

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

42 Broadway - 6th floor
Commissioners' Hearing Room

New York, NY 10004

August 25, 2020

1:44 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.

August 25, 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

Elizabeth English, Bronx staff

1 August 25, 2020

2 (The meeting commenced at 1:44 p.m.)

3 MR. MICHAEL J. RYAN: Okay. We are live.
4 Today is August 25, 2020 and it is the regular
5 weekly meeting of the Commissions of Elections
6 for the City of New York. My name is Michael Ryan
7 and I would like to start the proceedings by
8 taking the roll call of the commissioners.
9 Commissioner Taylor?

10 PRESIDENT PATRICIA ANNE TAYLOR: Here.

11 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Umame?

12 SECRETARY FREDERIC UMANE: Present.

13 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Araujo?

14 COMMISSIONER JOSE ARAUJO: Present.

15 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Camilo?

16 COMMISSIONER MIGUELINA CAMILO: Present.

17 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Marmorato?

18 COMMISSIONER GINO MARMORATO: Present.

19 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Michel? I see
20 his name up on the screen.

21 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: Yes, I'm here.

22 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Shamoun?

23 Commissioner Shamoun? Okay. Commissioner
24 Townsend?

1 August 25, 2020

2 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Present.

3 MR. RYAN: And Commissioner Zaccone?

4 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Present.

5 MR. RYAN: Okay. Seated to my left is
6 Deputy Executive Director Dawn Sandow. At the
7 table seated before me is Deputy General Counsel
8 Rafael Savino, Michael Carmosino, from CRU.

9 MS. MARGARITA LUGO: Margarita Lugo.

10 MR. RYAN: Margarita Lugo from CRU and
11 Eleanor Guerrieri, from legal. And at points
12 elsewhere in the building is Georgea Kontazmanis,
13 operations manager and we also have been joined
14 by video by Mr. Denkberg and Mr. Moltner, counsel
15 to the commissioners. That concludes the roll
16 call and the introductions.

17 And item one on the agenda is the
18 recertification of the June 23, 2020 primary
19 election for public offices and party positions
20 within the City of New York. Pursuant to the
21 order of the United States District Court for the
22 Southern District of New York. Ms. Kontazmanis,
23 before I turn the proceedings over to President
24 Taylor, is there an order in which we're going to

1 August 25, 2020

2 proceed? Do you have that? Not that I need to
3 know it, I just want to make sure the counties
4 now what order they're going in.

5 MS. KONTAZMANIS: Yes, the boroughs have
6 been informed, sir. We're going to begin with
7 Kings, followed by Queens, Richmond, Manhattan
8 and ending with the Bronx.

9 MR. RYAN: Okay. Very well. We have been
10 joined by Commissioner Shamoun. There he is.
11 Hello sir. Could you unmute please, Commissioner
12 Shamoun and acknowledge your presence.

13 MS. KONTAZMANIS: I think he's having
14 trouble with his mic.

15 MR. RYAN: Okay. No problem, okay,
16 alright, so he's visible to us, so Commissioner
17 Shamoun is present. That said, Commissioner
18 Taylor, I will turn the proceedings respectfully
19 over to you.

20 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Good
21 afternoon. My name is Patricia Anne Taylor and I
22 am the Democratic commissioner for Richmond
23 County and the president of the board for
24 calendar year 2020. At this time, I also serve as

1 August 25, 2020

2 the interim commissioner for Kings County.

3 Pursuant to the provisions of Title 2 of
4 Article 9 of the New York State Election Law,
5 specifically Sections 9-218 of the August 3, 2020
6 order of the U.S. District Court for the Southern
7 District of New York, I call this meeting of the
8 Board of Canvassers for the City of New York to
9 order for the purposes of recertifying the
10 recanvas of votes cast on June 23, 2020 in the
11 primary elections conducted in the City of New
12 York for public offices and party positions, as
13 well as the 2020 Democratic presidential primary
14 including delegates to the National Convention,
15 in accordance with the previously noted federal
16 court order.

17 As each commissioner and staff member
18 have already identified themselves before opening
19 up the meeting, we will dispense with that and
20 move on to the designation of the second
21 Democratic commissioner to sign the certified
22 statements. To serve as the other member of the
23 canvassing board, I hereby designate Democratic
24 commissioners for their respective counties and

1 August 25, 2020

2 designate Commissioner Araujo to serve with me
3 for Richmond and Kings Counties and the
4 multicounty contests. I would ask Secretary Umane
5 to designate the Republican commissioners for
6 their respective counties and another Republican
7 commissioner to serve with him for New York
8 County and the multicounty contests.

9 SECRETARY UMANE: Yes, I hereby
10 designate the Republican commissioners for their
11 respective counties and designate Commissioner
12 Michel to serve with me for New York County and
13 the multicounty contests.

14 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. On June
15 23, 2020, this board conducted the primary
16 elections for public offices and party positions
17 within the City of New York. On August 4, 2020,
18 this board certified the statements and returns
19 of canvas of votes cast in those primary
20 elections. On August 3, 2020, Judge Analisa
21 Torres of the U.S. District Court for the
22 Southern District of New York issued an order in
23 the proceeding [unintelligible] [00:20:23]
24 Gallagher and others v. New York State Board of

1 August 25, 2020

2 Elections and others, which ordered the State
3 Board of Elections to direct that each city and
4 county Board of Canvassers reconvene for the
5 purpose of casting and canvassing any absentee
6 ballot envelopes for the June 23, 2020 primary
7 elections received by the Board of Elections on
8 one, the day after the primary election, June 24,
9 2020, and two, on June 25, 2020 without any
10 postmark indicating the date that it was mailed.

11 The State Board of Elections issued such
12 a direction Thursday night, August 6, 2020. On
13 August 14, 2020, pursuant to Section 9-209 of the
14 State Election Law, this board notified all
15 candidates and contests affected by the federal
16 court order that the canvas and re-canvas would
17 resume on Monday, August 17, 2020. It also
18 advised them that any required audits of the
19 central count scanners would be conducted August
20 21, 2020. That process has been completed. Those
21 two processes have been completed.

22 Section 9-218 of the State Election Law
23 provides that upon the reconvening of the Board
24 of Canvassers by order of a court of competent

1 August 25, 2020
2 jurisdiction, as in this instance, the revised
3 and corrected amended statements and returns of
4 canvas, which we will now consider,
5 [unintelligible] [00:21:59] to the federal court
6 order, replaces the original statements and
7 returns of canvass approved by this board on
8 August 4th.

9 I now asked the borough chief and deputy
10 chief clerks be added to this virtual meeting for
11 the counties in order. We will begin with Kings
12 County. Have the deputy chiefs from the borough,
13 chief clerks been added?

14 MS. KONTAZMANIS: Yes, they have.

15 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. So the
16 chief clerk and deputy chief clerk of Kings
17 County, it is my understanding that the chief
18 clerk and deputy clerk of Brooklyn and their
19 staff have prepared and signed the amended
20 statements and the returns of canvas for the
21 primary elections and Democratic presidential
22 primary conducted in Kings County on June 23,
23 2020 in accordance with the federal court order
24 and submitted the same to the Board's executive

1 August 25, 2020

2 office. I will now ask for the record, a series
3 of questions with respect to the amended
4 statements and returns of canvas that have been
5 presented by the Brooklyn staff.

6 Question A, would the Brooklyn chief
7 clerk and deputy chief clerk confirm that the
8 amended results presented are accurate and
9 correct?

10 MR. RAYMOND RILEY: Yes.

11 MR. DANIEL ORTIZ: 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 as modified by the federal court order, complied
16 with?

17 MR. RILEY: Yes.

18 MR. ORTIZ: Yes.

19 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Has the
20 audit of voter verifiable audit records for the
21 central count scanners required by Section 9-211
22 of the New York State Election Law been
23 successfully completed for these contest?

24 MR. RILEY: Yes.

1 August 25, 2020

2 MR. ORTIZ: Yes.

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

5 MR. RILEY: No.

6 MR. ORTIZ: No.

7 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Based on, thank you.
8 Based on that report, I would entertain a motion
9 that the Board of Canvassers certify the amended
10 statements and returns of canvas for the primary
11 elections and Democratic presidential primary
12 conducted in Kings County on June 23, 2020.

13 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: So moved.

14 COMMISSIONER SHAMOUN: So moved.

15 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Second.

16 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Did I hear a second?

17 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: Yes, second,
18 Michel.

19 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Okay. All in favor --
20 are there any objections to the motion? Hearing
21 none, the amended statements and returns of
22 canvas prepared by the Brooklyn staff of the
23 Board of Elections is adopted unanimously. Thank
24 you, Commissioner Araujo.

1 August 25, 2020

2 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Thank you to the
3 Brooklyn staff, leadership, employees, poll
4 workers, everybody for their hard work,
5 especially during these difficult times and
6 twists and turns. Thank you. Commissioner
7 Shamoun.

8 COMMISSIONER SHAMOUN: Thank you
9 [unintelligible] [00:25:08].

10 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: And I second --

11 MR. RILEY: Thank you.

12 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: -- your statements,
13 as the interim commissioner for Brooklyn. Moving
14 on to Queens County, it is my understanding that
15 the chief clerk and deputy chief clerk of Queens
16 and their staffs have prepared and signed the
17 amended statements and returns of canvas for the
18 primary elections and Democratic presidential
19 primary conducted in Queens County on June 23,
20 2020 in accordance with the federal court order
21 and submitted the same to the Board's executive
22 office. I will now ask, for the record, a series
23 of questions with respect to the amended
24 statements and returns of canvas that has been

1 August 25, 2020

2 presented sent by the Queens staff. Do the Queens
3 chief clerk and deputy chief clerk confirm that
4 the amended results presented are accurate and
5 correct?

6 MS. AMANDA BERINATO: Yes.

7 MR. BART HAGGERTY: Yes.

8 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Were all
9 of the provisions of the New York State Elections
10 Law and this board's adopted policies and
11 procedures as modified by the federal court order
12 complied with?

13 MS. BERINATO: Yes.

14 MR. HAGGERTY: Yes.

15 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Was an
16 audit of voter verifiable audit records for the
17 central count scanners described by Section 9-211
18 of the New York State Election Law required to be
19 conducted?

20 MR. HAGGERTY: Yes.

21 MS. BERINATO: Yes.

22 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are there any
23 discrepancies to report to the Board for this
24 contest?

1 August 25, 2020

2 MS. BERINATO: No.

3 MR. HAGGERTY: No.

4 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Based on that report,
5 I would entertain a motion that the Board of
6 Canvassers certify the amended statements and
7 returns of canvas for the primary elections and
8 Democratic presidential primary conducted in
9 Queens County on June 23, 2020 submitted today.

10 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: So moved.

11 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Commissioner Araujo?

12 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: So moved.

13 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Is there a
14 second? Did I hear a second?

15 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: Second from
16 Commissioner Michel.

17 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Are there
18 any objections? Hearing none, the amended
19 statements and returns of canvas prepared by the
20 Queens staff of the Board of Elections is adopted
21 unanimously. Thank you so much. Moving on to
22 Richmond County, it is my understanding that the
23 chief clerk and deputy chief clerk of Staten
24 Island and their staff have prepared and signed

1 August 25, 2020

2 the amended statements and returns of canvas for
3 the primary elections and Democratic presidential
4 primary conducted in Richmond County on June 23,
5 2020 in accordance with the federal court order
6 and submitted the same to the Board's executive
7 office. I will now ask, for the record, a series
8 of questions with respect to the amended
9 statements and returns of canvas that have been
10 presented by the Staten Island staff. Do the
11 Staten Island chief clerk and deputy chief clerk
12 confirm that the amended results presented are
13 accurate and correct?

14 MR. DON BOSCO: Yes.

15 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Were all of the
16 provisions of the New York State Elections Law
17 and this board's adopted policies and procedures
18 as modified by the federal court order complied
19 with?

20 MR. ANDRULLI: Yes, they were.

21 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Was an audit, a voter
22 verifiable audit records for the central count
23 scanners described by Section 9-211 of the New
24 York State Election Law required to be conducted?

1 August 25, 2020

2 MR. ANDRULLI: Yes.

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

6 MR. SAVINO: Mr. Andrulli, you're muted.

7 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Did I hear
8 [unintelligible] [00:29:00]?

9 MR. ANDRULLI: I'm sorry, I couldn't
10 hear.

11 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Question D, are there
12 any discrepancies to report to the board, I
13 didn't hear a reply.

14 MR. ANDRULLI: Well, there were
15 discrepancies in the original certification.

16 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: But not in the
17 amended?

18 MR. ANDRULLI: Correct.

19 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Based on that report,
20 I would entertain a motion that the Board of
21 Canvassers certify the amended statements and
22 returns of canvas for the primary elections and
23 the Democratic presidential primary conducted in
24 Richmond County on June 23, 2020.

1 August 25, 2020

2 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: So moved.

3 COMMISSIONER SHAMOUN: Second.

4 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Are there
5 any objections? Hearing none, the amended
6 statements and returns of canvas prepared by the
7 Staten Island staff of the Board of Elections is
8 adopted unanimously. Thank you so much, Staten
9 Island staffers.

10 MR. ANDRULLI: Thank you, commissioners.

11 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Thank your staff
12 for [unintelligible] [00:29:54].

13 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Moving on to New York
14 County, it is my understanding that the chief
15 clerk and deputy chief clerk of New York County
16 and their staff have prepared and signed the
17 amended statements and returns of canvas for the
18 primary elections and Democratic presidential
19 primary conducted in New York County on June 23,
20 2020 and submitted the same to the Board's
21 executive office. I will now ask for the record,
22 a series of questions with respect to the amended
23 statements and the returns of canvas that were
24 presented by the Manhattan staff. Do the chief

1 August 25, 2020

2 clerk and deputy chief clerk confirm that the
3 results presented are accurate and correct? Do
4 the chief clerk and deputy chief clerk from New
5 York County, unmute yourselves.

6 MR. GREG LEHMAN: Yes.

7 MR. RYAN: Ms. Doty?

8 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Answer yes to
9 question A, that the results presented are
10 accurate and correct? Yes?

11 MS. KONTAZMANIS: There might be another
12 [unintelligible] [00:31:03].

13 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Were all of the
14 provisions of the New York State Elections Law
15 and this board's adopted policies and procedures
16 as modified by the federal court order complied
17 with?

18 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are the chief clerk
19 and the deputy chief clerk for New York County?

20 MR. RYAN: They just, Ms. Doty just
21 appeared on the screen. I'm still looking to see
22 if Mr. Lehman appeared.

23 MS. KONTAZMANIS: Yes, he's on.

24 MR. LEHMAN: Yeah, I'm here.

1 August 25, 2020

2 MR. RYAN: Okay. They're there, now. I
3 think, Commissioner Taylor, I think you're going
4 to have to, for the record, re-ask question A,
5 because I don't think a reply was recorded.

6 MS. KONTAZMANIS: Greg and Cynthia, can
7 we do a mic check?

8 MR. LEHMAN: Check, check, check. Check,
9 check.

10 MS. KONTAZMANIS: Okay, Greg, you're
11 good. Cynthia?

12 MS. CYNTHIA DOTY: I'm here, can you
13 hear me?

14 MS. KONTAZMANIS: Okay. Great. Go ahead,
15 commissioner.

16 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: I will start again. I
17 will now ask for the record a series of questions
18 with respect to the amended statements and
19 returns of canvas that have been presented by the
20 Manhattan staff. Question A, do the chief clerk
21 and deputy chief clerk confirm that the results
22 presented are accurate and correct?

23 MR. LEHMAN: Yes, we do.

24 MS. DOTY: Yes.

1 August 25, 2020

2 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Question
3 two, were all of the provisions of the New York
4 State Elections Law and this board's adopted
5 policies and procedures as modified by the
6 federal court order complied with?

7 MR. LEHMAN: Yes, they were.

8 MS. DOTY: Yes.

9 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Was the audit of
10 voter verifiable audit records for the central
11 count scanners prescribed by Section 9-211 of the
12 New York State Election Law required to be
13 conducted?

14 MS. DOTY: Yes.

15 MR. LEHMAN: Yes.

16 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are there any
17 discrepancies to report to the Board?

18 MR. LEHMAN: No, there are none.

19 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Based on that report,
20 I would entertain a motion that the Board of
21 Canvassers certify the amended statements and
22 returns of canvas for the primary elections and
23 Democratic presidential primary conducted in New
24 York County on June 23, 2020. Commissioner Umane?

1 August 25, 2020

2 SECRETARY UMANE: So moved, so moved.

3 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: And do I have a
4 second?

5 COMMISSIONER SHAMOUN: Second.

6 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Are there
7 any objections? Hearing none, the amended
8 statements and returns of canvas prepared by the
9 Manhattan staff, New York County, of the Board of
10 Elections is adopted unanimously.

11 SECRETARY UMANE: Please thank the staff
12 of New York County for their hard work in turning
13 this around.

14 MR. LEHMAN: Will do.

15 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Moving on to the
16 Bronx County, are the deputy --

17 MS. SANDOW: They're just signing off
18 now, Manhattan is signing off.

19 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Okay. Are the Bronx
20 clerk and acting deputy clerks present?

21 MR. RYAN: Ms. Canderlaria is up on the
22 board, she hasn't appeared yet, so maybe we'll
23 give it a second.

24 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Okay.

1 August 25, 2020

2 MS. KONTAZMANIS: Brenda, can you hear
3 us? Brenda?

4 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Bronx County.

5 MS. KONTAZMANIS: She's trying
6 [unintelligible] [00:34:49].

7 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Please let me know,
8 because I can't tell from here.

9 MR. RYAN: Yes.

10 MS. SANDOW: She's there, I see the mute
11 button going in and out, so there might be some
12 type of connectivity issue.

13 MS. KONTAZMANIS: Yeah, just give us one
14 second, because we had a problem with her mic as
15 well.

16 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Not a problem, I can
17 wait.

18 MS. BRENDA LIZ CANDELARIA:
19 [unintelligible] [00:35:29].

20 MR. RYAN: Oh, there we go.

21 MS. CANDELARIA: Sorry, it disconnected.

22 MR. RYAN: But we can hear Ms.
23 Candelaria now.

24 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Alright.

1 August 25, 2020

2 MS. CANDELARIA: Okay. So we're here.

3 MR. RYAN: Okay. Now, Ms. Candelaria,
4 who else is with you?

5 MS. CANDELARIA: Elizabeth English.

6 MR. RYAN: Okay. So Elizabeth English is
7 the acting deputy chief clerk for today's
8 purposes, correct?

9 MS. CANDELARIA: Yes, thank you.

10 MR. RYAN: Alright. Thank you.

11 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. It's my
12 understanding that the deputy and acting deputy
13 chief clerks of the Bronx and their staff have
14 prepared and signed the amended statements and
15 returns of canvas for the primary elections and
16 the Democratic presidential primary conducted in
17 Bronx County on June 23, 2020 in accordance with
18 the federal court order submitted the same to the
19 Board's executive office. I will now ask for the
20 record, a series of questions with respect to the
21 amended statements and returns of canvas that
22 were presented Bronx staff. Question A, do the
23 Bronx deputy chief clerk and acting deputy chief
24 clerk confirm that the amended results presented

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August 25, 2020

are accurate and correct?

MS. BRENDA LIZ CANDELARIA: Yes.

MS. ELIZABETH ENGLISH: Yes.

PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Were all of the provisions of the New York State Elections Law and this board's adopted policies and procedures as modified by the federal court order complied with?

MS. CANDELARIA: Yes.

MS. ENGLISH: Yes.

PRESIDENT TAYLOR: thank you. Was the audit of voter verifiable audit records for the central count scanners prescribed by 9-211 of the New York State Election Law required to be conducted?

MS. CANDELARIA: Yes.

MS. ENGLISH: Yes.

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

MS. CANDELARIA: No.

MS. ENGLISH: No.

1 August 25, 2020

2 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Based on that report,
3 I'd entertain a motion that the Board of
4 Canvassers certify the amended statements and
5 returns of canvas for the primary elections and
6 Democratic presidential primary conducted in
7 Bronx County on June 23, 2020 submitted today.

8 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: So moved.

9 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Second.

10 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Are there
11 any objections? Hearing none, the amended
12 statement and return of canvas prepared by the
13 Bronx staff of the Board of Elections is adopted
14 unanimously.

15 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Thank you. We want
16 to give a thank you to all our staff for all
17 their hard work, and I want to give a special
18 thank you to our Deputy Candelaria for her
19 tremendous work during this process.

20 MS. CANDELERIA: Thank you.

21 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: There are some
22 districts that are comprised of parts of more
23 than one county, which were also recapped and
24 return of canvas. Is there a motion to approve

1 August 25, 2020
2 and adopt the amended recap statement and return
3 of canvas for the primary elections and the
4 presidential primary conducted on June 23, 2020
5 in accordance with the federal court order for
6 the public offices and party positions elected
7 from districts which cross county lines within
8 the city of New York and prepared by the
9 Candidates' Records Unit from the respective
10 counties amended statements and return of canvas
11 that have been approved today?

12 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: So moved.

13 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: And is there a
14 second?

15 SECRETARY UMANE: Second.

16 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Any
17 objections? The motion is adopted and the amended
18 recap statements and returns of canvas for the
19 primary elections and presidential primary
20 election conducted on June 23, 2020 for the
21 public offices and party positions elected from
22 districts which cross county lines within the
23 City of New York and reflect the component canvas
24 statements which have been approved today are

1 August 25, 2020

2 hereby approved as well. I now need a motion for
3 authorization to affix commissioners' signatures.
4 Is there a motion to electronically affix the
5 appropriate commissioners signatures as
6 previously designated on each amended statement
7 and return of canvas?

8 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: So moved.

9 SECRETARY UMANE: So moved.

10 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: Second.

11 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Are there
12 any objections? Hearing none, the motion is
13 adopted. There being no further business to come
14 before the Board of Canvassers in the City of New
15 York at this time, I would now entertain a motion
16 to adjourn this meeting of the Board of
17 Canvassers and to reconvene the weekly stated
18 meeting of the Commissioners of Elections of the
19 City of New York. Do I have a motion?

20 SECRETARY UMANE: So moved.

21 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Is there a second?

22 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Second.

23 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Any

24 objections? Hearing none, the motion is adopted

1 August 25, 2020

2 that the Board of Canvassers stands adjourned. I
3 return the gavel to Executive Director Ryan.

4 MR. RYAN: Thank you, Commissioner
5 Taylor. Yes. Item A, I will turn over to Ms.
6 Kontazmanis, as she has the particular
7 information on this.

8 MS. KONTAZMANIS: Thank you, Mr. Ryan.
9 So, commissioners, as you may have seen in your
10 e-mails this morning, the governor signed an
11 executive order yesterday, number 202.58 relating
12 to the upcoming elections. Some of the changes in
13 the executive order include allowing for a voter
14 to apply for an absentee ballot application over
15 the phone, amending the oath envelope to make it
16 easier for a voter to digest, which we had been
17 working on with the State Board, as well as an
18 information mailing which he had scheduled.

19 We began digesting the information last
20 night not only with the staff, but also with our
21 partner vendors and had a few meetings this
22 morning to address how some of these changes are
23 actually going to affect our workflow or if they
24 even will affect our workflow. And we should have

1 August 25, 2020

2 A complete report at next week's meeting for all
3 of you.

4 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you, Ms.
5 Kontazmanis.

6 MR. RYAN: Okay. That brings us to Item
7 2B, which relates to the Board's testimony at the
8 August 11th Joint Assembly Senate Hearing
9 regarding the conduct of elections during the
10 pandemic leading up to the June 23rd primary.
11 That hearing was virtually attended by the Board
12 in our board offices. Myself and Ms. Sandow
13 presented on behalf of the Board. I presented the
14 formal remarks and we both responded to any
15 questions that were posed to us by the State
16 Legislatures.

17 Just as a matter of refreshing
18 everyone's recollection in the lead up to the
19 presidential primary and the state and local
20 primaries in June, starting in March, there was a
21 series of executive orders that affected
22 elections. One such executive order was to allow
23 voters to apply for an absentee ballot, among
24 other things via an online portal in addition to

1 August 25, 2020

2 telephone and e-mail, as well as the regular
3 process. We advised the state joint committees
4 that on April 27, 2020, within three weeks of
5 executive authorization, the Board's online
6 portal went live and was active at that time for
7 49 days.

8 It's worth noting that 53 percent of all
9 of the applications received, which was a total
10 of over 450,000 were processed via the online
11 portal. And when you compare and contrast that to
12 previous elections we had say for the same
13 election four years prior, a total of about
14 64,000 total for the five boroughs. And this one,
15 we had 450,000 just on the online portal.

16 We advised that we mailed the absentee
17 ballot applications as required under the
18 executive order commencing on May 18th and
19 running that through May 21st and we were advised
20 by the post office that by May 26th, 99 percent
21 of 3.6 million absentee ballot applications were
22 in fact processed by the post office.

23 During this past election, we had almost
24 780,000 ballot applications. And as I said, 53

1 August 25, 2020

2 percent were processed through the portal. To put
3 that in further perspective, within two weeks of
4 the general election -- the primary election I
5 should say, we processed, the Board processed
6 approximately 335,000 absentee ballot
7 applications. 80,000 of those applications were
8 received by the Board between June 16th and June
9 21st. So this was a monumental effort that was
10 made in order to be able to service the voters as
11 well as humanly possible during extremely
12 difficult circumstances.

13 And so, we are working as the
14 commissioners are aware, and we advised the State
15 Board of Elections, I'm sorry, the state
16 committee, that we will be working to enhance
17 this process moving forward, and many of those
18 efforts are underway. I'm not going to get out
19 ahead of commissioner approval by announcing
20 specifically all the things that we're doing.
21 We'll deal with those in turn at these meetings
22 on a weekly basis as we receive appropriate
23 commissioner approval at the various junctures.

24 But that includes increasing system

1 August 25, 2020

2 input to allow the paper applications to be
3 processed more quickly. As Ms. Kontazmanis
4 announced as well, we have been working with the
5 State Board of Elections to improve the
6 readability of the OATH envelope to make it more
7 user friendly for the voters, and now there is an
8 executive order that's going to affect that as
9 well.

10 The voter education campaign to vote
11 safe is in the process of being developed and
12 will be rolled out in the near future, so that
13 voters receive all of the information that they
14 require to be able to participate in the voting
15 process in the various methods that are available
16 to them.

17 And I also would like to point out
18 really the hard work that the borough offices in
19 particular did. While jurisdictions throughout
20 the country were reducing the number of poll
21 sites that they had available during the
22 pandemic, I think it's worth pointing out and we
23 pointed it out to the State Legislature, that we
24 in fact increased our early voting sites by 30

1 August 25, 2020

2 percent, from 61 to 79. No one else was moving
3 forward, but the City Board of Elections did.
4 Everyone else was regressing, and largely, I'm
5 certain, for good reason, given the various
6 challenges that each election district has to
7 deal with but it's just worth noting that in our
8 city, we were able to, under difficult
9 circumstances increase early voting sites by 30
10 percent.

11 So, in any event, we will continue our
12 efforts moving forward and the commissioners will
13 be updated and the public will be updated at
14 appropriate junctures.

15 Now, Item 2C, I will turn over to Mr.
16 Savino to appropriately brief the commissioners
17 on this next item.

18 MR. SAVINO: Hello, commissioners. With
19 respect to the independent nominating petitions
20 that were submitted, we have one last objection
21 that was filed and followed by specifications.
22 We've done some research, we're preparing a
23 counsel's report and we're requesting or
24 suggesting that you schedule a hearing on this

1 August 25, 2020

2 matter for next week's meeting, I believe it's
3 September 1st?

4 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Yes. That is correct.

5 MR. SAVINO: With your permission.

6 SECRETARY UMANE: So move.

7 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: So, add it to the
8 agenda.

9 MR. SAVINO: Thank you, commissioners.

10 MR. RYAN: Thank you, my understanding
11 is that there are no items either legal or
12 personnel for executive session, and if that
13 still remains the case, a motion is in order to
14 adjourn the meeting and set the next meeting date
15 for September 1st.

16 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: So moved.

17 SECRETARY UMANE: So moved.

18 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Second.

19 MR. RYAN: Are there any objections?
20 Hearing none, the motion carries. This meeting is
21 adjourned and the next meeting of the Board of
22 Commissioners will be September 1, 2020.

23 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: At 1:30.

24 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Thank you.

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August 25, 2020

MR. RYAN: Thank you all for your time.

MS. SANDOW: Thank you, commissioners.

(The meeting concluded at 2:50 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 25, 2020 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Certified By



Date: March 26, 2021

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