

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2024 AT 1:00 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: President Rodney L. Pepe-Souvenir
Secretary Frederic M. Umane

Commissioners Jose M. Araujo, Michael J. Coppotelli, Gino A. Marmorato, Jodi Morales, Simon Shamoun, Michele A. Sileo, *Keith Sullivan

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director
Vincent M. Ignizio, Deputy Executive Director
Georgea Kontzamanis, Operations Manager
Michael D. Corbett, Administrative Manager
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Alan Flacks

*Commissioner Sullivan 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 October 15, 2024 Commissioners Meeting.

Hearing no objections or amendments, the minutes of the October 15, 2024 Commissioners Meeting were adopted.

Mr. Ryan stated that for the moment we will table item #2 of the meeting agenda, the Update on the November 5, 2024 General Election, and complete that either later today or at the meeting next week.

Mr. Ryan continued with item #3 of the meeting agenda, Request for Testimony from the New York City Council Committee on Governmental Operations, State and Federal Legislation – Oversight – Evaluating the Board of Elections’ Performance in the 2004 General Election and Preparation for the June 2025 Elections – December 4, 2024.

Mr. Ryan stated that it has been the pattern of the Committee on Governmental Operations, we always have a hearing sometime after the election, usually the first or second week of December and we have another request to appear on December 4th. There are various items that are on the City Council agenda, some to do with the Board of Elections, others may already be state law, and the various items were included in the Commissioner’s packages today.

Mr. Ryan requested permission for the Board to appear and prepare testimony, which will be distributed to the Commissioners in advance of the hearing.

Commissioner Araujo moved to permit the Board to appear and prepare testimony for the NYC Council Hearing on December 4, 2024. Secretary Umane seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Ryan stated that agenda item #4 is another standard request. The New York State Election Commissioners Winter Conference is scheduled from January 14th through January 17th 2025, in Albany, New York. Mr. Ryan requested a motion for the Commissioners to authorize not only Commissioner attendance, but for necessary staff to attend as well.

Secretary Umane moved to authorize the staff's attendance. Commissioner Shamoun seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Secretary Umane noted that if Commissioners are intending to go, they should let Executive Management know so that they can make the necessary arrangements.

Mr. Ryan stated that there was an added agenda item #6, the Report of the Finance Committee, which will be done after the Executive Session.

Before going into the Executive Session, Mr. Ryan asked that the Commissioners pick a date for the next meeting and suggested Tuesday, December

3, 2024 so that we can certify the General Election. The meeting would be held at 1:00 P.M. and the borough staff will join remotely.

Commissioner Coppotelli moved to set the date of the next meeting for Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 1:00 P.M. President Pepe-Souvenir seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Secretary Umane moved to adjourn the open meeting and convene an Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel matters. Commissioner Shamoun seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Following the Executive Session the open meeting resumed.

Mr. Ryan stated that there is one member of the public, Alan Flacks, who wishes to address the Commissioners.

Mr. Flacks stated his name and address for the record and stated that he would like to raise an issue from the General Election relating to the Exit Letter he received and what he experienced while visiting poll sites during the election. Mr. Ryan advised Mr. Flacks that this is a matter that can be resolved offline and is not appropriate to discuss during the public meeting.

In regards to the establishment of a committee, Secretary Umame stated that since it is our intention to certify the ballot next week, because it appears that there may be certain vacation schedules that may have an effect on the ability of certain Commissioners to be here, he would move that we establish the fact that a committee of either two democrats and two republicans, or should that not be sufficient, one republican and one democrat serve as a committee to make the approvals for the certifications at the meeting next week. Commissioner Marmorato seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Ryan confirmed that it would be subject to the assignment by the President and Secretary.

Mr. Ryan and Mr. Ignizio noted that anything on the current agenda will be tabled until next week.

Mr. Ryan confirmed regarding the Executive Session, whatever decisions that were made will be reported in the minutes as required by law.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners of Elections is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 1:00 P.M.