

BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

42 Broadway - 6th floor  
Commissioners' Hearing Room

New York, NY 10004

June 9, 2020

1:13 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.

June 9, 2020

**PRESENT:**

President Patricia Anne Taylor

Secretary Frederic Umane

Commissioner Jose Araujo

Commissioner Miguelina Camilo

Commissioner Gino Marmorato

Commissioner John Wm. Zaccone

Dawn Sandow, Deputy Executive Director

Georgea Kontzamanis, Operations Manager

Steven Richman, General Counsel

Rafael Savino, Deputy General Counsel

Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to Commissioners

Steven Denkberg, Counsel to Commissioners

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2 (The meeting commenced at 1:13 p.m.)

3 MS. DAWN SANDOW: Good afternoon,  
4 commissioners, we'll start with a roll call.

5 PRESIDENT PATRICIA ANNE TAYLOR: Good  
6 afternoon.

7 MS. SANDOW: President Taylor?

8 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: I am present.

9 MS. SANDOW: Secretary Umame?

10 SECRETARY FREDERIC UMANE: Here.

11 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Araujo?

12 COMMISSIONER JOSE ARAUJO: Present.

13 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Camilo?

14 COMMISSIONER MIGUELINA CAMILO: Present.

15 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Marmorato?

16 COMMISSIONER GINO MARMORATO: Present.

17 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Zaccone?

18 COMMISSIONER JOHN WM. ZACCONE: Present.

19 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Townsend?

20 Commissioner Michel? And good afternoon, Dawn  
21 Sandow, deputy executive director. Legal?

22 MR. STEVEN RICHMAN: Steve Richman,  
23 general counsel.

24 MR. RAFAEL SAVINO: Rafael Savino,

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2 deputy general counsel.

3 MR. SHERWIN SUSS: Sherwin Suss, agency  
4 chief contracting officer.

5 MR. RICHMAN: And by video, we have  
6 counsels to the commissioners, Steven Denkberg  
7 and audio, Ken Moltner.

8 MS. SANDOW: And Georgea Kontazmanis is  
9 also present.

10 MS. GEORGEA KONTAZMANIS: I'm here.

11 MS. SANDOW: And we're going to start  
12 with our primary election update. Saturday starts  
13 the beginning of early voting. Everything is set  
14 as planned. Poll workers are all available, PPE  
15 guidelines are in place. Team meetings are  
16 scheduled for Friday to go over all new rules and  
17 regs for PPE guidelines. Testing for election day  
18 is ongoing. Poll worker assignments are getting  
19 inputted and poll workers are getting assigned  
20 for election day. Absentee ballots are still  
21 being received and going out daily. Staff is  
22 doing a great job of processing and they will  
23 continue to process. Last day, deadline is June  
24 16th. That's about it.

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2 MR. RICHMAN: The 16th for mail.

3 MS. SANDOW: For mail.

4 MR. RICHMAN: The day before for in  
5 person.

6 MS. SANDOW: In person is the day  
7 before, yes, mailing is June 16th. Poll worker  
8 exception reports, we have Bronx, ten  
9 coordinators and 29 information clerks. And  
10 Richmond County, early voting 30 inspectors per  
11 day, six coordinators election day, one  
12 information clerk and 22 accessibility clerks. We  
13 need to ratify the poll worker exception reports  
14 for Staten Island and Bronx.

15 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: You need a motion?

16 SECRETARY UMANE: Yeah, how come the  
17 Bronx needs as many as that when the other  
18 boroughs aren't requesting nearly that number?

19 MS. SANDOW: This is for election day,  
20 it's ten coordinators and 29 information clerks.

21 SECRETARY UMANE: Alright. Well.

22 MS. SANDOW: I think they're putting,  
23 for election day, they're putting them in sites  
24 that have over a certain amount of voters.

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2 SECRETARY UMANE: Okay.

3 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: I move to ratify  
4 the Bronx report.

5 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Second.

6 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: And we need to  
7 ratify Richmond County?

8 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: All those in favor?

9 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Aye.

10 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Aye.

11 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Any objections?

12 Hearing none, the motion has passed. I move to  
13 ratify the Staten Island report.

14 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Second.

15 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: All those in favor?

16 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Aye.

19 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Any objections? The  
20 motion is carried. Thank you very much.

21 MS. SANDOW: I'd like to ask Sherwin  
22 Suss to go over the finance committee for First  
23 Class Car Service.

24 MR. SUSS: Thank you, Ms. Sandow,

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2 commissioners. I have one item to report out of  
3 the finance committee. It's First Class Limo Car  
4 Service, which provides early voting car service  
5 to all the borough offices. This contract was  
6 previously approved by the commissioners on  
7 August 27, 2019. This is to raise the contract  
8 ceiling. After discussion, it was decided to  
9 raise the contract ceiling for the next two  
10 elections, June and November for early voting  
11 period, and the not to exceed rate for the  
12 increase is \$2.2 million.

13 MS. SANDOW: Not to exceed.

14 MR. SUSS: Correct, not to exceed.

15 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Is there a motion?

16 SECRETARY UMANE: Well, we don't need to  
17 have a motion because it's a committee report.

18 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: We need to ratify.

19 SECRETARY UMANE: And I'd just like to  
20 say for the record, that at the committee, we  
21 went through in great detail the criticism that  
22 we experienced for having cars around and not  
23 being used. And the staff should know that the  
24 commissioners are hoping that the number, which

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2 was 241 per day would be reduced significantly  
3 for this go round. And we note that there are 89  
4 early voting sites and so there will be a certain  
5 number of vehicles required. But certainly,  
6 hopefully, a lot less than we needed the last  
7 time around.

8 MS. KONTAZMANIS: Respectfully,  
9 commissioner, you mean 79, sir, 79.

10 SECRETARY UMANE: Seventy-nine, not 89,  
11 sorry. Sorry. So, 79, so that would be ten less  
12 potentially that we might need per day. But they  
13 were supposed, the boroughs are supposed to  
14 report back to executive management and hopefully  
15 executive management will impart to the boroughs  
16 the request that they use, that they be careful  
17 in terms of the number of cars being used and the  
18 costs involved therein.

19 MS. SANDOW: Yes, this was already  
20 discussed with the chiefs and deputies on the  
21 a.m. call. I think the first time around was  
22 really fear of the unknown. No one knew what to  
23 expect, and we took the, you know, to say better  
24 to be safe than sorry. We did not know, we had



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2 cradle points for the first time, poll books for  
3 the first time, so the boroughs are aware, and  
4 the boroughs -- there was a discussion to reduce  
5 the amount as needed. We will have, in the past,  
6 we had technicians at every early voting site.  
7 This time around, we will not. We will have to  
8 get our technicians to the sites if there is a  
9 scanner that goes down, because they are testing  
10 for election day with all the changes this year.  
11 All counties throughout New York State got off to  
12 a late start. Did we ratify?

13 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Accept the report.

14 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: It was the  
15 unanimous recommendation of the committee for  
16 the, as stated by Commissioner Umame.

17 SECRETARY UMANE: So it's an all in  
18 favor I guess.

19 MS. SANDOW: All in favor?

20 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Aye.

21 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Aye.

22 SECRETARY UMANE: Aye.

23 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Aye.

24 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Aye. Thank you, Mr.

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2 Suss.

3 MS. SANDOW: We're adding litigation for  
4 exec session.

5 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Before we go to exec  
6 session, I had spoken to Michael about having a  
7 moment at the end of the agenda. Are we there  
8 yet?

9 MS. SANDOW: Yes, we are.

10 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Okay. I wanted to,  
11 I'm lucky to have the pleasure of bringing some  
12 good news to the attention of the Board, that one  
13 of our colleagues has recently been the recipient  
14 of a high honor. That colleague is a graduate of  
15 New York Law School and a [unintelligible]  
16 [00:31:43] family and matrimonial courts and a  
17 past president of the Dominican Bar Association.  
18 And on Thursday evening of last week, she was  
19 installed and sworn in as the president of the  
20 Bronx chapter of the Women's Bar Association of  
21 the state of New York. And I would like to  
22 congratulate Miguelina Camilo, Democratic  
23 representative of Bronx County. [applause]

24 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Thank you. Thank

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2 you for those kind words.

3 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Congratulations.

4 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: And for the  
5 recognition, thank you all.

6 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: You're very welcome.

7 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: I'm smiling.

8 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: May your year be  
9 filled with [unintelligible] [00:32:33] and  
10 happiness.

11 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: I move to adjourn  
13 to exec session.

14 SECRETARY UMANE: Second.

15 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Thank you.

16 MS. SANDOW: The next meeting is June  
17 16th at 1:30.

18 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: For litigation.

19 MR. RICHMAN: Yes, for litigation.

20 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Will we have a  
21 meeting for early voting week?

22 MS. SANDOW: That's up to you, but --

23 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Okay.

24 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Should we be

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2 having a meeting during the early voting week?

3 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: What do you think,  
4 Commissioner? I just asked, do we need a meeting  
5 next week?

6 MS. SANDOW: We won't have one the  
7 following week. It's election day.

8 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: That means we  
9 wouldn't meet until June --

10 MS. SANDOW: 30th.

11 SECRETARY UMANE: I think we should.  
12 There may be issues regarding either early voting  
13 or election day. I think it just makes sense.

14 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Okay.

15 MR. RICHMAN: We'll be here.

16 MR. SAVINO: We'll be here anyway.

17 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: So, we're  
18 adjourned until June 15th.

19 MR. RICHMAN: At 1:30.

20 MS. SANDOW: Yes.

21 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Alright. Thank  
23 you.

24 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Very good, thank

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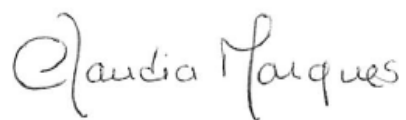
MS. SANDOW: Good afternoon, no reportable action was taken in exec session. The next meeting will be June 16th at 1:30. Thank you.

(The meeting concluded at 2:40 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE OF ACCURACY

I, Claudia Marques, certify that the foregoing transcript of the Board of Elections in The City of New York on June 9, 2020 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Certified By



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Date: March 11, 2021

GENEVAWORLDWIDE, INC

256 West 38th Street - 10th Floor

New York, NY 10018