

MEETING OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 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

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
Lucille Grimaldi, Director, EVS
Nicholas Zimmitti, President, CWA 1183
John O'Grady, Chief Voting Machine Technician
Timothy Gay, Deputy Chief Clerk, Manhattan
Philip Mione, Computer Data Analyst, EVS
Mona Huang, Sr. Computer Programmer
Gladys Fernandez, Technical Writer
Beth Fossella, Coordinator, Voter Registration
Jack Courtney, Temporary Attorney
Steven Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Marjorie Shea, Women's City Club
 Mary Lou Urban, League of Women Voters
 Andrea Senteno, Citizen Union
 Aaron Belisle, CIDNY
 Alyssa Usui, NYC Voter Assistance Commission
 Margie Gersten
 Mark Herman

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

President Como moved to table the minutes of the October 2, 2007 and October 9, 2007 meetings. Commissioner Soumas seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Deputy Executive Director asked the Commissioners for a determination with respect to limiting Board employee's use of annual leave until after certification of the Presidential Primary. CWA, Local 1183 President Nicholas Zimmitti expressed his disapproval stating that workers could not be expected to work this extended period without days off. The Administrative Manager explained that even though this policy has been enforced from time to time, workers have been granted time off upon demonstrated need. After discussion, Commissioner Umane moved that the Board approve the limitation on vacation leave through certification of the February 5, 2008 Presidential Primary Election. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, which was adopted by a vote of 9 in favor (President Como, Secretary Sampel, Commissioners Dent, Graham, Polanco, Soumas, Schacher, Umane, Yennella) and 1 opposed (Commissioner O'Connor).

The General Counsel provided the Commissioners with a draft public notice which provides for two ballot marking devices accessible to disabled voters to be deployed to each Borough Office for the November 6, 2007 General Election.

After extensive discussion, Commissioner Soumas moved that five ballot marking devices be deployed to Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens Office, four to the Bronx and two to Staten Island. Commissioner Umane seconded the motion, which was adopted by a vote of 9 in favor (President Como, Secretary Sampel, Commissioners Dent, Graham, Polanco, Soumas, Schacher, Umane, Yennella) and 1 opposed (Commissioner O'Connor).

Joseph LaRocca, Coordinator, Candidate Records Unit provided the Commissioners with the draft Notice to Candidates for the November 6, 2007 General Election. Commissioner Umane moved to authorize the Candidate Records Unit to send the Notice to Candidates as submitted. President Como seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Election Day Operations' Coordinator asked the Commissioners for a determination with respect to BMD Training payments. Mrs. Rahmouni asked whether Poll Workers who attend BMD training but do not work on Election Day are entitled to the \$200.00 payment. Commissioner Umane moved that the Board should be consistent with the Commissioners' adopted policy with respect to payments for training and working at elections. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously.

Mrs. Rahmouni provided the Commissioners with a copy of the Poll Worker Exception Reports for the November 6, 2007 General Election for Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island. Commissioner O'Connor moved to approve the Exception Report as submitted. Commissioner Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Director of Communications Valerie Vazquez-Rivera reported that the NYC Voter Assistance Commission invites the NYC Board to participate in symposia relating to judicial elections during Voter Awareness Month. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed that its participation would be at the discretion of each Borough Commissioner.

Director of Communications Valerie Vazquez-Rivera asked the Commissioners to approve a request by Mare Claire Magazine to use a voting machine for a photo shoot, at no cost to the Board. President Como moved to approve the request. Secretary Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Finance Officer John Ward provided the Commissioners with the Vacancy Report dated October 16, 2007.

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) Unanimously approved the allocation of four (4) additional temporary positions (2 Dems and 2 Reps) to each Borough Office, effective immediately, through the 2008 Presidential Primary Election.

- 2) The Commissioners designated President Como and Secretary Sampel as a Commissioners Committee to review potential applicants for the Executive Director position with the Board;
- 3) Unanimously approved Commissioner Dent's request to continue to serve as the Brooklyn Democratic Commissioner while acting as Executive Director of the Audrey Johnson Day Care Center and directed the General Counsel to convey the same in writing to Commissioner Dent and the Conflicts of Interest Board.

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, October 23, 2007 at 1:30 P.M.