

MEETING OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS  
HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 20, 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

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, Public Relations  
Phil Donahue, Director, Personnel  
John Ward, Finance Officer  
Joseph LaRocca, Coordinator, Candidate Records Unit  
Michael Carmicino, Candidate Records Unit  
Thomas Sattie, Ballot Coordinator, Candidate Records Unit  
John O'Grady, Chief Voting Machine Technician  
Rosanna Rahmouni, Coordinator, EDO  
Barbara Conacchio, Chief Clerk, Queens Borough Office  
Katherine James, Deputy Chief Clerk, Queens Borough Office  
Steven Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners  
Charles Webb III, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST:    Mary Lou Urban, League of Women Voters  
          Marjorie Shea, Women's City Club  
          Andrea Senteno, Citizens Union  
          Marjorie Gersten, Community Church of New York  
          Helen Swanson-Owens, Training, BMCC  
          Mark Herman

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

President Sampel announced that the Commissioners would conduct the Hearings on challenges to Independent Nominating Petitions prior to the regular Board meeting and advised the Candidates and/or their representatives of the procedures to be followed during the hearing related to the June 3, 2008 Special Elections for Member of the City Council, 30<sup>th</sup> Council District. The results of the hearing are reflected on the Clerk's Reports.

Commissioner O'Connor moved to authorize Board staff to print Absentee Ballots for the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Election in the 30<sup>th</sup> C.D. Commissioner Dent seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously

The President convened the regular meeting at 1:56 P.M.

President Sampel moved to adopt the minutes April 1, 2008, April 8, 2008, April 22, 2008, and April 29, 2008. Commissioner Dent seconded the motion, which was adopted by a vote of 7 in favor (President Sampel,

Commissioners Dent, Graham, O'Connor, Polanco, Schacher, Soumas, Yennella) 1 abstention (Commissioner Soumas).

President Sampel moved to table the minutes of May 6, 2008 and May 13, 2008 until the next meeting. Commissioner Polanco seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Executive Director reported that:

- A) The NYS Citizen's Coalition on HAVA Implementation requests that the Board conduct a two-day intensive training session with the ES&S AutoMark Ballot Marking Devices. The Commissioners unanimously agreed that the Executive Director should send a written response advising that, due to the timing, the Board is unable to grant their request.
- B) The NYS Election Commissioners' Association's Summer Conference will be held June 15, 2008 through June 18, 2008 in Chautauqua, NY.
- C) The Board testified before the Committees on Finance and Governmental Operations regarding the Mayor's

Fiscal Year '09 Executive Budget this morning.

The Chief Voting Machine Technician asked the Commissioners to approve the proposal for the expenditure of funds for the HHS Voting Access Improvement Plan, part 1, and reminded them that the funds must be used by September of this year.

Commissioner O'Connor moved to approve the proposed plan for the expenditure of funds under the HHS Voting Access Improvement plan, as submitted. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Finance Officer provided the Commissioners with a copy of the Comparative Expenditures Report dated May 20, 2008.

Commissioner Graham moved to grant 30-day sick leave extensions to Anna Torres, the Deputy Chief Clerk and BJ Rivera, a Sr. VMT both in the Bronx Office. Commissioner Polanco seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Coordinator, Election Day Operations provided the Commissioners with a copy of the draft BMD Election Procedures for their review and introduced Ms. Helen Swanson Owens.

President Sampel moved to adopt the draft 2008 BMD Election Procedures as submitted. Commissioner Yennella seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Ms. Swanson-Owens stated that she is an Independent Contractor with the Borough of Manhattan Community College who has conducted various training workshops at the Board of Elections over the past ten years. Ms. Swanson-Owens responded to comments/questions from the Commissioners relating to the materials and cost associated with preparing for a training workshop at the Board. The Agency Chief Contracting Officer distributed a price breakdown for the contract and reported that it expires February 2009. He further reported that BMCC is the conduit for the training sessions that Ms. Swanson-Owens provides. Ms. Swanson-Owens advised that Mr. Gupta is the Dean of the Continuing Education Department at BMCC and the authorized signatory for the contract.

President Sampel recommended:

- A) The implementation of Plan B; and
- B) That the Dean of Continuing Education attends the next meeting.

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

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

- A) Commissioner Soumas moved to implement Plan B, which provides that the Election Day Operations Unit in consultation with Borough Managers will train designated Adjunct Trainers from each borough who in turn will instruct all other Adjunct Trainers in the 2008 Election Procedures. President Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

President Sampel moved to adjourn. Commissioner Dent seconded

the motion, which was agreed to by all present.

The next full Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, 2008  
at 1:30 P.M.