

BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

42 Broadway - 6th floor  
Commissioners' Hearing Room

New York, NY 10004

July 7, 2020

1:42 p.m. - 2:23 p.m.

July 7, 2020

**PRESENT:**

President Patricia Anne Taylor

Secretary Frederic Umane

Commissioner Jose Araujo

Commissioner Miguelina Camilo

Commissioner Gino Marmorato

Commissioner Michael Michel

Commissioner Simon Shamoun

Commissioner Tiffany Townsend

Commissioner John Wm. Zaccone

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director

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

Eleanor Guerrieri, Administrative Assistant

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2 (The meeting commenced at 1:42 p.m.)

3 MR. MICHAEL J. RYAN: Okay. It's live.  
4 We have, I'm getting a little reverberation  
5 please.

6 [OFF THE RECORD]

7 [ON THE RECORD]

8 MR. RYAN: Alright. So today is July  
9 7th, meeting of the Commissioners of the Board of  
10 Elections. I will start with the official roll  
11 call. President Taylor?

12 PRESIDENT PATRICIA ANNE TAYLOR: Present  
13 for Richmond County and present for Kings County.

14 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Umame?

15 SECRETARY FREDERIC UMANE: Here.

16 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Araujo?  
17 Commissioner Araujo? Alright. I see him. We'll  
18 get back to him.

19 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Marmorato?

20 COMMISSIONER GINO MARMORATO: Present.

21 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Michel?

22 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: Here.

23 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Townsend?

24 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Present.

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2 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Zaccone?

3 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Present.

4 MR. RYAN: Okay. And we remain awaiting  
5 Commissioner Shamoun. He should join us shortly.  
6 Commissioner Camilo, did I skip by Commissioner  
7 Camilo?

8 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Yes, it's okay.  
9 Thank you.

10 MR. RYAN: Well, I wasn't prepared for  
11 your enthusiasm, so I needed to build up to it,  
12 alright. Commissioner Araujo?

13 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: I am here, I'm  
14 just, my computer is having some internet  
15 problems. So if you don't hear me, I'm still  
16 here, I'm watching.

17 MR. RYAN: Okay. Perfect. So, my name is  
18 Michael Ryan. I'm the executive director. Seated  
19 to my left is deputy executive director Sandow.  
20 We have the designated survivor, Ms. Kontazmanis,  
21 is at an undisclosed location within the building  
22 and directing the proceedings from her perch in  
23 that regard. We have Mr. Richman, general  
24 counsel, Mr. Savino, deputy general counsel.

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2 Eleanor Guerrieri is taking minutes in front of  
3 me, and we have both Mr. Moltner and Mr.  
4 Denkberg, counsel to the commissioners are  
5 present. And I believe we have just been joined  
6 by Commissioner Shamoun.

7 COMMISSIONER SHAMOUN: Yes, present.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. RYAN: Perfect, so now we have full  
10 attendance. We do have two items on the agenda,  
11 1A and 1B. We'd also like to add an executive  
12 session for litigation. And are there any  
13 personnel matters that may need to be discussed?  
14 That seems like no, so we'll only be going into  
15 executive session for litigation. With respect to  
16 Agenda item 1A, I am not yet in receipt of some  
17 of the updated information from staff, so I'm  
18 going to ask that that be tabled until next week,  
19 as the concentrated efforts are with respect to  
20 preparing for the absentee ballot process, which  
21 is going to be commencing tomorrow.

22 That said, I would like to turn it over  
23 to Mr. Richman with respect to agenda item 1B, as  
24 we now have, pursuant to a recent executive

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2 order, an independent nominating petition process  
3 that will be required for the November 3, 2020  
4 general election.

5 MR. RICHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Ryan.

6 Commissioners, on July 1, the governor issued  
7 executive order 202.46, which set forth that  
8 independent nominating petitions for the general  
9 election commenced on July 1 and ends on  
10 Thursday, July 30th. The calendar for filing is  
11 set. It's the same four dates between July 27th,  
12 Monday and midnight on July 30th. General  
13 objections and specifications of objections  
14 continue three days after the filing of the  
15 petition, six days after the general for the  
16 specs. The last possible day to file specs is  
17 Monday, August 10th, so we're recommending that  
18 the one item for you to set is to hold the  
19 hearings on any specifications of objections and  
20 related matters for the independent nominating  
21 petitions on Tuesday, August 18th at 1:30 p.m.  
22 This will allow for meaningful judicial review  
23 following the hearings and prior to the September  
24 10th deadline for us to certify the ballot. So

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2 the recommendation is that Tuesday, August 18th  
3 is the hearings, beginning is the first item of  
4 business at 1:30 p.m.

5 SECRETARY UMANE: I move that we  
6 designated 1:30 on August 18th as the time and  
7 place for hearing.

8 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: I second.

9 MR. RYAN: Are there any objections?  
10 Hearing none, the motion carries.

11 MR. RICHMAN: And then the revised,  
12 adopted calendar will be posted shortly on the  
13 website and distributed.

14 MR. RYAN: From the perspective of  
15 executive management, I am prepared to ask for a  
16 motion to go into executive session. Of course,  
17 if there's any other issues that the  
18 commissioners wish to discuss prior, that is  
19 certainly the commissioners' prerogative.

20 SECRETARY UMANE: I just would like to  
21 add one thing. Right at the start of the meeting,  
22 we received, I guess, the president and I and  
23 executive management received an e-mail from  
24 Common Cause suggesting that we open up all of

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2 the absentee ballot proceedings to video on our  
3 website. I just wanted to say that's a practical  
4 and probably physical impossibility and it's not  
5 something that was carefully thought through  
6 before it was suggested and it's not something  
7 that we're really able to do, and that there are  
8 probably five or six tables of counting going on  
9 at each of the five borough offices, so that  
10 would required 30 cameras or something like that,  
11 and 30 separate live streaming of the proceedings  
12 and is not practical under the circumstances. And  
13 if it's considered that we would want to do one  
14 and have one going on, then it would take us  
15 probably over a year to do the final calculation,  
16 which is not satisfactory to anybody. So, it's  
17 not something that we will really fully consider,  
18 because it's just not practical or thought  
19 through, at least from my perspective.

20 MR. RICHMAN: Commissioner Umame, it  
21 should be noted that the process is under law  
22 open to not only the duly appointed watchers but  
23 to the extent that we can accomplish social  
24 distancing, both members of the public and



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2 members of the media. I know that there will be  
3 members of the media there for the commencement  
4 of the process too, and we've always made that  
5 available with the caveat that they can't show an  
6 actual ballot, a voted ballot.

7 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: And we're going  
8 into executive session?

9 MS. SANDOW: Yes.

10 MR. RYAN: If we get a motion.

11 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: So moved.

12 SECRETARY UMANE: Second.

13 MR. RYAN: Okay.

14 [OFF THE RECORD]

15 [ON THE RECORD]

16 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are we adjourned  
17 already?

18 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: We're just  
19 waiting for Mike to come on.

20 MR. RYAN: No. We, yeah, we're not  
21 adjourned.

22 MS. KONTAZMANIS: Okay, Mr. Ryan.

23 MR. RYAN: Okay. The video live, the  
24 sound is now live as well. There is no items to

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report from executive session and the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be July 14, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. and that concludes the meeting for July 7th.

COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Thank you, sir.

MR. RYAN: Thank you very much.

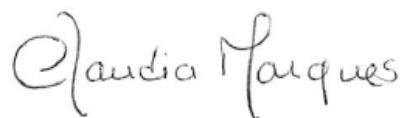
COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Thank you.

(The meeting concluded at 2:23 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 July 7, 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 22, 2021

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