

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

42 Broadway - 6th floor
Commissioners' Hearing Room

New York, NY 10004

November 17, 2020

1:30 - 3:08 p.m.

November 17, 2020

PRESENT:

President Patricia Ann Taylor

Secretary Frederic Umane

Commissioner Jose Araujo

Commissioner Miguelina Camilo

Commissioner Michael Michel

Commissioner Gino Marmorato

Commissioner Simon Shamoun

Commissioner Tiffany Townsend

Commissioner John Wm. Zaccone

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director

Dawn Sandow, Deputy Executive Director

Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager

Georgea Kontzamanis, Operations Manager

Steven Denkberg, Commissioners' Counsel

Kenneth Moltner, Commissioners' Counsel

Eleanor Guerrierri, Legal

Sherwin Suss, Chief Contracting Officer

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2 (The meeting commenced at 1:50 p.m.)

3 MR. MICHAEL J. RYAN: We're now live.
4 Today is Tuesday, November 17th, the regular
5 weekly meeting of the commissioners of Elections
6 of the City of New York. My name is Michael Ryan
7 and I'm the executive director --

8 COMMISSIONER JOHN WM. ZACCONE: Mr.
9 Ryan, forgive me, but you really can't be heard.

10 MR. RYAN: I thought that was a desired
11 outcome, commissioner. I apologize.

12 SECRETARY UMANE: Yes, it was.

13 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: [unintelligible]
14 [00:20:51] but for meetings and for our sign
15 language interpreters, it's kind of difficult.

16 MR. RYAN: My microphone was off. Thank
17 you. I could hear my own voice. I didn't realize
18 others couldn't hear me. I apologize. So, today
19 is November 17, 2020 and it is the regular weekly
20 meeting of the Commissioners of Elections in the
21 City of New York. My name is Michael Ryan, I am
22 the executive director. I will start with the
23 commissioner roll call. President Taylor?

24 PRESIDENT PATRICIA ANNE TAYLOR: Good

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2 afternoon, I am present.

3 MR. RYAN: Good afternoon. Secretary
4 Umane?

5 SECRETARY FREDERIC UMANE: Here.

6 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Araujo?

7 COMMISSIONER JOSE ARAUJO: Present.

8 MR. RYAN: Good afternoon, Commissioner
9 Camilo?

10 COMMISSIONER MIGUELINA CAMILO: Present.

11 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Marmarato?

12 COMMISSIONER GINO MARMORATO: Present,
13 thank you.

14 MR. RYAN: You're welcome. Commissioner
15 Michel?

16 COMMISSIONER MICHAEL MICHEL: Present.

17 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Pepe-Souvenir?
18 Commissioner, you're muted. Yes, commissioner --

19 COMMISSIONER PEPE-SOUVENIR: Sorry, I
20 was muted, I was muted.

21 MR. RYAN: There you go.

22 COMMISSIONER PEPE-SOUVENIR: Good
23 afternoon, present, sorry.

24 MR. RYAN: Thank you, no problem.

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2 Commissioner Shamoun?

3 COMMISSIONER SHAMOUN: Present, thank
4 you.

5 MR. RYAN: You're welcome. Commissioner
6 Townsend? Commissioner Townsend is not here
7 today. Commissioner Zaccone?

8 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Good afternoon, I
9 am here.

10 MR. RYAN: Good afternoon, thank you. So
11 we have several items on the agenda. I would like
12 to start with Item 1B. Oh, I'm sorry, yeah.
13 Moving along. I'm Michael Ryan, I am the
14 executive director of the board. Seated to my
15 left is Dawn Sandow, deputy executive director.
16 Elsewhere in the building are administrative
17 manager Pamela Perkins and operations manager,
18 Georgea Kontazmanis. As well, we are joined by
19 Kenneth Moltner and Steven Denkberg, counsels to
20 the commissioners and seated at the table before
21 me is Sherwin Suss, agency chief contracting
22 officer and Eleanor Guerrierri from legal.

23 So, with that said, we can move on once
24 more with feeling. 1B is the draft notice of

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2 candidates, notice to candidates that will be for
3 the December 22 special election that will be
4 held in the Bronx. This has been previously
5 disseminated to the commissioners and we just
6 need formal approval. I will call on I suppose
7 Commissioner Marmorato, do we have a motion to
8 accept the draft notice to candidates?

9 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Or Commissioner
10 Camilo?

11 MR. RYAN: You're muted Commissioner
12 Marmorato.

13 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: My apologies. I
14 move that we accept the draft candidates for the
15 election December 22nd.

16 MR. RYAN: Thank you. Is there a second,
17 Commissioner Camilo?

18 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: I will second the
19 approval of the notice. Thank you.

20 MR. RYAN: Thank you. Are there any
21 objections? Hearing none, the motion carries.
22 Item 2C is the form of ballot for the Bronx
23 special election which has been previously
24 disseminated and considered by the commissioners.

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2 This will be a -- the candidates' names will
3 appear in a 16 point font and it will be on a 14
4 inch ballot page, which is the smaller size of
5 all of the ballot pages that we use. And I'm
6 asking for a motion to approve the form of ballot
7 and Commissioner Camilo, would you care to make
8 that motion?

9 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Yes, so moved.

10 MR. RYAN: And Commissioner Marmorato
11 would you second that motion?

12 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Second.

13 MR. RYAN: There's a motion and a
14 second. Are there any objections? Hearing none,
15 the form of ballot for the December 22nd special
16 election is approved and the military ballots for
17 this election have already been mailed and the
18 absentee ballots will move forward accordingly
19 now that the form of ballot has been approved.

20 So that brings us then to a portion of
21 1A on the election nights, the election night
22 reporting process. We saw 96.46 percentage of the
23 sticks read into the system on election night,
24 which is right in line with what we have come to

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2 expect from this process.

3 And just so that everyone's clear, you
4 know, we always say it, but the election night
5 results are unofficial and the certification
6 process, which ultimately will be concluded is
7 underway presently, and where the boroughs are
8 doing the work that's necessary to complete that,
9 and I'll touch on that in a moment.

10 But I would like to indicate that we did
11 hit our peak of election night reporting citywide
12 at right about 9:20 p.m. and so that tells us two
13 things. One, we had a high volume of early votes
14 that were included in the initial reports because
15 we cannot begin to tabulate the early votes until
16 one hour before the close of polls on election
17 day, but they are then typically then included in
18 that first, that first round of reporting. So we
19 had a very high peak at about 1,200 or so at 9:20
20 p.m. and then following a very familiar pattern,
21 a peak, and then a straight line down till a
22 trickle at the end. And that process has been
23 handled very well since we started tracking it
24 and we made the amendments that we made a few

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2 years back to do the uploads directly from the
3 poll sites. So, that process went well.

4 There are some other reports that I will
5 get some more clarification on and we will report
6 those at the next meeting. I would like to also
7 say that the canvas, the post election canvas is
8 going well in the five boroughs. We did have a
9 very high volume of absentee ballot participants
10 and the boroughs are diligently going through
11 that work to ensure that each eligible voter's
12 vote is, is accurately tallied. And I would say
13 to this point, that the boroughs should be very
14 proud of the work that they're doing and continue
15 to do in order to get this election certified.
16 New York City and indeed the country, has been
17 laboring under some difficult circumstances. And
18 our staff has been performing very admirably.

19 Just so that there's a little bit of
20 clarification, we've heard a date of December 8th
21 being floated around. That date is the date by
22 which the state needs to finish its work so that
23 the electors from New York State can be properly
24 seated in time for the Electoral College to meet

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2 on December 14th. So our work will conclude well
3 in advance of the December 8th date so that we
4 can have the electors from the State of New York
5 properly seated for the Electoral College to
6 conclude the state, the presidential election.

7 So, that said, there was also a finance
8 committee report that was voted on unanimously
9 from the finance committee and I'll turn it over
10 to Mr. Suss to give a brief recitation on the
11 finance committee action.

12 MR. SHERWIN SUSS: Thank you, Mr. Ryan,
13 thank you. Good afternoon, commissioners. One
14 matter was brought before the finance committee.
15 It was a contract to provide temperature
16 screeners to the borough offices to maintain safe
17 operation and to meet COVID-19 protocols. The
18 contract is with a company called Penda Aiken and
19 it was obtained through the OGS contract for
20 personal and administrative services. I'm happy
21 to report that this is a reduction in the price
22 per hour for these screeners from the last
23 contract in the sum of \$2.90. The new contract
24 provides for \$32.20 per hour screeners. This is a

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2 not to exceed contract of \$300,000. The term is
3 for one year. It was just calculated using the
4 usage that we had from the prior contract since
5 the start of using these protocols and
6 calculating for a 12 month period. Is there any
7 questions regarding the contract itself?

8 SECRETARY UMANE: The community voted
9 this out unanimously and the committee recommends
10 it to the full Board of Commissioners. It's not a
11 motion because it's a community recommendation,
12 so it doesn't need a second, but this was
13 unanimously recommended by the finance committee.

14 MR. RYAN: Are there any objections?
15 Hearing none, the committee report is accepted.
16 Thank you, Mr. Suss.

17 MR. SUSS: Thank you.

18 MR. RYAN: And now a motion is in order
19 and I'll recognize the president, President
20 Taylor to, for a motion for executive session.
21 Please unmute, Commissioner Taylor. And that
22 would be for personnel.

23 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Yes, I move that we
24 retreat to executive session for personnel

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2 matters.

3 SECRETARY UMANE: Second.

4 MR. RYAN: Any objections? Hearing none,
5 we will adjourn to executive session. Thank you.

6 [OFF THE RECORD]

7 [ON THE RECORD]

8 MR. RYAN: Yes, Commissioner Umane
9 reminded me that we did not set the meeting for
10 next week. I would ask for a motion for, to set
11 the next meeting of the Commissioners of
12 Elections for November 24th at 1:30 p.m.

13 SECRETARY UMANE: So moved.

14 MR. RYAN: Is there a second?

15 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Second it.

16 MR. RYAN: Yes, any objections? Hearing
17 none, the next meeting of the Commissioners of
18 Elections will be November 24th at 1:30 and we
19 will now retire into executive session.

20 [OFF THE RECORD]

21 [ON THE RECORD]

22 MR. RYAN: [inaudible] [01:46:51 -
23 01:47:13]

24 (The meeting concluded at 3:08 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 November 17, 2020 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Certified By

Claudia Marques

Date: May 17, 2021

GENEVAWORLDWIDE, INC

256 West 38th Street - 10th Floor

New York, NY 10018