

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

42 Broadway - 6th floor
Commissioners' Hearing Room

New York, NY 10004

August 4, 2020

1:30 - 2:40 p.m.

August 4, 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

Raymond Riley, Brooklyn Chief Clerk

Daniel Ortiz, Brooklyn Deputy Chief Clerk

Amanda Berinato, Queens Chief Clerk

Bart Haggerty, Queens Deputy Clerk

Don Bosco, Staten Island Chief Clerk

Anthony Andrulli, Staten Island Deputy Chief Clerk

Greg Lehman, Manhattan Chief Clerk

Cynthia Doty, Manhattan Deputy Clerk

Brendaliz Candelaria, Bronx Deputy Chief Clerk

Steven Alfasi, Bronx staff

Sherwin Suss, Chief Contracting Officer

1 August 4, 2020

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

3 MR. MICHAEL J. RYAN: And we're live,
4 yes. Today is Tuesday, August 4th, it will be a
5 meeting of ultimately the Board of Canvassers and
6 the weekly meeting of the Board of Commissioners.
7 And my name is Michael Ryan. I'm the executive
8 director and I'm going to call the roll.
9 President Taylor?

10 PRESIDENT PATRICIA ANNE TAYLOR: I am
11 here.

12 MR. RYAN: Secretary 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?

21 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: Present.

22 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Shamoun?

23 COMMISSIONER SHAMOUN: Present.

24 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Townsend?

1 August 4, 2020

2 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Present.

3 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Zaccone?

4 MR. RICHMAN: He's muted.

5 MR. RYAN: Commissioner, Commissioner
6 Zaccone.

7 MR. RICHMAN: You're muted.

8 MR. RYAN: You are muted, sir.

9 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Present.

10 MR. RYAN: Okay. Alright. So, as I said,
11 I am Michael Ryan, Ms. Sandow is present in
12 another location in the building, as well as Ms.
13 Kontazmanis. Steven Richman is present, Rafael
14 Savino is present. Members of the CRU are here,
15 as well as Mr. Denkberg and Mr. Moltner. Now,
16 that completes the roll. Can I have a motion --

17 SECRETARY UMANE: I move that we go into
18 executive session.

19 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Second.

20 MR. RYAN: Very well, any objections?
21 Hearing none, we will move into executive
22 session.

23 [OFF THE RECORD]

24 [ON THE RECORD]

1 August 4, 2020

2 MR. RYAN: Okay, we are live. There are
3 no matters to report from executive session.
4 There are no matters to report from executive
5 session. Item one on the agenda is a meeting of
6 the Board of Canvassers and I will turn the
7 proceedings over to President Taylor.

8 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Good afternoon,
9 everyone. Today is August 4th, 2020. This is a
10 meeting of the Board of Canvassers for the City
11 of New York to certify the results of the June
12 23, 2020 primary elections for public office and
13 party positions and the Democratic Party Primary
14 for public office and party positions, and the
15 democratic party primary for president
16 [unintelligible] [00:32:13] delegates to the
17 national convention.

18 Today, this Board of Canvassers will
19 meet its statutory obligation to certify the June
20 primary election results, joining the other 56
21 counties in the State of New York. Respectful of
22 the Court's decision issued last night, our
23 borough staff will proceed to prepare our
24 operations [unintelligible] [00:32:38 -

1 August 4, 2020

2 00:32:42].

3 MR. RYAN: Okay, we're getting a little
4 bit of an echo.

5 MR. SAVINO: It's hard to hear you,
6 commissioner.

7 MR. RYAN: Yes, hold up one second,
8 commissioner, please. We'll resolve the echo and
9 then we need you to go back and repeat that last
10 sentence when we're ready to go. Commissioner
11 Taylor, can you just give us a test sentence?

12 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: The Board of
13 Canvassers.

14 MR. RYAN: Good. I think we're okay.

15 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Today, this Board of
16 Canvassers will meet its statutory obligation to
17 certify the June primary election results,
18 joining the other 56 counties in the State of New
19 York. Respectful of the Court's decision last
20 night, our borough staff will proceed to prepare
21 our operations to canvas any additional ballots
22 while we await the State Board of Elections'
23 guidance as directed in the court order.

24 My name is Patricia Anne Taylor and I am

1 August 4, 2020

2 the Democratic Commissioner for Richmond County
3 and the president of the board for calendar year
4 2020. I also serve at the moment as the interim
5 commissioner for Kings County. Pursuant to the
6 provisions of Title 2 of Article 9 of the New
7 York State Election Law, specifically sections 9-
8 204, 9-206, 9-210, and 9-212, I call this meeting
9 of the Board of Canvassers in the City of New
10 York to order, for the purposes of certificating
11 recanvas of votes casts on June 23, 2020 in the
12 primary elections conducted in the City of New
13 York for public offices and party positions as
14 well as 2020 Democratic Presidential Primary,
15 including delegates to the National Convention.

16 I would now ask that each commissioner
17 and staff member present identify him or herself
18 for the record, beginning with board secretary,
19 Commissioner Frederic Umane.

20 SECRETARY UMANE: Frederic Umane, here.
21 Manhattan Republican.

22 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Jose Araujo,
23 Queens Democrat. Jose Araujo, Queens Democrat.

24 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Miguelina Camilo,

1 August 4, 2020

2 Bronx Democrat.

3 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Gino Marmorato,
4 Bronx Republican.

5 COMMISSIONER SHAMOUN: Simon Shamoun,
6 Kings Republican.

7 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Tiffany
8 Townsend, New York County Democate.

9 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Good afternoon,
10 everyone. John Zaccone, Staten Island Republican.

11 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: Michael Michel,
12 Queens Republican.

13 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you,
14 Commissioner Michel. Having heard all the
15 commissioners, will the staff introduce
16 themselves?

17 MR. RYAN: Yes, Michael Ryan, executive
18 director.

19 MS. DAWN SANDOW: Dawn Sandow, deputy
20 executive director.

21 MS. GEORGEA KONTAZMANIS: Georgea
22 Kontazmanis, operations manager.

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

1 August 4, 2020

2 MR. RAFAEL SAVINO: Rafael Savino,
3 deputy general counsel.

4 MR. JOHN WEAVER: John Weaver, CRU.

5 MR. MATT GRAVES: Matt Graves, CRU.

6 MR. MICHAEL BRIGHT: Michael Bright, a
7 contract attorney.

8 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: [unintelligible]
9 [00:36:12] contract attorney.

10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [unintelligible]
11 [00:36:06], CRU.

12 MR. KENNETH MOLTNER: Counsel to
13 commissioners.

14 MR. STEVEN DENKBERG: Denkberg, counsel
15 to commissioners.

16 [CROSSTALK]

17 MR. RICHMAN: Commissioner, I think
18 that's the whole staff present.

19 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you all. Now,
20 in accordance with our normal procedure, I
21 designate a second Democratic commissioner to
22 sign the certified statements of the Board of
23 Canvassers to serve as the other member of the
24 canvassing board. I hereby designate each

1 August 4, 2020

2 democratic commissioner for their respective
3 counties, and I designate Commissioner Jose
4 Araujo, commissioner of Queens to serve with me
5 for Richmond County and Kings County and the
6 multicounty contests.

7 I now ask Secretary Umane to designate
8 the Republican commissioner for their respective
9 counties and another Republican commissioner to
10 serve with him for New York County and the
11 multicounty contests.

12 SECRETARY UMANE: Yes, and I hereby
13 designate the Republican county commissioners
14 from their county and ask that Commissioner
15 Michel, the senior Republican commissioner act
16 with me for New York County.

17 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: And the multi county.

18 SECRETARY UMANE: Yes.

19 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Background
20 information. To say that the first half of this
21 year has been unusual would be a grand
22 understatement. The nation, state and city were
23 caught in the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the
24 process of administering our electoral systems

1 August 4, 2020

2 was significantly modified by a series of
3 executive and legislative actions as we are all
4 aware.

5 In March, time for collecting and
6 submitting designating petitions was reduced to
7 the petitions filings occurring only on two days.
8 The state also reduced the number of signatures
9 required to qualify the ballot and eliminate an
10 opportunity to ballot petition for primary
11 elections.

12 For the first time in its history, the
13 Board conducted its hearings on specifications
14 and objections and related matters for the
15 designated petitions remotely, using Webex.
16 Significant litigation ensued, relating to the
17 primary election that saw the Board appear in New
18 York State Supreme Court, the Appellate Divisions
19 in both the First and Second Departments, the New
20 York State Court of Appeals, as well as a U.S.
21 District Court in both the Eastern and Southern
22 Districts of New York and in the Second Circuit
23 Court of Appeals.

24 April presidential primary was postponed

1 August 4, 2020
2 to June by governor's executive order. And the
3 governor and state legislature empowered
4 democratic commissioners of the State Board of
5 Elections to cancel Democratic presidential
6 primaries, which they did. That action resulted
7 in additional challenge, restored the
8 presidential primary for June 23, 2020.

9 In response to the pandemic, the
10 governor, by executive order, promulgated changes
11 to the absentee ballot process. As it results,
12 the board distributed more than 775,000 absentee
13 ballots and received back more than 400,000
14 absentee ballots. In addition, we conducted nine
15 days of early voting, at over 70 sites and the
16 polls were open for a full 15 hours on June 23rd
17 at more than 1,200 poll sites.

18 Throughout this crisis, many of the
19 board staff members have worked tirelessly and at
20 great person risk to ensure that our democracy
21 continued to function. In addition, thousands of
22 our fellow citizens who served as poll workers
23 performed a valuable public service, along with
24 all of our dedicated staff to ensure that every

1 August 4, 2020

2 vote was counted accurately and correctly and
3 [unintelligible] [00:40:24].

4 This afternoon, we will review the work
5 of the Board's five borough office staffs that
6 conducted primary elections on June 23, 2020.
7 Before calling on our chiefs and deputies to
8 present their work I would ask if any other
9 commissioner wishes to make a statement at this
10 time. Hearing none, I move forward to Kings
11 County.

12 It is my understanding that the chief
13 clerk and deputy clerk of Brooklyn and their
14 staff have prepared and signed the statement and
15 return of canvas for the primary elections and
16 Democratic presidential primary conducted in
17 Kings County on June 23, 2020 and submitted the
18 same to the Board's executive office. I now ask
19 for the record, a series of questions with
20 respect to the statement and return of canvas
21 that has been presented by the Brooklyn staff.

22 Would the Brooklyn chief clerk and
23 deputy chief clerk confirm that the results
24 presented are accurate and correct?

1 August 4, 2020

2 MR. RAYMOND RILEY: Yes.

3 MR. DANIEL ORTIZ: Yes.

4 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Okay,

5 [unintelligible] [00:41:41] each question,
6 something needs to be muted. Question B, were all
7 of the provisions of the New York State Elections
8 Law and this board's adopted policies and
9 procedures complied with?

10 MR. RILEY: Yes.

11 MR. ORTIZ: Yes.

12 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Okay. Did I hear a
13 year from both of you? Question C, has the audit
14 of voter verifiable audit records for both the
15 poll sites and central count scanners required by
16 Section 9-211 of the New York State Election Law
17 been successfully completed for this contest?

18 MR. RILEY: Yes.

19 MR. ORTIZ: Yes.

20 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are there, are there
21 any discrepancies to report to the Board?

22 MR. RILEY: There was one discrepancy,
23 the content of which were sent to the
24 commissioners in writing and to CRU. The

1 August 4, 2020

2 discrepancy affected two election districts. It
3 did not affect the outcome of the election.

4 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Okay. Based on that
5 report, I would entertain a motion that we will
6 certify the statement and return a canvas for the
7 primary elections on Democratic presidential
8 primary conducted in Kings County on June 23,
9 2020.

10 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: So moved.

11 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Seconded?

12 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Second.

13 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: All in favor?

14 SECRETARY UMANE: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Aye.

16 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: All opposed?

17 Abstentions? Since the hearing is somewhat bad, I
18 want to ask are there any objections to the
19 motion? Hearing none, the statement and return of
20 canvas prepared by the Brooklyn staff of the
21 Board of Elections is adopted unanimously. Thank
22 you, gentlemen from Brooklyn.

23 COMMISSIONER SHAMOUN: Thank you to the
24 Brooklyn staff and leadership supervisors, staff

1 August 4, 2020

2 and everybody else, and poll workers who have
3 done one heck of a job under very difficult
4 situations and the public thanks you for your
5 service and I guess we'll thank you soon enough
6 as you've got a little bit more work to do and we
7 appreciate that work that you will be doing.

8 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: I second Commissioner
9 Shamoun's statement. [unintelligible] [00:44:47]
10 from Brooklyn.

11 MR. RILEY: Thank you.

12 MR. ORTIZ: Thank you, commissioners.

13 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: You're very welcome.
14 We now move on to Queens County. It's my
15 understanding that the chief clerk and deputy
16 chief clerk of Queens and their staffs have
17 prepared and signed a statement of return of
18 canvas for the primary elections and Democratic
19 presidential primary conducted in Queens County
20 on June 23, 2020 and submitted the same to the
21 Board's executive office. I will now ask for the
22 record, a series of questions with respect to the
23 return of canvas that was sent in by the Queens
24 staff. Question A, to the Queens chief clerk and

1 August 4, 2020

2 deputy chief clerk confirm that the results
3 presented are accurate and correct?

4 MS. AMANDA BERINATO: Yes.

5 MR. BART HAGGERTY: Yes.

6 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Were all
7 of the provisions of the New York State Elections
8 Law and this board's adopted policies and
9 procedures complied with?

10 MS. BERINATO: Yes.

11 MR. HAGGERTY: Yes.

12 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Has the audit of
13 voter verifiable audit records for both the poll
14 sites and central count scanners required by
15 Section 9-211 of the New York State Election Law
16 been successfully completed for this contest?

17 MS. BERINATO: Yes.

18 MR. HAGGERTY: Yes.

19 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are there, are there
20 any discrepancies to report to the Board for this
21 contest?

22 MR. HAGGERTY: Commissioners, we would
23 be remiss if we did not acknowledge that there
24 was substantial discrepancies in the SAM Party

1 August 4, 2020

2 primary in Queens County. However, we were able
3 to resolve those discrepancies using the Board's
4 established procedures for excess ballots, and so
5 therefore, there are no outstanding discrepancies
6 involving the SAM Party primary in Queens County.

7 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Based on
8 that report, I'd like to entertain a motion that
9 the Board of Canvassers certified statement and
10 return of canvas for the primary elections and
11 the Democratic presidential primary conducted in
12 Queens County on June 23, 2020 submitted today.

13 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: So moved.

14 SECRETARY UMANE: Second.

15 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are there any
16 objections? Hearing none, the statement and
17 return of canvas prepared by the Queens staff of
18 the Board of Elections is adopted unanimously. We
19 now move to Richmond County. It is my
20 understanding that the chief clerk and deputy
21 chief clerk of Richmond County and their staffs
22 have prepared and signed a statement of return of
23 canvas for the primary elections and Democratic
24 presidential primary conducted in Richmond County

1 August 4, 2020

2 on June 23, 2020 and submitted the same to the
3 Board's executive office. I will now ask for the
4 record, a series of questions with respect to the
5 return of canvas that was been presented by the
6 Staten Island staff. Question A, do the Staten
7 Island chief clerk and deputy chief clerk confirm
8 that the results presented are accurate and
9 correct?

10 MR. DON BOSCO: Yes, they are.

11 MR. ANTHONY ANDRULLI: Yes.

12 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Were all of the
13 provisions of the New York State Elections Law
14 and this board's adopted policies and procedures
15 complied with?

16 MR. ANDRULLI: Yes.

17 MR. BOSCO: Yes, they were.

18 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Has the audit of
19 voter verifiable audit records for both the poll
20 sites and central count scanners required by
21 Section 9-211 of the New York State Election Law
22 been successfully completed for this contest?

23 MR. ANDRULLI: Yes.

24 MR. BOSCO: Yes, they were.

1 August 4, 2020

2 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are there any
3 discrepancies to report to the Board for this
4 contest?

5 MR. BOSCO: Yes, Madam President, there
6 were two discrepancies which we have detailed in
7 our report to the Board of Commissioners in your
8 certification package. Both instances of the
9 discrepancies did not affect the results of the
10 election.

11 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Based on
12 that report, I'd entertain a motion that the
13 Board of Canvassers certified statement and
14 return of canvas for the primary elections and
15 the Democratic presidential primary conducted in
16 Richmond County on June 23, 2020.

17 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: So moved.

18 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Is there a second?
19 Oh, I can second it. I second. Are there any
20 objections? Hearing none, the statement and
21 return of canvas prepared by the Staten Island
22 staff of the Board of Elections is adopted
23 unanimously. We now move to New York County. I'm
24 sorry.

1 August 4, 2020

2 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Before we move on
3 Madam President, I would like to express my
4 thanks --

5 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Certainly.

6 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: -- to the Board,
7 to the chief clerk, deputy chief clerk. They have
8 [unintelligible] [00:49:55] --

9 MR. RICHMAN: Can't hear him.

10 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: -- board. I think
11 they did a remarkable job and I wish to
12 acknowledge them. Thank you, gentlemen, and
13 please thank your staffs.

14 MR. BOSCO: Okay, thank you,
15 commissioner.

16 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you,
17 Commissioner Zacccone, and I certainly second that
18 acknowledgement of the wonderful work of our
19 staff in the borough of Staten Island. We now
20 move on to New York County. It is my
21 understanding that the chief clerk and deputy
22 chief clerk of Manhattan and their staff have
23 prepared and signed a statement of return of
24 canvas for the primary elections and Democratic

1 August 4, 2020

2 presidential primary conducted in New York County
3 on June 23, 2020 and submitted the same to the
4 Board's executive office. I will now ask for the
5 record, a series of questions with respect to the
6 return of canvas that was been presented by the
7 Manhattan staff. Question A, do the chief clerk
8 and deputy chief clerk confirm that the results
9 presented are accurate and correct?

10 MR. GREG LEHMAN: Yes, we do.

11 MS. CYNTHIA DOTY: Yes.

12 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Were all of the
13 provisions of the New York State Elections Law
14 and this board's adopted policies and procedures
15 complied with?

16 MR. LEHMAN: Yes, they were.

17 MS. DOTY: Yes.

18 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Has the audit of
19 voter verifiable audit records for both the poll
20 site and central count scanners required by
21 Section 9-211 of the New York State Election Law
22 been successfully completed for this contest?

23 MR. LEHMAN: Yes, they have.

24 MS. DOTY: Yes.

1 August 4, 2020

2 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are there any
3 discrepancies to report to the Board?

4 MR. LEHMAN: Madam President, we do have
5 one, due to poll worker error, multiple SAM Party
6 ballots were distributed in each of four EDs
7 where there's only one enrolled SAM Party member,
8 resulting in a total of 53 excess votes, as there
9 were only 17 enrolled SAM Party members in the
10 entire First Judicial District, the outcome is
11 affected.

12 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Okay. Thank you.
13 Based on that report, I'd entertain a motion that
14 the Board of Canvassers certified statement and
15 return of canvas for the primary elections and
16 Democratic presidential primary conducted in New
17 York County on June 23, 2020. Motion? Is there a
18 motion?

19 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: So moved.

20 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Second?

21 MR. RICHMAN: Commissioner Umane, you're
22 muted.

23 SECRETARY UMANE: Moved and seconded
24 about three times, I'm sorry.

1 August 4, 2020

2 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are there any
3 objections? Hearing none, the statement and
4 return of canvas prepared by the Manhattan staff
5 of the Board of Elections is adopted unanimously.

6 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: If I may,
7 President Taylor, I just want to just thank the
8 staff at the Manhattan borough office for their
9 very hard work. It's, as all commissioners have
10 said, I agree that it's been a very difficult
11 couple of months here, and I think the staff has
12 executed and really risen to the occasion, just
13 given all of the challenges that we've had, given
14 COVID. It's really been a huge challenge and I
15 thank the staff for really doing their best to
16 ensure that everything was done in the
17 appropriate manner and accurately and that was
18 done with the most integrity, so thanks again,
19 staff.

20 SECRETARY UMANE: And I second that as
21 well.

22 MR. LEHMAN: Thank you, commissioners.

23 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you, both. We
24 now move to the Bronx County. It's my

1 August 4, 2020
2 understanding that the deputy chief clerk of
3 Queens and her staff have prepared and signed a
4 statement and return of canvas for the primary
5 elections and Democratic presidential primary
6 conducted in Bronx County on June 23, 2020 and
7 submitted the same to the Board's executive
8 office. I will now ask for the record, a series
9 of questions with respect to the statement and
10 return of canvas that was sent in by the Bronx
11 staff. Does the Bronx deputy chief clerk and
12 colleagues confirm that the results presented are
13 accurate and correct?

14 MS. BRENDA LIZ CANDELARIA: Yes.

15 MR. STEVEN ALFASI: Yes.

16 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Were all
17 of the provisions of the New York State Elections
18 Law and this board's adopted policies and
19 procedures complied with?

20 MS. CANDELARIA: Yes.

21 MR. ALFASI: Yes.

22 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Has the audit of
23 voter verifiable audit records for both the poll
24 sites and central count scanners required by

1 August 4, 2020

2 Section 9-211 of the New York State Election Law
3 been successfully completed for these contests?

4 MS. CANDELERIA: Yes.

5 MR. ALFASI: Yes.

6 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are there any
7 discrepancies to report to the Board for these
8 contests?

9 MS. CANDELERIA: Yes, we have two which
10 we [unintelligible] [00:55:17].

11 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: I'm sorry, I couldn't
12 understand you.

13 MS. CANDELERIA: We say yes. We have two
14 discrepancies added to the explanation to the
15 [unintelligible] [00:55:26] report.

16 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Based on
17 that report, I'd entertain a motion that the
18 Board of Canvassers certified statement and
19 return of canvas for the primary elections and
20 Democratic presidential primary conducted in
21 Bronx County on June 23, 2020 submitted today.

22 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: So moved.

23 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Second.

24 Commissioner Taylor, before you proceed, I would

1 August 4, 2020
2 just like to thank and acknowledge our deputies,
3 our associates, our supervisors and all of our
4 staff and most notably, our beloved deputy,
5 Robert Siano. Our team faced a lot of adversity
6 as did all offices, and persevered and put forth
7 an honest and integral election. And all the
8 residents in the Bronx and in the city ought to
9 be proud of the work that the Board of Elections
10 workers have done. So I just want to thank them,
11 thank all the commissioners and may we always
12 continue to remember our friend Robert Siano.

13 MS. CANDELERIA: Thank you all.

14 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you, both. We
15 have a motion made and seconded. Are there any
16 objections? Hearing none, the statement and
17 return of canvas prepared by the Bronx staff of
18 the Board of Elections is adopted unanimously. Is
19 there a motion to approve and adopt the recap
20 statement and return of canvas for the primary
21 elections and presidential primary conducted on
22 June 23, 2020 for the public offices and party
23 positions elected from districts which cross
24 county lines within the city of New York and

1 August 4, 2020

2 prepared by the Candidates' Records Unit from the
3 respective counties statement and return of
4 canvas that have been approved today?

5 MR. RICHMAN: Commissioner Umame, you're
6 muted.

7 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Is there a motion?

8 SECRETARY UMANE: Motion.

9 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Commissioner Umame?
10 Yes? Thank you. Is there a second?

11 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Second.

12 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: I can second, I'll
13 second. Are there any objections? Hearing none,
14 this motion is adopted and the recap statement
15 and returns of canvas for the primary elections
16 and presidential primary election conducted on
17 June 23, 2020 for the public offices and party
18 positions elected from districts which cross
19 county lines within the City of New York and
20 reflect the component canvas statements that have
21 been approved today are hereby approved as well.

22 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: I now need a motion
23 for authorization to affix commissioners
24 signatures. Is there a motion to electronically

1 August 4, 2020

2 affix the appropriate commissioners signatures as
3 previously designated on the statement of
4 internal canvas?

5 SECRETARY UMANE: So moved.

6 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Is there a second?

7 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Second.

8 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you

9 Commissioner Umane and Commissioner Zaccone. Are
10 there any objections? Hearing none, the motion is
11 adopted. There being no further business to come
12 before the Board of Canvassers in the City of New
13 York at this time, I would now entertain a motion
14 to adjourn this meeting of the Board of
15 Canvassers and to convene the weekly stated
16 meeting of the Commissioners of Elections in the
17 City of New York.

18 SECRETARY UMANE: So moved.

19 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Second?

20 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Second.

21 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you, gentlemen.

22 The motion is adopted, the Board of Canvassers
23 stands adjourned. I'd like to thank everyone
24 heartily for your assistance in getting us to

1 August 4, 2020

2 this point today. We now move to the weekly --

3 MR. RYAN: We are already gaveled in for
4 the weekly meeting. So I think we can proceed
5 with the agenda. Agenda item number two,
6 appointment of commissioners' cover sheet review,
7 I will turn that over to legal.

8 MR. RICHMAN: Commissioners, we're in
9 week two of the independent nominating petition
10 process. When the memo was prepared, we thought
11 we may need two meetings, one for today and one
12 on Friday. There are no matters to be presented
13 to you. We do anticipate amended cover sheets
14 being filed in time, so we're looking for a
15 commissioners' committee to convene this Friday,
16 August 7th, at 2:00 p.m. by video conference. And
17 we'd ask the president and the secretary to
18 solicit volunteers and if necessary, make a
19 designation.

20 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: I will act for the
21 Democrats.

22 MR. RICHMAN: Okay.

23 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Oh, I'm sorry, was
24 someone volunteering? Who was that? Oh, maybe I

1 August 4, 2020

2 misheard. I had said that I would act for the
3 Democrats to be heard on Friday.

4 SECRETARY UMANE: Can somebody do it?

5 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: I'll volunteer.

6 SECRETARY UMANE: Okay, Commissioner
7 Marmorato.

8 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you.

9 MR. RICHMAN: Thank you, commissioners.

10 MR. RYAN: Thank you, commissioners.

11 MR. RICHMAN: And commissioners, as we
12 do, we'll get a package out to you hopefully
13 between 12:00 and 12:30 on Friday so you'll be
14 able to review it before we convene at 2:00 p.m.

15 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you.

16 MR. RICHMAN: Thank you.

17 MR. RYAN: That concludes the business
18 of --

19 MS. DAWN SANDOW: Sherwin.

20 MR. RYAN: -- sorry, no, we do have a
21 finance committee report, from Mr. Suss.

22 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: We have the report
23 from the finance committee.

24 MR. SHERWIN SUSS: Yes.

1 August 4, 2020

2 MR. RYAN: Alright. We're just switching
3 chairs here, okay. So Mr. Suss is here to report
4 from the finance committee. We do have a report
5 from the finance committee and just would like to
6 indicate that Commissioner Marmorato abstained
7 from the proceeding to the finance committee,
8 although he is typically a member. So he did not
9 participate in the finance committee and
10 abstained. That having been said, I'll turn it
11 over to Mr. Suss.

12 MR. SUSS: Yes, thank you. Good
13 afternoon, commissioners. One item was present to
14 the finance committee. It was to approve a
15 contract with Neopost USA Inc., for the purchase
16 of five sorting machines, mail sorting machines,
17 one for each borough. These machines, as
18 discussed, are capable of not only sorting mail,
19 but of printing, time and date stamping the mail,
20 opening the mail and very important for our
21 potential operations, scanning both sides of the
22 envelope as it passes through, creating an image
23 which can be sent to server or another piece of
24 equipment, a high speed printer and printed out

1 August 4, 2020

2 on single pass. These machines are capable of
3 doing up to 15,000 envelopes an hour and
4 hopefully that would help us. And the size of the
5 envelopes it can accommodate are actually 10 x
6 13, which means they can also accommodate our
7 affidavit ballots, which are 9 x 12, which we use
8 during election day, to also scan and make
9 copies.

10 The recommendation of the staff was for
11 Neopost because of the sizing of the machines and
12 they're on casters and can be moved and also they
13 were the lowest priced. The total cost for the
14 five machines is \$1,584,830. That's the report.
15 Any questions?

16 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: But that includes
17 training?

18 MR. SUSS: That includes training,
19 setup, installation, yes, inclusive of that.

20 MR. RYAN: And then the recommendation
21 of the finance committee was to also pursue
22 backup machines and to discuss that matter not
23 only with the vendor but also with the individual
24 boroughs to see what accommodations could be made

1 August 4, 2020

2 for perhaps a second machine for each borough or
3 at the very least, two additional machines to
4 serve as emergency backups to make sure that the
5 equipment will be online at all times.

6 In addition, as part of the contract,
7 Neopost, as a provision in the contract that is a
8 mandatory four hour turnaround on service calls,
9 because obviously, they deal with high volume of
10 mail and this is their business. So they want to
11 make sure that they get the people before there's
12 too much of a backup. But we will pursue those
13 other avenues of process with the chiefs and
14 deputies and with the vendor to determine what
15 additional equipment we'll need. So we'll treat
16 this five as a floor, and then we'll come back to
17 the commissioners with additional information and
18 proposal.

19 MS. SANDOW: And these sorting machines
20 will help with the absentee process.

21 MR. RYAN: Right.

22 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Wonderful.

23 MR. RICHMAN: And the canvas.

24 MS. SANDOW: The canvas.

1 August 4, 2020

2 MR. RYAN: We have been told --

3 MS. SANDOW: And also opening and
4 [unintelligible] [01:04:58].

5 MR. RYAN: -- early October delivery
6 date would be what we should expect, which would
7 then be plenty of time to get them in, get them
8 set up.

9 MS. SANDOW: And trained.

10 MR. RYAN: And get the training
11 completed, so that we'll be ready for the
12 presidential election.

13 SECRETARY UMANE: And the committee vote
14 was unanimous in favor of this contract and
15 further was the one that recommended looking into
16 the backups. So we don't need a motion. It's a
17 committee report and that's the report of the
18 committee.

19 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you,
20 Commissioner Umane.

21 MR. RYAN: So --

22 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Anyone else?

23 MR. RYAN: -- if there's --

24 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are there any other

1 August 4, 2020

2 questions or statements? So, thank you, Mr. Suss.

3 MR. SUSS: Thank you.

4 MR. RICHMAN: Take a vote.

5 MS. SANDOW: Yes, ratify.

6 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Please move forward.

7 MR. RICHMAN: We need to vote.

8 SECRETARY UMANE: I think we need to
9 vote.

10 MR. RYAN: We need a vote to ratify the
11 committee report.

12 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: We need a vote?

13 MR. RYAN: We can do it by -- we don't
14 have to do a roll call vote, I don't think. I
15 mean as long as there's no objections, I think we
16 --

17 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are there any -- are
18 there any objections? Hearing none, the committee
19 report is accepted and Mr. Suss should move
20 forward.

21 MR. SUSS: Will do, thank you.

22 MR. RYAN: Thank you very much.

23 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Is that language
24 acceptable?

1 August 4, 2020

2 MR. RYAN: Yes.

3 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you.

4 MR. RYAN: That concludes the formal
5 business of the Board of Elections for Tuesday,
6 August 4th. I just would like to as a point of
7 personal privilege and on behalf of executive
8 management --

9 MS. KONTAZMANIS: Mr. Ryan --

10 MR. RYAN: -- acknowledge that we had
11 the unique opportunity to work with Rob Siano not
12 only as a commissioner, but then as a deputy
13 chief clerk as well. And he was the consummate
14 gentleman, as decent a guy as you're going to
15 come across and we'll all miss him.

16 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Mr. Ryan, if I
18 may, just add one thing, and I'm sorry to have to
19 go after that.

20 MR. RYAN: I apologize.

21 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Such a
22 thoughtful acknowledgement. I know that we've had
23 a request from State, sorry, not borough, State
24 Commissioner Kellner to share some of his

1 August 4, 2020

2 recommendations about how the Board
3 [unintelligible] [01:07:25] its processes going
4 into November about staffing, absentee ballots,
5 etc., and the like. I think that I just wanted to
6 say that I think regardless of how we accept
7 these recommendations from him, I'd like to ask
8 exec management to just thoroughly review those
9 and any other recommendations we have received,
10 just in this environment and address those at any
11 subsequent meetings, so that we're remaining open
12 minded and that we're being proactive about how
13 do we address challenges that we've had in the
14 primary so that we can either eliminate them or
15 manage them going into November. So I would just
16 like to make that request going forward,
17 obviously, not necessarily for today's
18 discussion, but certainly for future discussions
19 at our stated meetings.

20 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you,
21 Commissioner Townsend. Is there any need to
22 adjourn to executive again?

23 MR. RYAN: Not that I'm aware of.

24 MR. RICHMAN: The date of the next

1 August 4, 2020

2 meeting.

3 MR. RYAN: The next meeting will be held
4 --

5 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Hearing none, the
6 date of the next meeting will be August 13th, is
7 that correct?

8 MR. RICHMAN: 11th.

9 MR. RYAN: 11th.

10 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Oh, August 11th, I'm
11 sorry. I don't have my phone, I don't have a
12 calendar in front of me.

13 MR. RYAN: Which does remind me --

14 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: August 11th.

15 MR. RYAN: -- of one thing.

16 MR. RICHMAN: Oh, the hearing.

17 MR. RYAN: I apologize, but it does
18 remind of one thing. We have seen notice of a
19 joint assembly and senate hearing scheduled for
20 August 11th. I'm not aware that we have been
21 formally invited to give testimony.

22 MS. KONTAZMANIS: We have not. We have
23 not as of this moment.

24 MR. RYAN: Alright.

1 August 4, 2020

2 MR. RICHMAN: That's by invitation only.

3 MR. RYAN: But usually we are. So we may
4 be coming back to the commissioners upon formal
5 invitation and I guess that would be the
6 executive committee to seek approval to give
7 testimony if we're so invited.

8 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Alright.

9 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: I just wanted to
10 echo Director Ryan's regarding Commissioner
11 Siano. He will be missed. I really enjoyed
12 working with him and he really was a great
13 person.

14 MS. CANDELARIA: Thank you,
15 commissioner.

16 MR. ALFASI: Thank you, commissioner.
17 Wee said.

18 MR. RICHMAN: Motion to adjourn?

19 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Motion to adjourn, so
20 moved.

21 SECRETARY UMANE: Second.

22 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you everyone
23 and be safe, because there are storms and
24 tornados in our neighborhood at the present time.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

August 4, 2020

MS. SANDOW: Just one more thing to add
to 2020.

PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Yes, that's right.

MR. RYAN: Thank you.

(The meeting concluded at 2:42 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE OF ACCURACY

I, Ryan Manaloto, certify that the foregoing transcript of the Board of Elections in The City of New York on August 4, 2020 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Certified By



Date: March 26, 2021

GENEVAWORLDWIDE, INC

256 West 38th Street - 10th Floor

New York, NY 10018