

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023 AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: President Simon Shamoun
Secretary Rodney L. Pepe-Souvenir

Commissioners Jose M. Araujo, Michael Coppotelli, Carol R. Edmead, *Gino A. Marmorato, Jodi Morales, *Keith Sullivan, *Frederic M. Umame

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director
Vincent M. Ignizio, Deputy Executive Director
Georgea Kontzamanis, Operations Manager
Hemalee J. Patel, General Counsel
Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners

* Commissioner Marmorato, Commissioner Sullivan and Commissioner Umame appeared remotely, but not at a publicly accessible location, and therefore did not cast any votes.

Mr. Ryan opened the meeting with item #1 of the meeting agenda, the approval of the minutes of the January 31, 2023 and February 7, 2023 Commissioners Meetings.

Mr. Ryan stated that we do not have a sufficient number of voting Commissioners who were present at either or both of those meetings, and asked

that the Commissioners Committee make a motion to table the minutes for those meetings.

President Shamoun moved to table the minutes of the January 31, 2023 and February 7, 2023 Commissioners Meetings. Commissioner Coppotelli seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Ryan continued with item #2 of the meeting agenda, the approval of the updates/changes to the Designating Petition and Opportunity to Ballot Petition Guidelines.

Mr. Ryan noted that petitions will be circulated in two weeks, and it is necessary to get the guidelines approved so that everyone gathering petition signatures can be aware of the parameters under which they are working.

Mr. Ryan acknowledged Hemalee Patel, General Counsel, to present the item before the Commissioners Committee.

Mrs. Patel addressed the Commissioners Committee and noted that subject to their approval, the proposed changes to the Designating Petition and

Opportunity to Ballot Petition Guidelines were previously circulated and posted on the Board's website.

All changes were highlighted in the attached Legend for February, 2023 Amendments to Designating and OTB Petition Guidelines, which was shared with the Commissioners Committee. Mrs. Patel stated that she is available to answer any questions that that they may have.

Significant changes were made to Section H of the Guidelines, Specifications of Objections; based on the change in New York State Election Law §6-154, the language from the statute was incorporated into the proposed guidelines. There were other operational changes made that were discussed with Georgea Kontzamanis, the Board's Operations Manager, as well as the Candidate Records Unit.

The NYS State Board of Elections is expected to meet in March 2023, and will then provide further guidance on the changes in NYS Election Law §6-154.

The Board's guidelines are based on the NYS Election Law, and should be referenced by Candidates running for office to navigate the petition process. The

guidelines also give a level of predictability to the Commissioners when making rulings during the Hearing process, based on the NYS Election Law.

President Shamoun moved to adopt the Designating Petition and Opportunity to Ballot Petition Guidelines. Secretary Pepe-Souvenir seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Ryan continued with item #3 of the meeting agenda, approval to attend the New York City Council Budget Hearing for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

Secretary Pepe-Souvenir moved to approve the request to attend the NYC Council Budget Hearing for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. President Shamoun seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Umame requested that the testimony prepared for the NYC Council Budget Hearing, be provided to the Commissioners Committee in advance of the Hearing on March 22, 2023.

Commissioner Edmead requested that the Executive Staff provide the Commissioners with a link to review the New York City Board's proposed budget as well.

Mr. Ryan asked that the Commissioners Committee set the next meeting date for Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

Commissioner Coppotelli moved to set the next meeting date for Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 1:30 P.M. Secretary Pepe-Souvenir seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Secretary Pepe-Souvenir moved to convene an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. President Shamoun seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Following Executive Session, the open meeting resumed.

The following actions were taken by the unanimous decision of the Board of Commissioners:

1. Francisca Montoya, a Financial Clerk, was granted 210 hours of an advance of time. This grant is effective from January 30, 2023. Ms. Montoya's agency start date is September 29, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 1:30 P.M.