

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2025 AT 1:00 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: President Frederic M. Umane

Commissioners Jose M. Araujo, Michael J. Coppotelli, Marc A. Landis, Gino A. Marmorato, Frank R. Seddio, *Keith Sullivan

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director

Vincent M. Ignizio, Deputy Executive Director

Michael D. Corbett, Administrative Manager

Grace Pyun, General Counsel

Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel

Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners

Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

Sherwin Suss, Agency Chief Contracting Officer

New York County:

Stephen Evans III, Chief Clerk

Rhonda Evans, Acting Deputy Chief Clerk

GUESTS:

Steven Nardone

Alan Flacks

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

President Umane opened the meeting by introducing the staff.

Commissioner Coppotelli joined the meeting in route to the Staten Island Office, stating that he expects that he will make it into the office momentarily.

President Umane continued with item #1 of the meeting agenda, the approval of the minutes from the May 20, 2025 Commissioners Meeting.

Hearing no objections or amendments, the minutes of the May 20, 2025 Commissioners' Meeting were adopted as submitted.

President Umane continued with item #2 of the meeting agenda, a Challenge to Voter Registration under NYS Election Law § 5-220, and a report from the Manhattan Borough Managers on a previous voter registration challenge.

President Umane acknowledged the Manhattan Borough Managers, Stephen Evans, Chief Clerk and Rhonda Evans, Acting Deputy Chief Clerk, and asked that they come forward and present the results of their in-depth inquiry of the person who may not be registered properly.

Mr. Evans stated that at the May 13, 2025 Commissioners' Meeting the registration of Eljon Wardally (VSN# 304610444) was challenged. A letter was sent to that voter, a response was not received after a 10-day period, so a bipartisan team was dispatched to the residence in which they are registered to vote. No one was in that apartment at the time of their arrival, but they were able to talk to the next-door neighbor who indicated that the person who lives in that apartment has lived there for a very long time, alone, and is not the named voter. While talking

with the next-door neighbor, the actual resident of that apartment arrived and also confirmed that Eljon Wardally has not lived in that apartment for over ten years. It was the bipartisan conclusion of the team that this voter no longer resides at that address and their voter registration should be cancelled. Mr. Evans stated that he and Ms. Evans concur with that recommendation.

President Umane asked has anyone checked to see if the person was living overseas, and that was their last permanent address before leaving. They are entitled potentially to be a federal voter and may have used their last address to register. Mr. Evans stated that the person making the challenge is the mother of the voter in question.

President Umane instructed the Legal Department to send a notice to the voter, at the address last registered, to inform them that the voter record has been canceled.

The matter was placed on second call until Commissioner Coppotelli arrives in the Staten Island Office.

President Umane continued with the second matter, a voter challenge being presented by Steven Nardone. Mr. Nardone was asked to step up to the podium to present the matter.

Mr. Nardone stated that it became known to him last week that voter, Pia M. Bratlie (VSN# 414666404) was registered to vote at his home address prior to the elections in 2024, and did in fact vote in the Primary Election of 2024. Mr. Nardone added that the individual is not a resident of the United States. Based on research conducted by Board staff, the individual registered to vote electronically without providing any identification to verify U.S. citizenship, only an attestation of such, and did not provide any evidence of residence at his address. Mr. Nardone further stated that his family has lived at this address for over 36 years, no one knows Pia M. Bratlie, and Ms. Bratlie has never lived at his address. Mr. Nardone requested that Ms. Bratlie be immediately purged from the record and removed from his home address, thereby preventing potential voter fraud and removing his and his family's home address from the New York City voter registration rolls, where it could possibly be affiliated with such fraud.

President Umane administered the challenge oath to the voter, Steven Nardone, pursuant to §5-220 of the NYS Election Law.

President Umane thanked Mr. Nardone for appearing today and advised him of the Board's procedure and next steps for this process. The voter's record will not be canceled immediately, as requested, but a bipartisan team will be sent to Mr. Nardone's home to ask around and ask neighbors if Ms. Bratlie lives there. The

team will present their findings to the Board of Commissioners, who will take appropriate action.

Mr. Nardone, citing his professional background, expressed concern that the Board's online procedures allow voter registration through self-attestation without proper verification, and recommended implementing assessments to confirm voter eligibility.

President Umane advised Mr. Nardone that the Board's procedure is based on the statute, the process for voting is also governed by statute and we're limited with respect to those things that we can use to check registrations and people seeking to vote.

Commissioner Coppotelli advised Mr. Nardone that once we conclude the process, if necessary, a referral will be made to the District Attorney in Richmond County to investigate the voter fraud that Mr. Nardone allegedly occurred, provided the investigation finds such. In addition, as President Umane noted, the Board's policies and procedures are outlined both in state law and would be happy to connect Mr. Nardone with our state elected officials to help advocate for change that he sees necessary given his expertise.

Commissioner Coppotelli stated that he is now in the Staten Island Office and the Commissioners can proceed with voting.

President Umane recalled the Chief and Acting Deputy Chief Clerk of Manhattan.

The Commissioners convened with a full quorum.

President Umane moved to discontinue the registration of Eljon Wardally (VSN# 304610444), and the motion was adopted unanimously.

Eljon Wardally, (VSN# 04610444) is no longer legally registered.

President Umane recognized Alan Flacks, a member of the public, who requested to address the Commissioners.

Mr. Flacks raised a concern about discrepancies between the Board's internal and external telephone directories, noting that the contact numbers differ. President Umane advised Mr. Flacks to bring his concern to Mr. Suss, the Agency Chief Contracting Officer, responsible for such contracts.

President Umane acknowledged Sherwin Suss, the Agency Chief Contracting Officer, and asked him to present items from the Finance Committee Meeting to the Commissioners.

Mr. Suss presented the following:

Derive Technologies LLC

This is a contract to procure the renewal of Nutanix server software licenses agency wide. This software operates the Board's servers which is the critical infrastructure used in election set up and operations. Nutanix does not sell directly to the public, so these licenses are acquired through resellers. These licenses were procured through the use of the New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Umbrella Technology contract. Six vendors were solicited, and the lowest priced vendor was selected. This is a five-year contract with a not to exceed amount of \$2,374,638.

President Umane stated that the Finance Committee recommends the approval of this contract for the five-year term.

Hearing no objections, the contract was approved by the full Board of Commissioners.

Quadient Inc.

This is a contract to lease software and mailing equipment from Quadient to upgrade the Board's mailing system. The leased equipment which will provide new folding and stuffing of a wide range of envelopes for better security of Board communications. The software will barcode correspondence to ensure the proper inserts will go into the proper envelope along with tracking and reporting of sent mail. This contract was procured through Sourcewell which is a government buying cooperative set up by the state of Minnesota of which the Board is a member. This is a 36-month lease with payments due quarterly at \$38,941.77 for a total not to exceed contract of \$467,316.

President Umane stated that the Finance Committee also voted in favor of recommending this contract to the full board, and it does not require a motion.

Hearing no objections, the Finance Committee Report was adopted unanimously.

There being no further business, President Umane stated that there is one matter that should be raised in Executive Session for the Commissioners that were not present at the Finance Committee Meeting.

President Umane stated that the next meeting of the Board will be on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 1:00 P.M., as well as the hearings on independent races including Mayor and City Council for the November 5, 2025 General Election.

Commissioner Landis asked whether the Board will review and approve the minutes of the May 20, 2025 Commissioners Meeting.

Mr. Ryan informed the Commissioner that the minutes are passed unless there is an objection or amendment.

President Umane stated that the Commissioners will convene a brief Executive Session to discuss employment and personnel matters. He thanked everyone for attending.

President Umane moved that the Commissioners can operate next Tuesday by evenly divided committees between Republicans and Democrats, in the event that we do not have a full quorum of the full board. Commissioner Marmorato seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Following the Executive Session the open meeting resumed.

Mr. Ryan stated that there are no issues to report from Executive Session with respect to personnel matters today.

Mr. Ryan stated that he wanted to make some clarifications. A motion was entertained earlier to permit potentially a committee hearing next week for certification only. If we're going to move forward with the certification of the Special Election in Brooklyn, that may occur on June 10th, subject to confirmation. However, that in no way affected the petition hearings which are scheduled for June 17th. The petition hearings will remain on June 17th. If we move forward with a meeting for next week, it will deal with certification potentially in Brooklyn and maybe other housekeeping issues, but it was not to affect the petition hearings which are scheduled firmly for the 17th of June.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners of Elections is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 1:00 P.M.