

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015
AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: President Michael Michel
 Secretary Bianca Perez

Commissioners Jose Araujo, Ronald Castorina, John Flateau, Maria R. Guastella, Alan Schulkin, Michael Rendino, Simon Shamoun, Frederic M. Umane

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director
Dawn Sandow, Deputy Executive Director
Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager
Georgea Kontzamanis, Operations Manager
Valerie Vazquez, Director, Communications & Public Affairs
Steven H. Richman, General Counsel
Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel
Nina M. Crispino, Director, Personnel
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Haris Bhatti
 Katharine Loving, NYC CFB
 Kate Doran, LWV NYC
 Michael Benjamin
 Alan Flacks, Member of NY County Democratic Committee

President Michel called the meeting to order at 1:32 P.M.

President Michel announced that the Commissioners will conduct the Hearings on matters relating to Independent Nominating Petitions for the

November 3, 2015 General Election. He stated the procedures to be followed during the Hearings and called upon Mr. Richman to call the Calendar.

Mr. Richman called the Calendar for the Hearings on Independent Nominating Petition matters for Queens County.

Mr. Richman presented the Legal Prima Facie Report for Queens County. There was an appearance by a candidate which is noted on the Legal Prima Facie Report. The Commissioners' determinations are reflected on the Legal Prima Facie Report on file at the Board.

President Michel adjourned the Hearings and convened the regular stated meeting.

President Michel noted that Secretary Perez, Commissioner Rendino and Mr. Denkberg joined the meeting.

Commissioner Flateau requested for the spelling of his name to be corrected in the August 11, 2015 minutes. Commissioner Castorina moved to adopt the minutes for the August 11, 2015 meeting as corrected.

Commissioner Araujo seconded the motion, with Commissioner Guastella abstaining. The motion was adopted.

Commissioner Araujo moved to adopt the minutes for the August 18, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Schulkin seconded the motion, with Commissioners Guastella, Michel, and Shamoun abstaining. The motion was adopted.

Commissioner Flateau requested for the spelling of his name to be corrected in the September 1, 2015 minutes. President Michel moved to adopt the minutes for the September 1, 2015 meeting as corrected. The motion was seconded, with Commissioners Araujo, Castorina, Perez and Rendino abstaining. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Ryan provided an overview on pre-election tasks for the September 10, 2015 Primary. The information follows:

- 650,774 registered voters are eligible to vote;
- 377 poll sites will be open citywide;
- 13,328 pieces of voting equipment has been deployed;
- The General Office Election Day Operations staff has been working closely with Borough Office staff to ensure that there is

a sufficient amount of translators in the boroughs. Manhattan has eight (8) vacancies for Spanish Interpreters to date. Staff is currently working on filling those vacancies. Commissioner Umane clarified that all Manhattan poll sites will have at least one (1) Spanish Interpreter; these eight (8) vacancies are for a 2nd Spanish Interpreter at poll sites where it is needed or requested. Staten Island has seven (7) vacancies for Spanish Interpreters to date. There are no more people in the system who have passed the poll worker class or are otherwise unassigned;

- Approximately 422,500 ballots were ordered based on the Commissioners' approval for 65% of total voters. The total cost was approximately \$200,000 in light of the new ballot contract;
- For Election Night Reporting (ENR), all poll sites will have at least one (1) new tablet which has been updated to give the user an account of how many Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs) will be read at the poll site at the close of business. The laptop software has been updated to give the user a list of poll sites that have not been already uploaded by the tablets. It will keep a running tally. The ENR website, which is accessible by the public, will show two (2) additional pieces of information; the

combined Election Districts (EDs) will be listed with a notation of which ED they were combined into. This was designed to avoid confusion by the public. Also, the number of write-in votes will be listed on the “Contest Summary” page. It will not let the Board know for whom those write-in votes were cast. That will occur later in the Board’s Re-Canvassing process;

- 904 Ballot Marking Devices and 386 flash cards have been prepared;
- In addition to the poll site tablets, 76 tablets will be utilized by Voting Machine Technicians, and 66 tablets will be utilized by AD Monitors. These tablets will improve the processing of voters and election results, as well as voting machine repairs which will be serviced more quickly. The AD Monitors will be in the field to determine if there any problems to be remedied throughout Election Day.

Commissioner Flateau suggested for the General Office EDO staff to reach out to all Borough Offices to fill the Spanish Interpreter vacancies. Ms. Sandow reported that staff has already reached out to them. Secretary Perez requested for a list of poll sites that do not have a second Spanish Interpreter.

President Michel recognized Kate Doran, a representative of the League of Women Voters, who inquired if the Board has read the Letter to the Editor in the New York Times which concerns the City Council passing laws for the Board instead of waiting for State Legislation. Secretary Perez asked Ms. Doran to provide copies of the news article to the Board.

Commissioner Shamoun requested to discuss a personnel matter in Executive Session.

President Michel moved to convene an Executive Session for purposes of personnel. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.

Following Executive Session, the public meeting resumed and Mr. Ryan reported the following action taken in Executive Session:

- I. The Commissioners unanimously granted an advance of 290 hours of discretionary leave to Luann Kubler, a Clerk in the Brooklyn Office, retroactive to September 1, 2015. Ms. Kubler has been an employee since September 30, 2001.

Commissioner Umane moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 1:30 P.M.