

MEETING OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS  
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2007  
AT 1:30 P.M.  
42 BROADWAY, 7th FLOOR HEARING ROOM  
NEW YORK, NY 10004

---

P R E S E N T:           Anthony Como, President  
                              James J. Sampel, Secretary

Commissioners Graham, Schacher, Soumas, Umane, Yennella

John Ravitz, Executive Director  
George Gonzalez, Deputy Executive Director  
Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager  
Steven H. Richman, General Counsel  
Valerie Vazquez, Director of Public Affairs  
Phil Donahue, Director, Personnel  
Joseph LaRocca, Coordinator, Candidate Records Unit  
John O'Grady, Chief Voting Machine Technician  
Timothy Gay, Deputy Chief Clerk, Manhattan  
Gwendolyn Youngblood, Deputy ACCO  
Gregory Jackson, Manhattan Borough Office  
Susan Lake, Staten Island Borough Office  
Karen Viggiano, Gartner Consultant  
Gladys Fernandez, EVS  
Philip Mione, Computer Data Analyst, EVS  
Mona Huang, Sr. Computer Programmer, EVS  
Beth Fossella, Coordinator, Voter Registration  
Steve Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

Guests:     Adrienne Kivelson, League of Women Voters  
              Alyssa Usui, Coordinator, Voter Assistance Commission  
              Lunetha Lancaster, CID-NY  
              Teresa Hummel, Community Church of New York  
              Matthew Smith, Vice President, Local 1183, CWA  
              Mark Herman

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

Secretary Sampel asked that a moment of silence be observed in memory of John W. Lavelle, Member of the New York State Assembly, 61<sup>st</sup> Assembly District, Richmond County who passed away on January 24, 2007. The moment of silence was observed.

Commissioner Umame moved to table the minutes of January 23, 2007 and January 30, 2007 until the next meeting. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Executive Director reported that:

- 1) The NYC Board participated in a follow-up meeting with the U.S. Department of Justice after the meeting in Albany on Wednesday, January 23, 2007. The meeting was held last Wednesday, January 31, 2007 here at the City Board. Attending were representatives of DOJ, the State Attorney General's Office and the State Board of Elections as well as BOE staff and President Como, Secretary Sampel and Commissioner Umame. The City

Board outlined the contingency scenarios in detail and the problems faced by the City Board in attempting to implement HAVA in 2007 and 2008.

President Como congratulated the Executive Director and Board staff on the great job at the meeting with DOJ.

- 2) The Board's Albany Legislative visit is scheduled for Monday, March 5, 2007 and Tuesday, March 6, 2007. He asked those Commissioners who would be going to Albany on those days to confirm their attendance.
- 3) A decision was issued in the matter of Emanuele Innamarato v. John Friscia, et. al. [New York State Supreme Court, Richmond County, Index No. 8004/07] Justice Anthony Giacobbe ordered the Board of Elections to change the name Emanuele Innamarato to Manny Innamarato on the voting machine ballots and stand by paper ballots for the Special Election for Member of the City Council in the 51<sup>st</sup> Councilmanic District in Staten Island.

The Executive Director provided the Commissioners with a copy of the Evaluation Team's Report and Recommendation of Burson-

Marsteller, et. al. to provide public information/education services relating to the implementation of new voting systems. He explained the scoring criteria and methodology used throughout the selection process. He thanked the Evaluation Team (Tim Gay, Gregory Jackson, Susan Lake, Elliot Borack, Lucille Grimaldi, Valerie Vazquez, Gwendolyn Youngblood) as well as the Gartner Consultants for their efforts on this project.

Commissioner Umane moved to accept the recommendation of the Evaluation Team and authorize Board staff to enter into negotiations to retain the service of Burson-Marsteller. Secretary Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The General Counsel provided the Commissioners with the draft of the Board's 2007 Legislative Proposals and cover letter. He asked the Commissioners to authorize the Board to submit these proposals. After discussion, Commissioner Umane moved to approve the draft as modified in the discussion for submission subject to final approval of the draft by the Executive Committee (President Como and Secretary Sampel) by Friday, February 9, 2007. President Como seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The General Counsel (on behalf of the Coordinator of Voter Registration Beth Fossella) asked the Commissioners to approve a draft of a letter to voters which would notify them that even though they voted on a voting machine by Court Order the Board has no voter registration record on file for them and requests them to submit a voter registration form. Commissioner Umane moved to approve the letter. President Como seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Executive Director, in the absence of the Finance Officer, provided the Commissioners with the Vacancy Report dated February 6, 2007.

Commissioner Soumas moved to grant a 30-days sick leave extension for Dana Marshall, a Clerk in the Manhattan Office. Commissioner Umane seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Umane moved to grant a 30-day sick leave extension for Robert Otero, a VMT in the Manhattan Voting Machine Facility. Commissioner Soumas seconded the motion, which was

adopted unanimously.

President Como moved to convene an Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel matters. Secretary Sampel seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously.

The President reported that in the Executive Session the Commissioners took the following personnel action pursuant to Section 3-300 of the NYS Election Law:

- A) Unanimously approved the appointment of Eleanor Guerrieri to replace Grant Peters as a Clerk at the Executive Office at the salary of a Financial Clerk, effective on the day following Mr. Peters last day on the payroll;
- B) Unanimously authorized the Board to be closed on the President's Day holiday, Monday, February 19, 2007 with the exception of skeleton crews in the Brooklyn, Staten Island, and Executive Offices to receive and process absentee ballots applications for the February 20, 2007 Special Elections during the hours of 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

President Como recognized for brief comments:

- 1) Jose Adames;
- 2) Alan Flacks

President Como moved to adjourn. Secretary Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

President Como announced that the next Commissioners' meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.