

MEETING OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS  
HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2011  
AT 1:30 P.M.  
42 BROADWAY, 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM  
NEW YORK, NY 10004

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PRESENT: Secretary Gregory C. Soumas

Commissioners Araujo, Dent, Ryan, Schacher, Sipp, Stupp, Umane

Dawn Sandow, Deputy Executive Director

Steven H. Richman, General Counsel

John Owens Jr., Director, Campaign Finance Enforcement

Dorothy Delayo, Director, Personnel

Valerie Vazquez, Director, Communications and Public Relations

Steve Ferguson, Director, Management Information Systems

John Luisi, Agency Chief Contract Officer

Tom Sattie, Associate Staff Analyst, Ballot Coordinator

Daniel Lavelle, Associate Staff Analyst, Phone Bank & Front Counters

Richard Byrne, Summer Law Student Intern, OGC

Daniel Dugan, Summer Law Student Intern, OGC

Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Marjorie Shea, Women's City Club

Jerome Koenig

Zach Nathanson, for Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh

Marianna Blume

Perrine Pradel, for Council Member Gale A. Brewer

Rima McCoy, CIDNY

Geneva Butts

Raphael Savino

Alex Camarda, Citizens Union

Kate Doran, LWV

Stewart Armstrong, Campaign Finance Board

John D. Smith

A.B. Britton

Alan Flacks, Member of NY County Democratic Committee

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Secretary Soumas called the meeting to order at 1:45 P.M.

Secretary Soumas announced that there was no quorum yet and that the Managers will only report on the items that do not need the full Board's approval.

Ms. Vazquez presented the poll worker recruitment update. She reported that the Board has continued public outreach calls for Poll Worker and Interpreter recruitment. Ms. Vazquez sent over 120 invitations to upcoming community organizations. She had a round table discussion two (2) weeks ago with Center for Law and Social Justice, Voter Assistance Advisory Commission, NALEO Education Fund, Polish and Slavic Center, Groundwork, and the New York Democratic Lawyers Council. Ms. Vazquez held two (2) telephone conferences with MS Society and Henry Street Settlement because they could not join the meeting. She stated that the organizations are interested in helping the Board with the ongoing recruitment. Ms. Vazquez reported that the Lincoln Square Neighborhood Center has also expressed interest working with the Board. They committed to include the Board's materials for distribution and will email the Election Connection e-newsletter. To this date, Ms. Vazquez and her Outreach Team received approximately 3,200 poll worker

applications and the Board's goal is to collect 4,000 applications. The Outreach Team attended sixty (60) poll worker recruitment events last month. Ms. Vazquez reported that CUNY committed to recruit unpaid interns to support the Board's efforts. She stated that the next issue of Election Connection will be emailed in the coming week. Ms. Vazquez reported that she and her Outreach Team plans to do an analysis of the Council Districts that the Board had events in to this date. Then they would send letters to the Council Members in the Council Districts where they have not had events in yet. Ms. Vazquez noted that she will seek approval from the full Board today. She reported that the public outreach events have been very successful. Commissioner Schacher inquired if CUNY is involved in the poll worker recruitment process. Ms. Vazquez reported that CUNY is very helpful. The CUNY Democratic and Republican Clubs are currently distributing the Board's poll worker flyers and applications.

Mr. Ferguson presented the update on the previous telephone conference with the State Board regarding the NYSVoter database. The Board received the two (2) raw Felon and Death files from the State Board. The MIS Department reformatted the lists to be more user friendly for the Borough Offices - the lists will be separated by borough. Mr. Ferguson noted that Ms. Fossella is currently developing procedures for the Borough

Office staff. He reported that the State Board asked how the City Board would like to approach the Duplicates list. He asked the Commissioners for direction. Mr. Ferguson recalled that in 2008 the City Board received the initial batch of Duplicates from the State Board. Then the City Board performed a mass mailing of Notices of Intent to Cancel and the Borough Offices handled the returned notices and canceled those voters who did not respond.

Secretary Soumas noted that there was a quorum. The Commissioners introduced themselves.

Mr. Ferguson recommended for the Board to follow the same procedure as in 2008 for the Duplicates list. Commissioner Umane moved to adopt Mr. Ferguson's recommendation. Secretary Soumas seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Ferguson reported that the State Board and City Board are trying to develop a solution for the permanent day-to-day working of the three (3) lists. The State Board developed a new proposal. Mr. Ferguson explained that the State Board would send the City Board electronic transactions of Deaths, Felons and Duplicates to the City Board's voter registration system

every night. The City Board would work those lists by their own procedures as done now. When resolved by the City Board, staff would mark it in the queue and send it back to the State Board. Secretary Soumas asked if there were any negative aspects. Mr. Ferguson replied that the small negative aspect is for Duplicate list's Intent to Cancel process. Mr. Richman stated that the Intent to Cancel process protects the voters. Commissioner Umane moved to accept this proposal moving forward and to revisit it in six (6) months. Secretary Soumas seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously. Commissioner Ryan noted that the additional cost for postage for sending out the Notices of Intent to Cancel will be more than offset by the savings when the people are removed from the voter registration rolls. Those people will not receive the Board's solicitations on an annual basis any longer.

Ms. Vazquez summarized her previous report for the Commissioners who were not present at the beginning of the meeting. She asked the Commissioners for approval to perform an analysis of the Council Districts that the Board had events in to this date and then she and her Outreach Team would send letters to the Council Members in the Council Districts where they have not had events in yet. In the letter, she would ask the Council Members to help identify events and would follow-up with those

districts to express the importance of poll worker recruitment. Ms. Vazquez stated that she would like each Commissioner to sign the letters pertaining to their borough. Commissioner Dent moved to approve Ms. Vazquez's plan. Commissioner Schacher seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously. Commissioner Dent thanked Ms. Vazquez for a job well done.

Secretary Soumas moved to table the minutes of the June 21, 2011 meeting. Commissioner Umame seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Dent noted that last week she failed to thank Mr. Richman for a job well done on his presentation at the 2011 ECA Summer Conference. She thanked Ms. Sandow, Ms. Perkins and staff for their support as well. Commissioner Schacher thanked Mr. Richman for explaining the NYS Election Law at the conference.

In Mr. Ward's absence, Mr. Luisi presented the Comparative Expenditures Report dated June 28, 2011. A copy of the report is in the agenda.

Mr. Sattie presented the 2011 ballot layout. He distributed copies of the revised ballot to the Commissioners. Mr. Sattie recalled that at the previous meeting it was suggested that the slate brackets remain closed with the candidates' numbers on the outside of the brackets. He reported that Mr. Koenig called him that afternoon and suggested to print the instructions, "See instructions on the other side," on both the top and bottom of the ballot. Mr. Sattie agreed with that proposal and incorporated it on the ballot. He requested approval of the 2011 ballot layout. Secretary Soumas asked if the proposed ballot is legal in all respects. Mr. Richman replied yes. Commissioner Dent stated that she felt that the print is still too small, but that it is no fault to the Board. She also felt that the ovals should be darker and recalled that it was indicated that they could not be darkened because it may appear as an actual vote.

Secretary Soumas recognized Rima McCoy, a representative of CIDNY, who suggested moving the "Official Ballot" box to the middle of the ballot for stylistic reasons.

Commissioner Stupp asked if the instructions will be moved to the top or bottom of the ballot for the General Election. Mr. Sattie replied yes.

Secretary Soumas recognized Marianna Blume, a member of the public, who asked a question regarding State Committee contests.

Commissioner Umane inquired about the gaps on the ballot for County Committee contests. Mr. Sattie replied that the gaps are stylistic to separate the slates. Secretary Soumas moved to accept the newly proposed ballot layout for the September 13, 2011 Primary Election. Commissioner Dent seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Secretary Soumas recognized Jerry Koenig, a member of the public, who asked when there will be a Special Election. Secretary Soumas replied that there is no proclamation. Mr. Koenig spoke about the new voter registration forms. He stated that they are a different size from the old forms and it may be difficult to file with the existing forms. Mr. Koenig noted that Section 5-506(3)(d) of the NYS Election Law states that the registrations can be discarded after two (2) years as long they are scanned into the system. He asked the Board to look into that matter.

Secretary Soumas recognized a member of the public who requested for the Board to recruit competent poll workers and asked the Board to hold

poll worker training classes at a particular location in Brooklyn. He stated that he sent a letter to the Brooklyn Borough Office concerning that matter. Commissioner Umane stated that the Board has ongoing efforts to recruit qualified and appropriate poll workers. He added that the poll workers are tested and are given an elaborate Poll Worker Training Manual and DVD. Commissioner Umane directed the member of the public to send a letter to the appropriate Borough Office concerning his location for training classes.

Secretary Soumas recognized Alan Flacks, a member of the public, who asked questions about the Board's Security Guard.

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

Following the Executive Session, the open public meeting resumed and Secretary Soumas reported on the action taken in Executive Session:

- I. The Commissioners granted an advance of three (3) months of sick leave to Lawrence Capici, an Administrative Assistant in the Manhattan Borough Office, effective upon the exhaustion of his current sick leave time.

Secretary Soumas adjourned the meeting.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, July 5, 2011 at 1:30 P.M.