report dated April 15, 2008.

Secretary Umane moved to grant a 30 day-sick leave advance for James Flanagan, a Clerk in the Manhattan Office. Commissioner Soumas seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

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

President Sampel reported that no action was taken in the Executive Session.

President Sampel moved to adjourn. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The special meeting of the Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 2008 at 1:30 P.M.