

MEETING OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2007
AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

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

Commissioners Dent, Graham, O'Connor, Polanco, Soumas, Schacher,
Umane, Yennella

John Ravitz, Executive Director
George Gonzalez, Deputy Executive Director
Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager
Steven H. Richman, General Counsel
Valerie Vazquez, Director, Public Relations and Communications
John Ward, Finance Officer
Phil Donahue, Director, Personnel
Joseph LaRocca, Coordinator, Candidate Records Unit
Elliot Borack, ACCO
John Naudus, Senior Systems Analyst, EVS
Philip Mione, Computer Data Analyst, EVS
Gladys Fernandez, Technical Writer
Diane Rudiano, Chief Clerk, Brooklyn Borough
Maryrose Sattie, Deputy Chief Clerk, Brooklyn Borough
Sherman Browne, Acting Deputy Chief Clerk, Bronx
Troy Johnson, Chief Clerk
Timothy Gay, Deputy Chief Clerk
Beth Fossella, Coordinator, Voter Registration
Jack Courtney, Temporary Attorney
Steven Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Marjorie Shea, Women's City Club
 Adrienne Kivelson, League of Women Voters
 Mary Lou Urban, League of Women Voters
 Margie Gersten, League of Women Voters

Weyman Carey
Mark Herman

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

President Como asked that the Primary Election results be presented for certification.

Following discussion, the Commissioners tabled consideration of the certification of results until the end of the meeting.

President Como moved to table the minutes of the September 25, 2007 meeting. Commissioner Umame seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Executive Director reported that the Chief Voting Machine Technician's Trouble Calls Report shows that 2,978 Shoup lever machines were deployed to the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens on Election Day and only 1 had to be replaced. He stated that this is a testament to the great performance by the Board's Voting Machine Technicians.

The Executive Director also reported that:

- A) The NYC Board staff met with representatives from the Office of Management and Budget regarding the fiscal implications of implementing citywide, ballot marking devices for the 2008 elections. Key concerns are the costs for hardware, software and support as well as hiring additional personnel and space to house these new voting systems. In addition, Board staff met with OMB to address concerns with Burson-Marsteller's contract.

- B) The Board has been invited to testify before the Committee on Governmental Operations on Thursday, October 11, 2007 at 1:00 P.M. regarding Resolution 784 [urging U.S. Congress to pass S. 453: "Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2007"] introduced by Senator Barack Obama.

Commissioner Umame moved to direct the General Counsel to send a written response to the NYC Council advising that the Board respectfully declines to appear at this hearing. President Como seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Finance Officer John Ward provided the Commissioners with the Vacancy Report dated October 2, 2007.

Joseph LaRocca, Coordinator, Candidate Records Unit described the problems that occurred with respect to certain Democratic Party Positions on some ballots for the September 18th Primary in New York County.

Commissioner Schacher moved to certify the results of the Brooklyn Democratic Primary for public offices. President Como seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

President Como moved that the Commissioners certify the remaining September 18th Primary Election results for Manhattan, Bronx, and Queens at their next meeting. Secretary Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Graham introduced Sherman Browne, the Acting Deputy Chief Clerk in the Bronx.

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

The President reported that in the Executive Session the Commissioners unanimously approved the following actions:

- 1) Allocation of 30 temporary positions among all Borough Offices, effective October 9, 2007 through the 2008 Presidential Primary Election;
- 2) 30-day sick leave extensions for Shauntrice Jones, a Clerk and Laura Burton, an Administrative Assistant assigned to the Manhattan Office.
- 3) Designated President Como and Commissioner Soumas to serve on the Standing Committee on Investigations.

Ballot Coordinator Thomas Sattie asked the Commissioners to finalize the date to print Absentee Ballots for the November 8, 2007 General Election. The Commissioners directed that the Board should comply with the mandates of the NYS Election Law.

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

President Como announced that the next Commissioners' meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 1:30 P.M.