

MEETING OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 13, 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
Steven H. Richman, General Counsel
Phil Donahue, Director, Personnel
John Ward, Finance Officer
Valerie Vasquez, Director, Public Relations
Joseph LaRocca, Coordinator, Candidate Records Unit
Thomas Sattie, Ballot Coordinator, Candidate Records Unit
John O'Grady, Chief Voting Machine Technician
Charles Webb III, Counsel to the Commissioners
Steven Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Neil Rosenstein, NYPIRG
 Adrienne Kivelson, League of Women Voters
 Marjorie Shea, Women's City Club
 Andrea Senteno, Citizens Union
 Alyssa Usui, Voters Assistance Commission
 Israel Rodriguez, NYC Council

President Sampel called the meeting to order at 1:38 P.M.

President Sampel moved to table the minutes of April 1st, April 8th, April 22nd, April 29th, and May 6th until the next meeting. Secretary Umame seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Executive Director reported that:

- A) The Board staff met with the Mayor's Election Modernization Task Force on the various HAVA work streams. He explained that the task force would try to lend their support and expressed a willingness to help acquire the necessary funding to fulfill the Board's needs with respect to poll workers and related items.
- B) A hearing on the Proposed Executive Expense Revenue, Capital and Contract Budgets will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 in City Hall, 2nd floor at 9:45 A.M.
- C) A list with the members of the Board's Standing Committees is included in the agenda.
- D) Given some concerns that he has with the BMCC contract, he is not going to propose an increase at this time, as he previously suggested.

Commissioner Soumas acknowledged the excellent work of the Public Relations Director Valerie Vasquez with the 2006 Annual Report.

The Coordinator of the Candidates Records Unit advised that the last day for Party Calls is Tuesday, May 20, 2008

The Coordinator of the Candidates Records Unit presented the Commissioners with a revised draft copy of the Notice to Candidates for the June 3, 2008 Special Election for Member of the City Council in the 30th Council District, Queens, which includes the test date for the Optical Scanning System. He asked for their approval to mail the revised notice. Commissioner O'Connor moved to approve the Revised Draft Notice to Candidates as submitted. President Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Coordinator of the Candidates Records Unit reported that the Board received two specifications of objections for their consideration and asked the Commissioners for a determination with respect to a hearing date. After discussion, the Commissioners unanimously agreed to hear matters relating to specification of objections for the June 3, 2008 Special

Election on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, at 1:30 P.M. prior to the Board's regular meeting.

The Ballot Coordinator asked the Commissioners for a determination with respect to the date to print Absentee Ballots for the June 3rd Special Election in the 30th C.D. Commissioner O'Connor moved to authorize the Ballot Coordinator to start printing Absentee Ballots for the Special Election in the 30th C.D. today. Secretary Umame seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously

The Chief Voting Machine Technician provided the Commissioners with a proposal for the expenditure of funds for the HHS Voting Access Improvement Plan, part 1 for their review, which has a deadline of September 2008.

The Coordinator of Election Day Operations provided the Commissioners with a breakdown of the training expenditures under the BMCC contract for their review. After a lengthy discussion, the Commissioners agreed that the Training Coordinator from BMCC Helen Swanson Owens should attend the next Commissioners meeting to

address their concerns.

The Public Relation's Director reported that as part of the 2008 BMD Education Plan she request approval to publish information on ways to cast a ballot in third party newsletters published by elected officials and other organizations. Mrs. Vasquez provided the Commissioners with a copy of a draft Third-Party Newsletter for their review. After discussion, Commissioner Graham moved to authorize Mrs. Vasquez publish the information in third party newsletters, with amendments. Commissioner Polanco seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Public Relation's Director reported that she received a request from the Queens Borough President, this morning, asking the Board to participation in a voter registration drive titled, "Our Vote Counts" the end of May. The Commissioners agreed that it would be a good idea to contact the other Borough Presidents for participation in their respective boroughs.

Finance Officer John Ward provided the Commissioners with a copy of the Vacancy Report dated May 13, 2008.

Neil Rosenstein, from the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) asked the Commissioners to send a letter of support to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission that would provide a federal grant to help recruit college students and increase the stand-by pool of Poll Workers.

After discussion, Commissioner Soumas moved to authorize the Board to send a letter of support to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission on behalf of NYPIRG. Commissioner O'Connor seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

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

The President reported that the following actions were taken in the Executive Session:

- A) Unanimously moved to appoint Michele Heitzner as Special Project Coordinator, effective June 9, 2008, at the salary of \$71,671.
- B) Unanimously approved restoring Dawn Sandow's leave time for

the period to be determined by the Personnel Director.

Commissioner Graham moved to adjourn. President Sampel seconded the motion, which was agreed to by all present.

The next full Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at 1:30 P.M. with Hearings on Specifications of Objections to the June 3, 2008 Special Election for Member of the City Council in the 30th Council District, Queens.