

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020 AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: President Patricia Anne Taylor
 Secretary Frederic M. Umane

Commissioners Jose Araujo, Miguelina Camilo, John Flateau, Michael Michel, Simon Shamoun, Tiffany Townsend, John Wm. Zaccone

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director
Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager
Georgea Kontzamanis, Operations Manager
Steven H. Richman, General Counsel
Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel
Valerie Vazquez, Director, Communications and Public Affairs
Steven Guglielmi, Director, Personnel
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Katharine Loving, NYC Campaign Finance Board
 Allie Swaten, CFB
 Kate Doran, LWV
 Wendy Byrne, LWV
 Eve Grassfield, Mayor's Office
 Pat Nolan, BVA
 Hadeel Mishal, Public Advocate's Office
 Bonie Nelson, BVA
 Jarret Berg, Vote Early NY
 Wester Medina

President Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:37 P.M

Mr. Richman reported on his recommendation for the date of Hearings on matters relating to the March 24, 2020 Special Election for Queens Borough President. Copies of Mr. Richman's memorandum were circulated to the Commissioners for review. Three (3) General Objections have been filed against independent nominating petitions of three (3) candidates for Queens Borough President. The last day to file said specifications is Thursday, January 23, 2020. Following consultation with the Queens Chief Clerk and Deputy Chief Clerk, it is recommended that the Commissioners schedule their Hearings on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 1:30 P.M. Commissioner Araujo moved to adopt the date of the Hearings as recommended. Commissioner Michel seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted. The Calendar will be posted on the Board's website and Queens Office front counter.

Mr. Richman provided a report on issues relating to the name and/or symbol selected for independent bodies on Independent Nominating Petitions for the March 24, 2020 Special Election for Queens Borough President. Copies of his report were distributed to the Commissioners for review. Mr. Richman recommended the following actions to the Commissioners:

1. Potential confusion – There are four (4) independent nominating bodies that have included “Queens” in their names and the use of the same word in the names may create the possibility of confusion on the part of some voters. “Queens Values” filed their petitions first so their name would remain the same. If determined it has the potential to cause voter confusion, then the “Transform Queens”, “Keep Queens Safe”, and “Queens Progressives” candidates would be directed to select another name in accordance with the statutory provisions. Commissioners Araujo and Michel noted that it is a wholly contained race in Queens and would not cause potential confusion to voters. Commissioner Araujo moved to not accept the recommendation as submitted. Secretary Umane seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted;

2. Exceeds 15 characters – “Queens Progressives” is eighteen (18) characters and exceeds the statutory maximum. In order to ensure efficient and effective use of space on the ballot, the “Queens Progressives” candidate would be directed to select another compliant name in accordance with the statutory provisions. Commissioner Araujo moved to accept

Mr. Richman's recommendation as submitted. Commissioner Michel seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted;

3. Missing emblem – There is a missing emblem on all five (5) volumes of candidate's petitions for "Red Dragon". If the Commissioners determine that each of the petition sheets does not show an emblem, then pursuant to Section 6-138(3)(f), the Red Dragon candidate would be directed to select a compliant emblem in accordance with the statutory provision, and in the event of a non-response, the Commissioners will select said emblem. Commissioner Araujo moved to accept Mr. Richman's recommendation as submitted. Commissioner Michel seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Richman requested for the appointment of a Commissioners' Petition Cover Sheet Review Committee to meet immediately after the stated meeting. Commissioners Araujo and Michel volunteered to serve on the Commissioners' Petition Cover Sheet Review Committee.

President Taylor recognized the following speakers for public comment:

1. Bonnie Nelson; and
2. Jarret Berg.

Commissioner Zaccone moved to convene an Executive Session for personnel matters. Commissioner Camilo seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Following Executive Session, the open public meeting resumed. President Taylor reported that personnel matters were discussed and the actions will be reported in the minutes.

The following personnel actions were taken by unanimous decision of the Board of Commissioners in Executive Session on January 21, 2020:

- I. Gail Kearney, a Trainer Assistant, was granted 16 hours of an Advance of Time. The grant will be effective January 16, 2020. Ms. Kearney's agency start date is January 31, 2016;
- II. There was a ratification of the Stipulation of Settlement signed by Bradley Brown, a Voting Machine Technician, on January 8, 2020.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 1:30 P.M.

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