

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2016  
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 Bianka Perez  
                  Secretary Frederic M. Umane

Commissioners Jose Araujo, John Flateau, Michael Michel, Maria R. Guastella, Michael Rendino, Alan Schulkin, Simon Shamoun

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director  
Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager  
Georgea Kontzamanis, Operations Manager  
Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel  
Valerie Vazquez, Director, Communications & Public Affairs  
Nina M. Crispino, Director, Personnel  
Debra Leible, Coordinator, Election Day Operations  
Stephen Thompson, Project Coordinator, Tablets  
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners  
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST:       Emily Forgione, CFB  
                  M. Benjamin  
                  Kate Doran, LWV NYC  
                  Alan Flacks, Member of NY County Democratic Committee

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President Perez called the meeting to order at 1:33 P.M.

Commissioner Araujo moved to table the minutes for the January 19, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.

Ms. Leible and Ms. Vazquez presented the Draft Proposal for 17 Year Old Poll Workers. Copies of the draft were circulated to the Commissioners. At the direction of Executive Management, Ms. Vazquez and Ms. Leible researched and developed a pilot program to recruit 17 year old poll workers which is in compliance with Sections 3-400 and 3207-a of the New York State Election Law. Public and private high schools would be contacted citywide; one (1) school per borough recruiting 5 - 10 students. Students would require parental permission as well as permission from their teachers and Principal, Headmaster or equivalent. The student would be required to have a 2.5 grade point average and would serve as a poll worker for the full day. Ms. Vazquez noted that she reached out to the Los Angeles County Board of Elections and they require a 10:00 P.M. cut-off for student poll workers. All students must be U.S. citizens or bi-lingual permanent U.S. residents and must be legally able to work in the U.S. Bi-lingual students can also work as Interpreters. Commissioner Guastella recommended for the Commissioners to have input on the selected school in their borough. Commissioner Michel requested for Ms. Vazquez to look into the Labor Law for students working on school days and recommended to recruit students through the schools' Guidance Departments and Job Centers. Commissioner Flateau noted that specialized schools such as Brooklyn Tech have students from all

boroughs and recommended choosing schools that have students living in that particular borough. Commissioner Umane reported that according to the statute, students have to live in the school's district which includes public, private and parochial schools. Mr. Ryan requested feedback and questions from all Commissioners and to revisit this proposed plan at a later date. He suggested for a Commissioners Committee to work on this proposed program. President Perez assigned the Commissioners Personnel Committee to work on the Draft Proposal for 17 Year Old Poll Workers. The Committee will report back to the full Board.

Ms. Leible and Mr. Thompson presented the Draft Proposal for Information Clerks. Copies of the draft proposal were circulated to the Commissioners. Mr. Ryan explained that Information Clerks were collapsed into the Inspector title in 2012. Election Center recommended for the Board to consider making the Information Clerks a separate position at the poll site to better assist the voters. With respect to the new tablet project, the Information Clerks would have specialized training on tablets to look up ED tables for voters so the Information Tables would not back up on Election Day. Information Clerks would be trained as a poll worker as well as be trained on the tablet. Mr. Ryan recommended for the Commissioners Personnel Committee to review this proposal further.

President Perez assigned the Draft Proposal for Information Clerks to the Commissioners Personnel Committee for further review. The Committee will report back to the full Board.

Mr. Ryan presented the “1850” Report. Copies of the report were circulated to the Commissioners. Registered voters that fell into the “over 18” or “over 21” category did not have to provide a date of birth. These voters were given the date of birth of January 1, 1850 as a result of the transition to the NYSE voter registration system which required a date of birth for all voters. The decision for January 1, 1850 was based on discussions with the State Board and other jurisdictions. It was noted that this was not a mistake by the Board which was reported by a New York newspaper. Mr. Ryan reported that the Board has sent letters citywide to this group of active voters on November 20, 2015. A total of 1,174 letters were mailed and a total of 392 responses were received back as of January 25, 2016. A total of 264 responses confirmed their date of birth, 34 confirmed deceased, and 94 letters were undeliverable. The Board did not receive any response back from 782 mailings. Mr. Ryan asked the Commissioners if the “1850” letters should be mailed on an annual basis until it becomes a zero in the system. There was a consensus among the

Commissioners to send “1850” letters after all of the 2016 elections are certified.

Mr. Savino requested for the appointment of a Cover Sheet Review Committee to meet immediately after the Commissioners’ Meeting to review one (1) item. Copies of the “Record of Nominations for the Special Election, 17<sup>th</sup> Council District, Bronx County” were circulated to the Commissioners. Commissioners Araujo and Michel volunteered to serve as the Cover Sheet Review Committee. Mr. Savino reminded that the last day for the Board to receive Specifications is Thursday, January 28, 2016, and the Hearings on Independent Nominating Petitions will be held on Monday, February 8, 2016.

Mr. Ryan reported that Ms. Kontzamanis confirmed a large room for the Board’s Annual State Government Information and Education Day on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 in Albany, NY. Commissioner Araujo commended Executive Management for scheduling the conference a lot sooner in the year than in the past. Mr. Ryan reported that the agenda is not finalized yet, but information will be provided for the Commissioners as the date nears. There was a consensus among the Commissioners to hold

the Annual State Government Information and Education Day on Tuesday, March 22, 2016.

Ms. Leible presented the Poll Worker Exception Report for the February 23, 2016 Special Election, Bronx County. Copies of the report were circulated to the Commissioners. The Bronx Commissioners preliminarily approved the report and requested for full Board approval. A total of 36 Coordinators (bipartisan representation needed) and 10 Information Clerks are listed on the Exception Report. President Perez moved to approve the Poll Worker Exception Report for the February 23, 2016 Special Election, Bronx County. Commissioner Rendino seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Secretary Umane moved to convene Executive Session for litigation and personnel matters. Commissioner Michel seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Following Executive Session, the public meeting resumed and President Perez reported the following actions taken in Executive Session:

- I. The Commissioners granted an advance of 175 hours to Asalia Trilla, a Clerk in the Bronx Office, which will be paid back with her

- accruals. Ms. Trilla will have 10 years as a Board employee in July;
- II. The Commissioners approved a Brooklyn transfer. Khadijah Overstreet, a HAVA Training Specialist in the General Office, will be transferred to the Brooklyn Office, effective January 27, 2016;
  - III. The Commissioners approved a Stipulation of Settlement dated January 21, 2016 concerning James Parks, a Senior Voting Machine Technician in the Brooklyn Office, which he agreed to 5 days of unpaid suspension and 1 year of probation;
  - IV. The Commissioners approved a Stipulation of Settlement dated January 21, 2016 concerning Stanley Scutt, a Clerk in the Brooklyn Office, which he agreed to 5 days of unpaid suspension and 1 year of probation;
  - V. The Commissioners approved a Stipulation of Settlement dated October 23, 2015 concerning Joseph Duffy, an Administrative Associate in the General Office, which he agreed to 1 year of probation.

President Perez moved to adjourn the meeting. Secretary Umame seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 1:30 P.M.