

MEETING OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2007
AT 11:00 A.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

P R E S E N T: James Sampel, Secretary

Commissioners Graham, Polanco, Schacher, Umane, Yennella

Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager

Steven H. Richman, General Counsel

John Ward, Finance Officer

Phil Donahue, Director, Personnel

Steve Ferguson, Director, MIS

Elliot Borack, ACCO

Jack Courtney, Temporary Attorney

Steven Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Karen Viggiano, Consultant, Gartner

Marjorie Shea, Women's City Club

Andrea Senteno, Citizen Union

Teresa Hummel

Mary Lou Urban, League of Woman Voters

Secretary Sampel called the meeting to order at 11:30 A.M.

Secretary Sampel announced that Commissioner Dent is unable to attend today's meeting and sends her sincere apology.

Commissioner Umame reported that on Friday, November 16, 2007 several Commissioners and City Board staff along with the officers of the N.Y.S. Election Commissioners' Association met with Brian F. Heffernan, a trial attorney with the Voting Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice regarding DOJ's proposed Court order for New York State's compliance with HAVA. He stated that although the Commissioners explained the significant obstacles we face DOJ's position remained unchanged.

Administrative Manager Pamela Perkins provided the Commissioners with the City Board's proposed recommended revisions to the State Board's draft Rules for Routine Maintenance and Testing of Voting Systems, Operational Procedures and Standards for Determining Valid Votes for their review.

Finance Officer John Ward provided the Commissioners with the Comparative Expenditure Report dated November 20, 2007.

Mr. Ferguson reported that he had not received an expenses breakdown from the vendor with respect to the Statewide Voter

Registration Database.

Steve Ferguson, Director, MIS submitted to the Commissioners his report on the re-printing of the poll books for the November 6, 2007 General Election. After discussion, the Commissioners unanimously agreed to table the report until the next meeting.

Commissioner Umane moved to grant a 30 day sick leave extension to Shauntrice Jones, a Clerk in the Manhattan Office. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Secretary Sampel moved to table the minutes of the October 16, 2007, October 23, 2007, October 30, 2007 and November 13, 2007 meetings. Commissioner Umane seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Secretary Sampel convened the meeting of the Board of Canvassers in the City of New York to certify the November 6, 2007 General Election.

The General Counsel asked the Board of Canvassers certify the canvass of returns for votes cast in the November 6, 2007 General Election in the Boroughs of Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island. In addition, he noted the need to designate a Republican Commissioner to serve as President of the Board of Canvassers in the absence of President Como.

Commissioner Umane move to certify the recanvass of returns for the November 6, 2007 General Election in the Boroughs of Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island and to designate himself as Acting President of the Board of Canvassers and authorized the use of the Commissioners' signature stamps on the reports of certification. Secretary Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Umane moved to convene an Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation matters. Commissioner Polanco seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously.

The Secretary reported that in the Executive Session the

Commissioners took the following actions:

- 1) Unanimously approved a 30 day sick leave for Florence Kotlowitz, a Clerk in the Brooklyn Office;
- 2) Unanimously approved a temporary increase in salary for Lissette Poll, Administrative Associate in the Bronx Office, effective October 1, 2007 until such time as the other Bronx Democratic Administrative Associate position is filled.

Commissioner Umane moved to adjourn. Commissioner Yennella seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Secretary Sampel announced that the next Commissioners' meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 27, 2007 at 1:30 P.M.