

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

42 Broadway - 6th floor
Commissioners' Hearing Room

New York, NY 10004

July 14, 2020

1:33 p.m. - 2:19 p.m.

July 14, 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

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2 (The meeting commenced at 1:33 p.m.)

3 MR. MICHAEL J. RYAN: Okay. We are live.
4 Today is July 14th, and it is the weekly meeting
5 of the Commissions of Elections in the City of
6 New York.

7 COMMISSIONER MICHAEL MICHEL:
8 Commissioner Michel.

9 MR. RYAN: Okay. Commissioner Taylor?

10 PRESIDENT PATRICIA ANNE TAYLOR:
11 Present.

12 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Umane?

13 SECRETARY FREDERIC UMANE: Here.

14 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Araujo?

15 COMMISSIONER JOSE ARAUJO: Present.

16 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Camilo?

17 COMMISSIONER MIGUELINA CAMILO: Present.

18 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Marmorato?

19 COMMISSIONER GINO MARMORATO: Present.

20 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Michel has
21 already announced present, and Commissioner
22 Shamoun?

23 MR. RICHMAN: I think we lost him.

24 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Shamoun was

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2 here.

3 MS. KONTAZMANIS: I think we lost him.

4 MR. RYAN: Okay. We lost Commissioner
5 Shamoun, but he was here. And Commissioner
6 Zaccone? Commissioner Zaccone?

7 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Present.

8 MR. RYAN: Okay. So, yes, I am Michael
9 Ryan. I'm the executive director, seated in front
10 of me is Steve Richman, general counsel, I
11 believe deputy general counsel is appearing from
12 the Bronx office. We also have Mr. Moltner and
13 Mr. Denkberg as commissioners' counsel appearing
14 and Ms. Kontazmanis, the designated survivor is
15 elsewhere in the building, but is also
16 participating in the meeting.

17 So, very succinctly, we have an update
18 from some of the reports, or at least one of the
19 reports from last week. Poll worker payroll is
20 complete and will be included in the city payroll
21 distribution on July 22nd. So those poll workers
22 that worked will get their paychecks distributed
23 in that, in that pay period.

24 There are, there's other information

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2 that we remain awaiting from staff I believe, but
3 that's the only update we have with respect to
4 this past election. And as the commissioners are
5 well aware, the primary focus, no pun intended is
6 the completion of the post election canvas which
7 is underway in four of the five boroughs. Staten
8 Island has completed its post election canvas.
9 The remaining boroughs all had a high, much
10 higher volume of absentee ballot returned than in
11 previous elections and also have a high volume of
12 contests where there are poll watchers and
13 requests for documentation.

14 And so every time somebody requests one
15 envelope, it's actually two pages because the
16 front and the back has to be photocopied and that
17 was quite cumbersome. Some campaigns have limited
18 that to only those deemed preliminarily invalid,
19 but some campaigns, as is their right, have
20 expanded that to the full complement of
21 preliminarily valid and preliminarily invalid,
22 which of course, drives the photocopying up.

23 So the boroughs are diligently working
24 towards the completion of that process and it is

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2 my understanding that as the photocopying process
3 begins to abate and in some places, it's already
4 done and in others, it's still ongoing, then the
5 full complement of tables will be able to be
6 opened as they're juggling space concerns and
7 also accommodating the social distancing
8 requirements and working with the campaigns to
9 make sure that everyone who wishes to participate
10 in this process and is legally permitted to do so
11 can participate in a meaningful way so that
12 everyone's rights are protected.

13 I believe that we have now been joined
14 by Commissioner Townsend, and it seems like
15 Commissioner Shamoun is back as well.

16 COMMISSIONER SIMON SHAMOUN: Yes, yes,
17 thank you very much.

18 MR. RYAN: Alright. So, that process is
19 ongoing and the boroughs are reporting back on a
20 daily basis as to their progress. I know that the
21 legal department has been working very closely
22 with the borough chiefs and deputies to make sure
23 that the poll watchers and the attorneys for the
24 various campaigns have their needs adequately

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2 addressed and met. And in the meantime, you know,
3 it will, the process will continue and I know
4 that the boroughs still have a good deal of work
5 ahead of them. I don't have anything further to
6 add for today's purposes, although there is an
7 executive session and I don't know if the
8 commissioners have any inquiries or wish any
9 other matter to be addressed.

10 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: We're going to
11 discuss the interpretation issue in the executive
12 session?

13 MR. RYAN: That's, as a matter of
14 potential litigation, yes.

15 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Okay, good.

16 SECRETARY UMANE: Okay. I move we go
17 into executive session for litigation and
18 possible employment issues.

19 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Second.

20 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Second.

21 MR. RYAN: Any objections? Hearing none,
22 the motion carries.

23 [OFF THE RECORD]

24 [ON THE RECORD]

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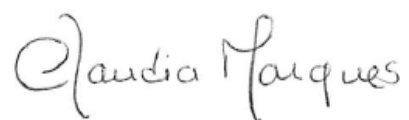
2 MR. RYAN: Yes, we are now back live. We
3 have two matters to report from executive
4 session. The Board will be moving forward to
5 procure, by a mini-bid process, American Sign
6 Language interpreter services for its public
7 meetings, so that we can meet the requirements of
8 the Americans with Disabilities Act, and we will
9 report back on that process once that is
10 completed and the next meeting of the
11 commissioners is scheduled for July 21st at 1:30
12 p.m. That concludes the business of the Board on
13 July 14, 2020.

14 (The meeting concluded at 2:19 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE OF ACCURACY

I, Claudia Marques, certify that the foregoing transcript of the Board of Elections in The City of New York on July 14, 2020 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Certified By



Date: March 22, 2021

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