

MEETING OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS  
HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2011  
AT 1:30 P.M.  
42 BROADWAY, 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR COMMISSIONERS' ROOM  
NEW YORK, NY 10004

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PRESENT: President Julie Dent  
Secretary Juan Carlos "J.C." Polanco

Commissioners Araujo, Barrera, Ryan, Schacher, Sipp, Soumas, Stupp,  
Umane

Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager  
Dorothy Delayo, Director, Personnel  
John Ward, Finance Officer  
Valerie Vazquez-Rivera, Director, Communications & Public Affairs  
James Barron, Temporary Attorney, OGC  
Pablo Martinez, Senior Systems Analyst, MIS  
Charles S. Webb, III, Counsel to the Commissioners  
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Kate Doran, LWV  
Alan Flacks, Member of NY County Democratic Committee  
John D. Smith  
Marjorie Shea, Women's City Club  
Geneva Butts  
Rima McCoy, CIDNY  
Teresa Hommel, Wheresthepaper.org  
Jerome Koenig  
Alex Camarda, Citizens Union  
Anthony Walker

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

President Dent called for the election of the Board's President and Secretary for calendar year 2011. President Dent thanked the Commissioners and good government groups for their support while she served as President for calendar year 2010.

President Dent moved to convene a party caucus. Secretary Polanco seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

After the caucus, the regular stated meeting resumed.

Commissioner Umane moved to nominate Secretary Polanco as President for calendar year 2011. Commissioner Schacher seconded the motion, with Secretary Polanco abstaining. The motion was adopted. The Commissioners congratulated President Polanco.

Commissioner Barrera moved to nominate Commissioner Soumas as Secretary for calendar year 2011. President Dent seconded the motion, with Commissioner Soumas abstaining. The motion was adopted. The Commissioners congratulated Secretary Soumas.

President Polanco stated that it was a pleasure working with Commissioner Dent in 2010 which was a challenging year due to the implementation of new voting systems. Commissioners Schacher and Stupp thanked Commissioner Dent for working very hard in 2010.

Commissioner Schacher moved to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2010 and October 19, 2010 meetings. Commissioner Dent seconded the motion, with Commissioner Barrera abstaining. The motion was adopted.

Ms. Perkins presented the report of the Executive Committee concerning the closing of the agency on Monday, December 27, 2010 due to a severe snowstorm. Ms. Perkins stated that she contacted the Board's Borough Offices on the day of the snowstorm and the Staten Island and Bronx Borough Offices could not open. She reported that some employees showed up to work in the Executive Office and in the Manhattan and Queens Borough Offices. Ms. Perkins requested for the full Board to ratify the decision of the Executive Committee. President Polanco moved to ratify the decision of the Executive Committee to close the agency on December 27, 2010 due to a severe snowstorm. Commissioner Soumas seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously. Commissioner

Araujo inquired if the employees who made it to work will be compensated and what the Board's past practice is concerning this matter. Mr. Ward reported that according to past practice the Board would pay all employees for a full work day and the employees that reported to work would receive compensatory time. Ms. Perkins reported that all Board Offices were closed by 11:30 A.M. Commissioner Araujo moved to award compensatory time to the employees that reported to work on December 27, 2010. Some concerns were discussed before the Commissioners voted. Commissioner Sipp reported that it was impossible for people in Staten Island to leave their house and to travel to work on Tuesday, December 28, 2010; only seven (7) employees reported to work in the Staten Island Borough Office. No streets were plowed and there was no train service to the Staten Island Borough Office for the employees who live on the North Shore. Commissioner Sipp expressed that he did not want to penalize those employees that could not travel to work because it was beyond their control. Commissioner Ryan suggested that December 28, 2010 could be incorporated into the previous motion for the outer Borough Offices. Commissioner Soumas disagreed. Ms. Perkins asked how much compensatory time will be given to the employees who showed up to work on December 27, 2010. The Commissioners agreed that all employees will be paid a full day and the employees that clocked-in will receive three (3)

hours of compensatory time. Commissioner Stupp asked how the Board addressed a snow emergency in the past. Ms. Perkins indicated that the Mayor called an emergency and all City agencies were closed in the 1995 blizzard. This year, the Mayor recommended for all City employees to use their leave balance time. Ms. Perkins added that the Board does not have to comply with that recommendation because it is non-Mayoral agency. Commissioner Araujo moved to award compensatory time to the employees that reported to work on December 27, 2010. President Polanco seconded the motion, with Secretary Soumas opposing. The motion was adopted. Commissioner Sipp clarified that he was not seeking to award compensatory time for those employees who showed up to work on December 28, 2010 in the Staten Island Borough Office. He inquired what the mechanism could be for those employees who could not travel to work so they do not get penalized for circumstances out of their control. Commissioner Ryan suggested that the Commissioners could authorize the Board's Finance Department to not deduct from those employees' leave balances and they would be paid for the full day. Commissioner Sipp stated that remedy would penalize those employees that showed up to work. He noted that there was no mechanism for his request. Ms. Perkins stated that some employees were on scheduled vacations and asked if they are to be considered for the paid snow day as discussed. The

Commissioners agreed that those employees are not to be considered.

Commissioner Ryan reminded his fellow Commissioners that they did not perform a roll call for this meeting.

The Commissioners performed a roll call.

Mr. Ward presented the Comparative Expenditures dated December 28, 2010. A copy of the report is in the agenda.

Mr. Ward presented the Vacancy Report dated January 4, 2011. A copy of the report is in the agenda.

Mr. Ward distributed copies of the periodic reports for FY11 Borough Break Down for October and FY11 Year to Date Expenditures. Commissioner Sipp asked if Board employees are still utilizing the Overtime Authorization Request forms. Ms. Perkins replied yes. Commissioner Ryan stated that these fiscal reports provide a tool that allows the Commissioners to view the status of overtime for upcoming months. Commissioners Schacher and Dent indicated that the Brooklyn Borough Office Managers are vigilant when issuing overtime to the

employees.

Ms. Vazquez-Rivera presented an update concerning the Voter Feedback Survey. Mr. Martinez distributed copies of the draft survey to the Commissioners. Ms. Vazquez-Rivera reported that the Board's MIS Department has been working with DOITT concerning this voter survey to go live on the Board's website. Ms. Vazquez-Rivera reviewed the Voter Feedback Survey with the Commissioners. She will receive these voter surveys via email. Ms. Vazquez-Rivera will monitor the surveys and then report voters' feedback to the Commissioners. She indicated that she will issue a press release once the survey is running live on the Board's website.

President Polanco recognized Teresa Hommel, a member of the public.

Commissioner Barrera requested to discuss a Bronx personnel matter in Executive Session.

President Polanco requested to discuss a Bronx personnel matter in Executive Session.

Commissioner Dent requested to discuss a Brooklyn personnel matter in Executive Session.

Secretary Soumas requested to discuss an Executive Office personnel matter in Executive Session.

President Polanco moved to convene an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Secretary Soumas seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Following the Executive Session, the open public meeting resumed and President Polanco reported the actions that were taken in Executive Session:

- I. The Commissioners granted an advance of 210 sick leave hours for Rosanna Rahmouni, Coordinator in the Executive Office, effective December 31, 2010.
- II. The Commissioners appointed Marlene Rojas as Administrative Assistant in the Bronx Borough Office with an annual salary of \$43,406. Ms. Rojas is replacing Ethel Graham.
- III. Commissioner Dent reported that there is a Brooklyn Administrative Associate line of Ramon Vergara at an annual

salary of \$54,855. It was recommended to promote Frances Leon, to the position at the incumbent salary of \$50,703 and to transfer the difference of Ms. Vergara's salary, which totals \$4,152, to Joel Ortiz. Brenda Sargeant will be appointed to Frances Leon's Clerk line at an annual salary of \$35,162. No overall increase in total staff salaries rather than move one person to the incumbent rate. Commissioner Dent wants to provide additional compensation to two (2) valuable members of the Brooklyn Borough Office team at no additional cost to the Board.

IV. The Commissioners terminated the employment of Victoria Caruso-Anderson, Administrative Assistant in the Bronx Borough Office, effective immediately.

President Polanco moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Dent seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 1:30 P.M.