

MEETING OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2008
AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

P R E S E N T: James Sampel, President
 Frederic M. Umane, Secretary

Commissioners Como, Dent, Graham, O'Connor, Polanco, Schacher,
Soumas

Marcus Cederqvist, Executive Director
George Gonzalez, Deputy Executive Director
Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager
Valerie Vasquez, Director of Communications
Phil Donahue, Director, Personnel
John Ward, Finance Officer
Jack Courtney, Temporary Attorney
Steven Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners
Charles Webb III, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Aaron Belisle, CIDNY
 Andrea Senteno, Citizen Union
 Alyssa Usui, Coordinator, Voters Assistance Commission
 Marjorie Shea, Women's City Club

President Sampel called the meeting to order at 1:36 P.M.

President Sampel moved to approve the minutes of the March 4th, March 11th and March 18th meetings. Commissioner Como seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

President Sampel moved to table the minutes of the March 25th meeting until next week. Commissioner Como seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner O'Connor gave an overview of the conference call held between members of the New York State Election Commissioners' Association Executive Committee and the staff of the New York State Board of Elections (Co-Executive Directors Stanley Zalen, Todd Valentine, Deputy Counsel Paul Collins, and Director of Election Operations Anna Svizzero). Topics included:

- 1) The use of capital monies for HAVA implementation;
- 2) Programming Ballot Marking Devices for 2008 and 2009; and
- 3) Submitting purchase orders to OGS.

He reported that the next Conference call (including Regional Chairs) is scheduled for April 14, 2008. He also reported that the State Board's next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2008 and will be web cast.

The Executive Director reported that:

- 1) OMB has agreed to approve funding for Election Specific Tasks in the Gartner Task Order for 2008 only. He asked the Board to determine if we move forward on this basis.

Secretary Umame moved to approve the Revised Task Order for 2008 as submitted. President Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

- 2) Dick Dadey, the Executive Director of the Citizens Union requests the support of the City Board for Citizen's Union grant application to recruit college students as Poll Workers. He asked the Commissioners for a determination in this matter.

The Commissioners agreed that the Executive Director may extend an invitation to Mr. Dadey to attend the next Commissioner's meeting, and make his request in person.

- 3) Appropriate staff from the NYC Law Department is unable to attend today's meeting and will be present at the next Commissioner's meeting.

The General Counsel provided the Commissioners with a copy of the

Draft Calendar and Designating Petition/OTB Petition Rules for the September 2008 Primary Election and asked for their approval. He advised that the last day to file “specs” relating to Designating Petitions is Monday, July 21, 2008. He recommended that in order to give the Borough Offices sufficient time to work those “specs”, hearings begin on Tuesday, July 29, 2008, at 10:30 A.M. and continue as necessary through the week; hearing on OTB petitions would take place the following week.

In response to a question, the General Counsel explained the procedures with respect to party positions under Rule H9.

Commissioner O'Connor moved to approve the Draft Calendar and Designating Petition/OTB Petition Rules for the September 2008 Primary Election as submitted. President Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner O'Connor moved that the Board begin hearings on specifications of objections to Designating Petitions on Tuesday, July 29, 2008 at 10:30 A.M. President Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Director of Personnel provided the Commissioners with a copy of the Draft Procedures for the Release of Voter Registration Documents to the Public for approval. He reported that these procedures mandate that a voter's personal identification information (social security and driver license numbers) be deleted before it is given to the member of the public requesting it.

Commissioner Polanco moved to adopt the draft Procedure as submitted. Commissioner Graham seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Director of Communications reported that she received a request from David Buchwald, a freelance photo journalist, to take photos of a Shoup Lever Machine in the Manhattan Borough Office. Commissioner Umane asked that Mr. Buchwald submit a written request including an explanation of what the photos will be used for. President Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Coordinator of Election Day Operations provided the Commissioners with a Draft of the 2008 Election Day Personnel and Cost

Proposal for BMD Implementation for their review. She reported that the plan provides for an additional 8,616 Poll Workers, Coordinators for 390 Poll Sites, and 40 additional Adjunct Trainers.

Secretary Umane moved to table the report until the next meeting and directed Ms. Rahmouni to provide the Chief and Deputy Chief Clerks with a copy of the Draft 2008 Election Day Personnel and Cost Proposal Plan for review and invite them to attend next week's Commissioner's meeting. President Sampel seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Finance Officer John Ward provided the Commissioners with the Vacancy Report dated April 1, 2008.

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

President Sampel reported that the following action was taken in the Executive Session:

- 1) The Commissioners terminated any additional temporary employees in excess of the approved allocation, effective close of business today. The motion was adopted by a vote of 7 in favor (President Sampel, Secretary Umane, Commissioners Dent, Como, O'Connor, Schacher, Soumas) 2 opposed (Commissioners Graham and Polanco)

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

The next Commissioner's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at 1:30 P.M.