

MEETING OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014  
AT 1:30 P.M.  
42 BROADWAY, 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM  
NEW YORK, NY 10004

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PRESENT:       President Gregory C. Soumas  
                  Secretary Michael Michel

Commissioners Jose Miguel Araujo, Ronald Castorina, Julie Dent, Maria R. Guastella, Michael Rendino, Simon Shamoun, Frederic M. Umane

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director  
Dawn Sandow, Deputy Executive Director  
Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager  
Steven H. Richman, General Counsel  
Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel  
Nina M. Crispino, Director, Personnel  
Valerie Vazquez, Director, Communications & Public Affairs  
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners  
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST:       Kate Doran, LWV  
                  Chester Soria, Gotham Gazette  
                  Alex Camarda, Citizens Union  
                  David Seitzer, NYC Council  
                  Erin Schultz, DOI  
                  Rushelle Sharpe, DOI  
                  John D. Smith  
                  Eric Friedman, CFB  
                  K. Loving, CFB  
                  Cathy Gray  
                  Celeste Katz, NYDN  
                  Alan Flacks, Member of NY County Democratic Committee

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President Soumas called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

Commissioner Rendino moved to adopt the minutes of the January 28, 2014 meeting. Commissioner Araujo seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

President Soumas added Commissioners Dent and Rendino to the 2014 Commissioners' Committee on Communications, Voter Registration and Outreach, and Commissioners Guastella and Castorina to the 2014 Commissioners' Ballot Layout Committee.

President Soumas announced that Tim Gay, the Deputy Chief Clerk of the Manhattan Office, resigned as of last week. The replacement has not yet been named. President Soumas moved to designate Alvin Samuels, an Administrative Associate in the Manhattan Office, as the acting Deputy Chief Clerk, at the salary that Mr. Gay had at the time of his departure, for the period of time until the new Deputy Chief Clerk can be named. Commissioner Umane seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Commissioner Rendino requested to discuss a Bronx personnel matter.

Commissioner Rendino moved to appoint Dorcas Valentin to the title of Clerk in the Bronx Office at Nina Crispino's outgoing salary. President Soumas seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Ryan presented samples of the 2014 ballot styles. After consultation with the Commissioners' Ballot Layout Committee, staff compiled sample ballot layout styles for the General Election. Copies of the sample styles were distributed to the Commissioners. The sample styles are as follows:

- The Five (5) Language Ballot, (19" ballot, 6 point font), which is not recommended. This ballot would represent no change from the 2013 General Election ballot;
- The Two (2) Language Ballot, also known as the Bi-lingual Ballot, (19" ballot, 10 point font), which is not recommended. This would require individual ballot versions printed in English and either Bengali, Chinese, Korean and Spanish. It would

result in multiple ballot styles in three (3) counties – Kings, New York and Queens;

- The Three (3) Language Ballot, also known as the Tri-lingual Ballot, (19" ballot, 10 point font), is recommended. The Bronx and Staten Island would have a ballot version with English and Spanish (no change from the current practice). Kings and New York Counties would have a two-language version and a three-language version where required, bearing either English and Spanish, or English, Spanish and Chinese depending upon the Election Districts (EDs) (no change from the current practice). Queens would have three (3) ballot versions – English, Spanish and either Bengali, Chinese, or Korean, depending upon the EDs (this represents a significant change for EDs with four (4) or five (5) languages – those EDs with in excess of three (3) languages will have multiple versions of three (3) language ballots in accordance within Limited English Proficiency (LEP) standards.

Mr. Ryan stated that the staff's Three (3) Language Ballot, a.k.a. the Tri-lingual Ballot, recommendation to the Commissioners' Committee

was made so that 4 out of the 5 counties would have no changes from the last election cycle. This ballot style would be implemented for the 2014 General Election coinciding with the poll worker training schedules. There would be no additional training expenditures; it would be folded into the new training for the November General Election. A cost analysis was done for all sample ballot styles and there are no additional costs. Commissioner Umane recommended educating the poll workers by creating a summary sheet with an explanation of the new ballot layout style changes. It was noted that the font type will be the most readable style for the voters.

President Soumas noted that copies of the sample ballot layout styles are being printed and distributed to the members of public and press.

President Soumas recognized Alan Flacks, a member of the public, who inquired about serif and sans serif fonts.

President Soumas recognized Cathy Gray, a member of the public, who recommended darker lines separating the contests on the ballot and a clearer box for write-in votes.

President Soumas recognized Alex Camarda, a representative of Citizens Union, who stated that Citizens Union supports the Three (3) Language Ballot a.k.a. the Tri-Lingual Ballot.

Mr. Ryan noted that Mr. Camarda attended the Board's Ballot Layout Committee sessions and thanked him for his input and time.

At the recommendation of the Ballot Layout Committee, Commissioner Araujo moved to accept and adopt the Three (3) Language Ballot, to authorize Executive Management to create and implement the necessary work streams to implement the Three (3) Language ballot, to authorize the Board to send a letter to the necessary Chairs of the Election Committees of the Senate and Assembly with the changes in ballot styles, and to post a sample of the Three (3) Language ballot on the Board's website. President Soumas seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Commissioner Araujo thanked the Commissioners and staff for all their hard work designing the ballot's layout.

Commissioner Rendino recalled that at a previous meeting he requested for an ES&S representative to discuss the technology to the Board which identifies write-ins without manual inspection of the ballots. He requested for an update on this matter. Mr. Ryan reported that the technology was approved by the State Board and is available for use by the City Board. There are two (2) technology options for reading write-ins on the ballot which need to be discussed further. The technology is available for the next election and the Board will use it to streamline work for the employees.

President Soumas moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 1:30 P.M.