

MEETING OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2008
AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

P R E S E N T: Secretary Frederic Umane

Commissioners Araujo, Dent, Graham, Polanco, Schacher, Soumas,
Stupp, Yennella

Marcus Cederqvist, Executive Director
George Gonzalez, Deputy Executive Director
Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager
Steven H. Richman, General Counsel
Valerie Vasquez, Director, Communications
Delores Delayo, Director, Personnel
John Owens Jr., Director, Campaign Finance Reporting
John Ward, Finance Officer
Joseph LaRocca, Coordinator, Candidate Records Unit
Thomas Sattie, Ballot Coordinator, Candidate Records Unit
Steve Ferguson, Director, MIS Unit
Timothy Gay, Deputy Chief Clerk, Manhattan
Rosanna Rahmouni, Coordinator, Election Day Operations
Beth Fossella, Coordinator, Voter Registration
Steve Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Marjorie Shea, Women's City Club
Andrea Senteno, Citizen's Union
Mark Herman
Teresa Hummel, Community Church of New York

Secretary Umane called the meeting to order at 1:52 P.M.

Commissioner Polanco thanked Secretary Umane for taking a leadership roll in directing the press conference that immediately preceded the meeting and representing the Board of Elections in a professional manner on behalf of all the Commissioners. He also expressed appreciation to the Communications Director.

Secretary Umane expressed appreciation to Commissioners Graham, Communications Director Valerie Vasquez and Executive Director Marcus Cederqvist for organizing this event. He reported on the President's absence and stated that he would preside over today's meeting.

Secretary Umane announced the passing of dear friend and colleague Joseph Gentile who served the Board diligently for 35 years. Mr. Gentile served as Finance Officer and then Deputy Executive Director during his career at the Board. He asked all present to observe a moment of silence for Mr. Gentile and stated that he will be severely missed. A moment of silence was observed.

Secretary Umane moved to table the minutes of the October 3, 2008, October 7, 2008, and October 14, 2008, and the October 21, 2008

meetings. Commissioner Dent seconded the motion, which was adopted by a vote of 8 in favor (Secretary Umame, Commissioners Araujo, Dent, Graham, Polanco, Schacher, Stupp, Yennella); 1 abstention (Commissioner Soumas).

The Executive Director reported that:

- A) Subsequent to a conference call between the State Board of Elections and the Election Commissioners Association, last week, the NYC Board has learned that the State Board for the first time affirmatively indicated that the timeline to certify new voting systems will be delayed.
- B) The NYC Board is in the process of reissuing the RFI, seeking information on the new voting systems.
- C) All 200,000 plus voter registration forms filed with the Board of Elections between October 1st and the 15th have been entered in our database; public inspection of the voting machines is being conducted this afternoon at the Borough Voting Machine Facilities; Voting machine deliveries will start tomorrow; Due to the enormous amount of new registrants, some Election Districts in

Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens will receive “supplemental” poll books in addition to their regular poll books.

The Deputy Executive Director asked the Commissioners to approve the amended pre and post Election Day Hours of Operation for all Board of Election’s employees which include the Borough Office’s hours of operation for the public. Following a discussion, Commissioner Graham moved to authorize the amended hours of operations as submitted. Commissioner Yennella seconded the motion, which was adopted by a vote of 8 in favor (Secretary Umame, Commissioners Araujo, Dent, Graham, Polanco, Schacher, Stupp, Yennella); 1 abstention (Commissioner Soumas).

The Executive Director reported that Tuesday, November 11, 2008 is Veterans Day. The Board of Elections is scheduled to be open. He asked the Commissioners to hold their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at 1:30 P.M. The Commissioners unanimously agreed.

The Deputy Executive Director reported that he received an email from the New York City Law Department’s Assistant Corporation Counsel

Spencer Fisher, dated October 27, 2008 asking for information that will enable his office and the City to make a complete pre-clearance submission to the U.S. Department of Justice. Commissioner Soumas moved to table the matter until after the election. Commissioner Polanco seconded the motion, which was adopted by a vote of 8 in favor (Secretary Umane, Commissioners Araujo, Dent, Graham, Polanco, Schacher, Stupp, Yennella); 1 abstention (Commissioner Soumas).

The General Counsel advised by Memorandum (included in the agenda packet) that he received a request from the New York City Police Department for the designation by the Board of Elections of persons authorized to file criminal complaints on behalf of the Board on Election Day. He reported that at a pre-election meeting held last week between Executive Managers and Borough staff with the Commanding officer of the Operation Division, the Office of the Chief of Department, New York City Police Department (NYPD) and his colleagues, NYPD raised this issue which requires a determination by the Commissioners. Following discussion, the Commissioners' took no action and unanimously decided that the current procedures would remain in effect.

Commissioner Graham moved that if possible the Board staff issue a press release to notify voters of the rules with respect to:

- 1) Electioneering within a polling place on Election Day, pursuant to §8-104(1) of the New York State Election Law; and
- 2) New voter identification requirements under §8-104(1) (d) of the New York State Election Law.

Commissioner Dent seconded the motion, which was adopted by a vote of 8 in favor (Secretary Umame, Commissioners, Dent, Graham, Polanco, Schacher, Soumas, Stupp, Yennella); 1 abstention (Commissioner Araujo).

The Coordinator of Election Day Operations reported that she received a request from the Manhattan office to amend their Exception Report. Ms. Rahmouni along with Deputy Chief Clerk Timothy Gay asked the Commissioners to authorize Board staff to mail 1,000 additional Stand-by Poll Worker Notices. Commissioner Soumas moved to amend the request based on comments by the Administrative Manager and authorized the Manhattan Office to mail 1,400 additional Stand-by Poll Worker Notices. Secretary Umame seconded the motion, which was adopted

unanimously.

The Coordinator of the Candidate Records Unit provided the Commissioners with the Non-Compliance Periodic Expenditure Report for July 15, 2007 their approval. Commissioner Graham moved to table the July 15th Non-Compliance Periodic for two weeks. Commissioner Dent seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Finance Officer provided the Commissioners with a copy of the Vacancy Report dated October 28, 2008.

Secretary Umame moved at Commissioner Sampel's request to authorize the Board to create one additional team of AD Monitors to serve on Election Day in each Assembly District throughout the City of New York. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Dent expressed gratitude to both New York State Senator Bill Perkins and New York State Senator Martin Malave Dilan for sending a letter to Mayor Bloomberg on behalf of the Board of Elections

supporting the agency's need for additional resources.

Secretary Umame reported that the last day to request an Absentee Ballot by mail is October 28, 2008 and the last day to request an Absentee Ballot in person is Monday, November 3, 2008.

Secretary Umame moved to convene an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Dent seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Secretary reported that in the Executive Session the Commissioners took the following personnel actions:

- 1) Unanimously approved a 210 hour sick leave advance for Shanette Brown, an Administrative Assistant in the Executive Office; and
- 2) Unanimously authorized a 210 hour sick leave advance for Kim Laidla-Zeigler, a Clerk in the Bronx Office.

Secretary Umame moved to adjourn. Commissioner Dent seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The next Commissioner's meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at 1:30 P.M.