

BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
AND  
COVER SHEET REVIEW

42 Broadway - 6th floor  
Commissioners' Hearing Room  
New York, NY 10004  
December 1, 2020  
1:30 - 3:20 p.m.

December 1, 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

Rafael Savino, Deputy General Counsel

Rayvon Weaver, CRU

Michael Carmosino, CRU

Amanda Berinato, Queens Chief Clerk

Bart Haggerty, Queens Deputy Clerk

Raymond Riley, Brooklyn Chief Clerk

Daniel Ortiz, Brooklyn Deputy Chief Clerk

Greg Lehman, Manhattan Chief Clerk

Cynthia Doty, Manhattan Deputy Clerk

Brendaliz Candelaria, Bronx Deputy Chief Clerk

Steve Alfasi, Bronx Deputy Chief Clerk

Don Bosco, Staten Island Chief Clerk

Anthony Andrulli, Staten Island Deputy Chief Clerk

Tom Sattie, Ballot Coordinator

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2 (The meeting commenced at 1:41 p.m.)

3 MR. MICHAEL J. RYAN: Okay. Today is  
4 December 1st and it is a meeting, the weekly  
5 meeting of the Commissioners of Elections in the  
6 City of New York. My name is Michael Ryan. I'm  
7 the executive director. I'll start with the  
8 commissioner roll call. President Taylor?

9 PRESIDENT PATRICIA ANNE TAYLOR: Good  
10 afternoon, I am present.

11 MR. RYAN: Good afternoon. Secretary  
12 Umame?

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 good afternoon.

21 MR. RYAN: Good afternoon. Commissioner  
22 Michel? Commissioner Michel?

23 SECRETARY UMANE: It just said he left.

24 MR. RYAN: Okay. Commissioner Pepe-

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2 Souvenir?

3 COMMISSIONER PEPE-SOUVENIR: Hello, good  
4 afternoon, present.

5 MR. RYAN: Good afternoon. Commissioner  
6 Shamoun?

7 COMMISSIONER SHAMOUN: Present, thank  
8 you.

9 MR. RYAN: Thank you. Commissioner  
10 Townsend?

11 COMMISSIONER TIFFANY TOWNSEND: Good  
12 afternoon, present.

13 MR. RYAN: Good afternoon. Commissioner  
14 Zaccone?

15 COMMISSIONER JOHN WM. ZACCONE: Present,  
16 good afternoon everyone.

17 MR. RYAN: Good afternoon. Ms.  
18 Kontzamanis, do we have an idea of what happened  
19 to Commissioner Michel?

20 MS. DAWN SANDOW: She might be  
21 [unintelligible] [00:12:54].

22 MR. RYAN: Okay. I guess we'll give it a  
23 moment or so. I'll continue with the rest of the  
24 attendance. We have both counsels to the

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2 commissioners, Mr. Denkberg and Mr. Moltner are  
3 appearing. My name is Michael Ryan, I am the  
4 executive director. Seated to my left is the  
5 deputy executive director, Dawn Sandow. Elsewhere  
6 in the building are Ms. Perkins, the  
7 administrative manage, Pamela Perkins and the  
8 operations manager, Georgea Kontzamanis. At the  
9 table seated before me is deputy general counsel  
10 Rafael Savino and from the Candidate Records  
11 Unit, Rayvon Weaver and Michael Carmosino. And as  
12 the --

13 COMMISSIONER MICHAEL MICHEL: Thank you.

14 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Michel is back?

15 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: I'm back.

16 MR. RYAN: Now calling user number five,  
17 usually calling user number two. Okay. So, thank  
18 you Commissioner Michel. We have completed the  
19 roll call of commissioners and staff and that  
20 then leads us to Item 1 on the agenda, which I  
21 will turnover to Commissioner, President Taylor,  
22 the meeting of the Board of Canvassers to certify  
23 the results of the election of the November 3,  
24 2020 general election. Please proceed, President

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2 Taylor.

3 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. Ryan.

4 MR. RYAN: Thank you.

5 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Good afternoon.

6 Pursuant to the provisions of Title 2 of Article  
7 9 of the New York State Election Law, I now call  
8 the meeting of the Board of Canvassers in the  
9 City of New York to order for the purposes of  
10 certifying the recanvas of votes cast for the  
11 November 3, 2020 general and president elections  
12 in the city of New York.

13 As the roll has been called by executive  
14 director Ryan, if there are no objections, we  
15 will dispense with the normal calling of the roll  
16 requirements as required for the hearing. Are  
17 there any objections? Hearing none, I will move  
18 on to designation of the second Democratic  
19 commissioner to sign the certified statements.

20 To serve as the other Democratic member  
21 of the Canvassing Board, I hereby designate each  
22 Democratic commissioner for their respective  
23 counties and Commissioner Jose Araujo to serve  
24 with me for the citywide recaps.

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2 I would ask that Commissioner Umame,  
3 secretary to the Board, and the senior Republican  
4 present, to designate each Republican  
5 commissioner for their respective counties and  
6 another Republican commissioner to serve with him  
7 for New York County and the citywide recaps.

8 SECRETARY UMANE: I so designate the  
9 Republican commissioners and I designate  
10 Commissioner Michel from Queens to be the second  
11 for Manhattan.

12 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. We will  
13 begin the certification with Queens County. It is  
14 my understanding that the chief clerk and deputy  
15 chief clerk of Queens County and their staff have  
16 prepared and signed their returns of canvas for  
17 November 3, 2020 general and presidential  
18 election in Queens County in accordance with this  
19 Board's policies and procedures.

20 It would be normal for me to ask them to  
21 present them to the Canvassing Board for review  
22 and approval, but I don't think that's possible  
23 virtually, though they might show them to us,  
24 something, whatever. In any case, I will now ask

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2 for the record a series of questions with respect  
3 to the returns of canvas that have been presented  
4 by the Queens staff. Does the Queens chief clerk  
5 and deputy chief clerk confirm that the results  
6 presented are accurate and correct?

7 MS. AMANDA BERINATO: Yes.

8 MR. BART HAGGERTY: Yes.

9 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Are there  
10 any discrepancies to report to the Board?

11 MR. HAGGERTY: Yes. We prepared a  
12 discrepancy memo which has been submitted to the  
13 Candidates Records Unit.

14 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Very well. Is that  
15 something that will eventually be shown to us  
16 commissioners?

17 MR. HAGGERTY: I'm sorry, say that  
18 again, commissioner?

19 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: No, I said I assume  
20 that that will eventually also be shown to us  
21 commissioners as we review the report, the  
22 returns. Well, moving on, has the audit of voter  
23 and verifiable, I'm sorry, the audit of voter  
24 verifiable [unintelligible] [00:18:03 - 00:18:29]



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2 conducted in Queens County?

3 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Commissioner  
4 Araujo, so moved.

5 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Is there a second?

6 MR. RYAN: Yes, Commissioner Taylor,  
7 President Taylor?

8 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Yes?

9 MR. RYAN: Can you please go through  
10 Question C again. We temporarily lost all off the  
11 participants in the meeting and it stopped about  
12 halfway through your reading of Question C. So if  
13 you could just pick up from there.

14 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Absolutely.

15 MR. RYAN: That would be helpful, thank  
16 you.

17 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Question C, has the  
18 audit of voter verifiable audit records for both  
19 the poll site and central count scanners, as  
20 required by election, by Article 9 of the New  
21 York State Election Law been successfully  
22 completed for Queens County?

23 Ms. BERINATO: Yes.

24 MR. HAGGERTY: Yes.

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2 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Based on  
3 your report, I'd entertain a motion that the  
4 Board of Canvassers certify the returns of canvas  
5 for the November 3, 2020 general and presidential  
6 election conducted in Queens County.

7 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Commissioner  
8 Araujo, so moved.

9 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Is there a second?

10 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: Second,  
11 Commissioner Michel.

12 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. All in  
13 favor.

14 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Aye.

15 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Is there any  
16 opposition? Abstentions? Hearing none, the  
17 returns of canvas prepared and submitted by the  
18 Queens staff of the Board of Elections are  
19 adopted unanimously. Thank you, Ms. Berinato and  
20 Mr. -- what?

21 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Hi, this is  
22 Commissioner Araujo. On behalf of myself and  
23 Commissioner Michel, we'd like to thank the staff  
24 for the hard work that they did during this time,

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2 difficult time. You really showed up and did the  
3 best, and you did a great thing representing  
4 Queens and I appreciate it. Thank you.

5 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: And we all thank you.  
6 Moving on, we now will wait for the -- oh, Mr.  
7 Haggerty. Pardon me, I had forgotten your name.  
8 We will wait for the chief and deputy for Queens  
9 County to be --

10 MS. KONTZAMANIS: They're both in,  
11 president. President Taylor, they're both here.

12 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: I can't see them on  
13 my machine it's kind of small, sorry. Okay. We  
14 now move on to Kings County. It is my  
15 understanding that the Brooklyn staff have  
16 prepared and signed the returns of canvas for the  
17 November 3, 2020 general and presidential  
18 election in Kings County in accordance with this  
19 Board's policies and procedures. I would ask them  
20 that they present to the Canvassing Board for  
21 review and approval. I'm assuming that they being  
22 our Candidate Records Unit?

23 MR. RAYMOND RILEY: That's correct.

24 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. I will now

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2 ask for the record a series of questions with  
3 respect to the returns of canvas that have been  
4 presented by the Brooklyn staff. Question A, does  
5 the Brooklyn staff confirm that the results  
6 presented are accurate and correct?

7 MR. RILEY: Yes.

8 MR. DANIEL ORTIZ: Yes.

9 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Question  
10 B, are there any discrepancies to report to the  
11 Board?

12 MR. RILEY: No.

13 MR. ORTIZ: No.

14 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Has the  
15 audit of voter verifiable audit records for both  
16 the poll site and central count scanners, as  
17 required by Article 9 of the New York State  
18 Election Law been successfully completed?

19 MR. RILEY: Yes.

20 MR. ORTIZ: Yes.

21 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Based on your report,  
22 I would entertain a motion that the Board of  
23 Canvassers certify the returns of canvas for the  
24 November 3, 2020 general and presidential

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2 conducted in Kings County.

3 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: So moved.

4 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Second.

5 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. All in  
6 favor?

7 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Aye.

8 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are there any  
9 objections? Abstentions? Hearing none, the  
10 returns of canvass prepared and submitted by the  
11 Brooklyn staff of the Board of Elections are  
12 adopted unanimously. Thank you, gentlemen.

13 MR. RILEY: Thank you, commissioner.

14 MR. ORTIZ: Thank you, commissioners.

15 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: I would like to  
16 take a minute to thank the staff, leadership,  
17 poll workers, everybody that worked hard under  
18 unusual and extraordinary circumstances to pull  
19 off what I view as a successful election event.  
20 And our gratitude is great. Thank you very much.

21 COMMISSIONER PEPE-SOUVENIR: I second  
22 that as well.

23 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Wonderful. Thank you.

24 MR. RILEY: Thank you, commissioners.

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2 MR. ORTIZ: Thank you so much.

3 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Moving on to New York  
4 County, are the chief clerk and deputy chief  
5 clerk in the room?

6 MR. RYAN: Yes.

7 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Both? Yes.

8 MR. RYAN: Yes, Ms. Doty is present and  
9 Mr. Lehman is present.

10 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. It is my  
11 understanding that the chief clerk and deputy  
12 chief clerk of New York County and their staff  
13 have prepared and signed the returns of canvas  
14 for the November 3, 2020 general and presidential  
15 election in New York County in accordance with  
16 this Board's policies and procedures. I would ask  
17 that that they present them to the Canvassing  
18 Board for review and approval and I assume they  
19 are with the Candidates Record Unit. Yes?

20 MR. RYAN: Certified results.

21 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: I will now ask for  
22 the record a series of questions with respect to  
23 the returns of canvas that have been presented by  
24 the Manhattan staff. Does the Manhattan --

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2 question A, does the Manhattan chief clerk and  
3 deputy chief clerk confirm that the results  
4 presented are accurate and correct?

5 MR. GREG LEHMAN: We do.

6 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are there any  
7 discrepancies to report to the Board?

8 MR. LEHMAN: No, there are not, ma'am.

9 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Has the  
10 audit of voter verifiable audit records for both  
11 the poll site and central count scanners, as  
12 required by Article 9 of the New York State  
13 Election Law been successfully completed?

14 MR. LEHMAN: Yes, they have.

15 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Based on  
16 that report, I would entertain a motion that the  
17 Board of Canvassers certify the returns of canvas  
18 for the November 3, 2020 general and presidential  
19 conducted in New York County.

20 SECRETARY UMANE: So moved.

21 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Second.

22 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: All in favor?

23 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: I'm sorry, was there  
24 an issue? No. It was moved by Commissioner Umane,

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2 oh, no --

3 MR. RYAN: Yes, it was moved by  
4 Commissioner Umane, seconded by Commissioner  
5 Townsend.

6 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you.

7 MR. RYAN: Yes.

8 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: All in favor?

9 SECRETARY UMANE: Aye.

10 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Aye.

11 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are there any  
12 opposed? Abstentions? The returns of canvass  
13 prepared and submitted by the Manhattan staff of  
14 the Board of Elections are adopted unanimously.  
15 Thank you.

16 SECRETARY UMANE: I'd just like to take  
17 this minute to thank the New York County  
18 Manhattan staff for their hard work, especially  
19 in an unfortunate situation where machinery was  
20 broke down and they had to wait days to get  
21 repairs and parts. And like the other five  
22 boroughs, has done a magnificent job under  
23 horrendous circumstances in pulling this election  
24 off. And please thank the staff and senior



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2 management there for all of your hard work in  
3 seeing this through.

4 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: And I'd just  
5 like to second Commissioner Umane's sentiments.  
6 Just thank you again to the staff. It's been an  
7 extraordinarily difficult year and you guys have  
8 risen to the occasion. It's been a lot of hours,  
9 you guys have put in an incredible amount of work  
10 in and we thank you.

11 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. We next  
12 move to Bronx County. The deputies for Bronx  
13 County are in the room? Yes.

14 MS. KONTZAMANIS: Yes, they're there.

15 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Okay. It's my  
16 understanding that the deputy chief clerks of  
17 Bronx County and their staff have prepared and  
18 signed the returns of canvas for the November 3,  
19 2020 general and presidential election in Bronx  
20 County in accordance with this Board's policies  
21 and procedures. I would ask that that they  
22 present them to the Canvassing Board for review  
23 and approval.

24 MS. BRENDA LIZ CANDELARIA: We have.

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2 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are they with the  
3 Candidates Records Unit?

4 MR. RYAN: Yes.

5 MR. STEVE ALFASI: Yes, thank you.

6 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Okay. I will now ask  
7 for the record, a series of questions with  
8 respect to the returns of canvas that have been  
9 presented by the Bronx staff. Question A, does  
10 the Bronx staff confirm that the results  
11 presented are accurate and correct?

12 MS. CANDELARIA: Yes.

13 MR. ALFASI: Yes, we do.

14 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are there any  
15 discrepancies to report to the Board?

16 MS. CANDELARIA: No.

17 MR. ALFASI: No, there are not.

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

23 MS. CANDELARIA: Yes, they have.

24 MR. ALFASI: Yes it has.

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2 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Based on  
3 your report, I would entertain a motion that the  
4 Board of Canvassers certify the returns of canvas  
5 for the November 3, 2020 general and presidential  
6 conducted in Bronx County.

7 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: So moved.

8 COMMISSIONER SHAMOUN: Second.

9 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. All in  
10 favor?

11 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Aye.

12 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are there any  
13 opposed? Any abstentions? The returns of canvass  
14 prepared and submitted by the Bronx staff of the  
15 Board of Elections are adopted unanimously. Thank  
16 you.

17 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Thank you, Bren --

18 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Thank you very  
19 much.

20 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Thank you. I just  
21 want to take a minute, Commissioner Camilo, to  
22 thank our staff and our deputies who have shown  
23 remarkable leadership during this time. You know  
24 how much we value you and thank you to all our

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2 staff and poll workers.

3 MS. CANDELARIA: Thank you.

4 MR. ALFASI: Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: I share in  
6 Commissioner Camilo's sentiments and I really  
7 commend our staff for how well they worked  
8 together as a bipartisan team. And it's something  
9 to be said that the parties can work together, so  
10 I thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Yes, thank you.

12 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Okay. Thank you.

13 Moving on to Richmond County, are the chief and  
14 deputy chief in the room?

15 MR. RYAN: Yes.

16 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Yes? Thank you. It  
17 is my understanding that the chief clerk and  
18 deputy chief clerk of Richmond County and their  
19 staff have prepared and signed the returns of  
20 canvas for the November 3, 2020 general and  
21 presidential election in Richmond County in  
22 accordance with this Board's policies and  
23 procedures. I would ask that that they present  
24 them to the Canvassing Board for review and

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2 approval. Are they with the Candidates Records  
3 Unit?

4 MR. DON BOSCO: They are.

5 MR. ANTHONY ANDRULLI: Yes.

6 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: I will now ask for  
7 the record, a series of questions with respect to  
8 the returns of canvas that have been presented by  
9 the Richmond staff. Question A, do the Richmond  
10 chief clerk and deputy chief clerk confirm that  
11 the results presented are accurate and correct?

12 MR. BOSCO: Yes, they are.

13 MR. ANDRULLI: Yes.

14 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are there any  
15 discrepancies to report to the Board?

16 MR. BOSCO: None.

17 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. Has the  
18 audit of voter verifiable audit records for both  
19 the poll site and central count scanners, as  
20 required by Article 9 of the New York State  
21 Election Law been successfully completed?

22 MR. BOSCO: Yes.

23 MR. ANDRULLI: Yes, they have.

24 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Based on that report,

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2 I would entertain a motion that the Board of  
3 Canvassers certify the returns of canvas for the  
4 November 3, 2020 general and presidential as  
5 conducted in Bronx County.

6 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Madam President,  
7 I so move.

8 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Commissioner  
9 Araujo, I second.

10 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. All in  
11 favor?

12 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Aye.

14 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Any opposition? Any  
15 abstentions? The returns of canvass prepared and  
16 submitted by the Richmond County staff of the  
17 Board of Elections are adopted unanimously.

18 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Madam President,  
19 if I may, before we move on, I just want to  
20 extend my thanks for the extraordinary job done  
21 by our chief deputy and the staff, all the staff,  
22 at the Richmond County office as well as the poll  
23 workers who put in extraordinary effort and  
24 extraordinary hours in difficult times. They are

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2 a credit to the Board of Elections and I take  
3 great pleasure in thanking them for their hard  
4 work and appreciate all their efforts.

5 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you,  
6 Commissioner Zaccone and I certainly second your  
7 sentiments as the Democratic commissioner for  
8 Richmond County.

9 MR. BOSCO: Thank you, commissioners.

10 MR. ANDRULLI: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Thank you.

12 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: We now move on to the  
13 recap statement for Congressional Districts  
14 containing parts of more than one county. Is  
15 there a motion to approve and adopt the recap  
16 statement and return of canvas for the general  
17 and presidential election conducted on November  
18 3, 2020, for those Congressional Districts, which  
19 cross county lines within the City of New York?

20 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Commissioner  
21 Araujo, so moved.

22 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Commissioner  
23 Zaccone, I'll second.

24 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. All in

1 December 1, 2020

2 favor?

3 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Aye.

4 COMMISSIONER SHAMOUN: Aye.

5 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Aye.

6 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Any opposed? Are  
7 there any abstentions? Hearing none, the motion  
8 is adopted and the recap statements and returns  
9 of canvas for the general and presidential  
10 election conducted on November 3, 2020 for those  
11 Congressional Districts which cross county lines  
12 within the City of New York are approved. I would  
13 again like to thank my fellow commissioners, all  
14 of the headquarters staff, all staff in all  
15 boroughs, for the extraordinary job that everyone  
16 has done in this most demanding 2020 year.

17 Is there a motion to authorize the use  
18 of the commissioners electronic signature stamps  
19 as appropriate on each statement and return of  
20 canvas?

21 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Commissioner  
22 Araujo, so moved.

23 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Second.

24 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. All in



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2 favor?

3 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Aye.

4 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Aye.

5 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: Aye.

6 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Is there any  
7 opposition? Abstentions? Hearing none, the motion  
8 is adopted. There being no further business to  
9 come before the Board of Canvassers in the City  
10 of New York at this time, I would now entertain a  
11 motion to adjourn this meeting of the Board of  
12 Canvassers.

13 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: So moved.

14 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Second.

15 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you. All in  
16 favor?

17 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Aye.

20 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Is there any  
21 opposition? Abstentions? Hearing none, the motion  
22 is adopted. The Board of Canvassers stands  
23 adjourned, and I return the gavel to Executive  
24 Director Ryan to continue the weekly meeting of

1 December 1, 2020

2 the Board of Elections.

3 MR. RYAN: Thank you, President Taylor.  
4 We have two more items on the agenda, one that's  
5 on the printed agenda, one that's an add-on. We  
6 need to immediately following the meeting today,  
7 we need an appointment of the commissioners cover  
8 sheet review committee, and that would be of  
9 course a Democrat and a Republican for the 24th  
10 City Council Special Election to be conducted on  
11 February 22, 2021.

12 MR. SAVINO: Commissioner Taylor  
13 actually called me and arranged for  
14 commissioners, she assigned commissioners to  
15 handle this already.

16 MR. RYAN: Okay. So can we just --

17 MR. SAVINO: Commissioner Araujo and  
18 Commissioner Umame.

19 MR. RYAN: Okay. So, Commissioner Araujo  
20 and Commissioner Umame will participate in the  
21 hearings.

22 SECRETARY UMANE: But we made a little  
23 switch. Commissioner Michel is going to  
24 substitute for me because it's a Queens matter,

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2 and he felt it important that he be involved.

3 MR. RYAN: Okay. So then it'll be  
4 Commissioner Araujo and Commissioner Michel.

5 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you.

6 MR. RYAN: Thank you. And then we will  
7 need an executive session today and I suppose it  
8 would be best to announce the meeting date for  
9 the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
10 before we make the motion to go into executive  
11 session.

12 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Was there a third  
13 item that you had on the agenda?

14 MR. RYAN: No, we had the Item 1 and  
15 Item 3 and Item 3 will be executive session.

16 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Ah, okay.

17 MS. DAWN SANDOW: For personnel.

18 MR. RYAN: For personnel.

19 SECRETARY UMANE: Alright. I move that  
20 our next meeting be at 1:30 on next Tuesday,  
21 December 8, 2020.

22 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Second.

23 MR. RYAN: Are there any objections?

24 Hearing none, the motion carries and now a motion

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2 is in order to adjourn into executive session.

3 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: So moved.

4 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: For personnel  
5 matters?

6 MR. RYAN: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: I second.

8 MR. RYAN: Are there any objections?

9 Hearing none, the meeting is adjourned to  
10 executive session.

11 [OFF THE RECORD]

12 [ON THE RECORD]

13 MR. RYAN: Yes, the personnel matter  
14 from executive session will be reported, will be  
15 reported out in the proper channels. The one  
16 clarification I would like to make is that the  
17 meeting of the commissioners is scheduled for  
18 December 8th to immediate following the hearings  
19 for the special election in Queens in February.  
20 So it'll be the hearings first next week and then  
21 the regular weekly meeting of the commissioners.  
22 That concludes the meeting for December 1st.  
23 Thank you.

24 [OFF THE RECORD]

1 December 1, 2020

2 [ON THE RECORD]

3 MR. SAVINO: Hello commissioners. We're  
4 here for a cover sheet committee review of two  
5 cures and a printer's error letter. It's Tuesday,  
6 November 1, and I don't know if you want to go  
7 first with the names or I can do --

8 MR. TOM SATTIE: It's entirely up to  
9 you.

10 MR. SAVINO: Okay.

11 MR. SATTIE: Actually, it's up to you.  
12 Would you rather hear my, would you rather hear  
13 my presentation first about the party names or  
14 deal with the cures and printer's error letter?

15 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Well, we could  
16 knock out Tommy first so that way you could get  
17 out and get those letters out.

18 MR. SATTIE: Yes, sir. Good afternoon,  
19 commissioners. There were, for the 24th Council  
20 special election on February 2nd, there were  
21 three separate petition volumes filed all with  
22 the, using the independent body name of Community  
23 First. The first candidate who filed a petition  
24 and a cover sheet, which is required by A4 of

1 December 1, 2020

2 your independent nominating rules, to be  
3 considered as, to hold your place in line, for  
4 lack of better words, was Michael Earl Brown. He  
5 filed his petition and cover sheet on November  
6 17th at 9:37 a.m. The second candidate who filed  
7 a petition and cover sheet using that Community  
8 First name was Neeta Jain. That petition and  
9 cover was filed at 5:45 p.m. on November 18th and  
10 the third was filed by Soma Syed, which was filed  
11 on November 18th at 11:34 p.m.

12 So pursuant to Election Law Section 6-  
13 138, and the independent nominating rules of the  
14 Board, A4 specifically, the staff is recommending  
15 that we send party name change letters to  
16 candidates Neeta Jain and Soma Syed to change  
17 their name and they would have seven days to do  
18 so after today, this would be sent express mail  
19 today. They would have seven days to change it.  
20 If they didn't, they would, the Board would act  
21 to change that name.

22 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: This is  
23 Commissioner Araujo. Just so the record's clear,  
24 the cover sheet committee is being attended by

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2 Commissioner Michel and myself as the official  
3 cover sheet committee, and Commissioner Rodney  
4 Pepe-Souvenir is observing. I, the one question I  
5 have Tommy, I looked at it very quickly, just so  
6 the record is clear, all three parties have the  
7 same name, spelled the same way, there's no  
8 different spelling of either the first part or  
9 the second part or a combination of community and  
10 the number one as opposed to community and first,  
11 correct?

12 MR. SATTIE: Sir, that's correct. They  
13 are all Community First spelled in the  
14 traditional form.

15 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Right. Now, so the  
16 record is clear as well. Even if they were  
17 spelled differently, it would still require a  
18 change or an opportunity for the last two to  
19 change their names to avoid confusion of the  
20 voter on election day. So I would agree with your  
21 recommendation and as that Commissioner Michel  
22 join in that request.

23 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: And I also agree  
24 with the whole -- with the thing that a letter

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2 should go out [unintelligible] [01:43:33] today,  
3 it's going to be cutting it close, so you know,  
4 the one thing we have found out by not finding it  
5 possible is that they start preparing their  
6 literature and everything like that a few times  
7 and it's fast. So I would like to get it out as  
8 soon as possible. So I agree with the changes  
9 with going out.

10 MR. SATTIE: Commissioners, those  
11 letters will go out express mail today.

12 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Thank you.

13 MR. SATTIE: Thank you.

14 MR. SAVINO: Alright, commissioners,  
15 I'll move on to the attempted cures. As you can  
16 see probably from the documents, James F. Gennaro  
17 submitted six petitions, all of them have 83-07  
18 Chevy Chase Street. However, one of them does not  
19 have the dash between 83 and 07. That being said,  
20 there is a printer's error letter, which should  
21 have been scanned and sent to you. It's your call  
22 on whether or not that dash missing and also in  
23 light of the printer's error letter, if this is a  
24 defect.



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2 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: This is  
3 Commissioner Araujo. Under normal circumstances,  
4 right, absent the printer's letter, I wouldn't  
5 have determined that to be an error, right, the  
6 missing dash, because I think there was no intent  
7 to mislead. However, because of the additional  
8 printer's letter affidavit is there and in light  
9 of the multiple volumes of the petition, just to  
10 be consistent, and if we cure it right, then  
11 there's no harm, no foul. I would assume, I would  
12 deem that we accept the letter. I read the  
13 letter, it was created by the person who created  
14 the petition and it seemed to meet the  
15 requirements to me that it cures whatever  
16 possible defect in missing the dash, how de  
17 minimus that was.

18 MR. SAVINO: Okay, great.

19 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: And I also -- this  
20 is Commissioner Michel. I also agree the dash,  
21 the post office still delivers mail if it's 8527,  
22 85-27 so I agree and I accept the printer's  
23 letter.

24 MR. SAVINO: Okay. Alright. The next two

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2 things I need to present to you are actually the  
3 same candidate, Michael Earl Brown. He filed an  
4 amended cure attempt, but it doesn't say amended  
5 on the top like it's supposed to. It lists one  
6 petition, the number but then doesn't list the  
7 petition volume. And it also doesn't have the  
8 required authorization from the person to file  
9 the cure. So staff --

10 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Under this  
11 circumstances, right, he's also the candidate,  
12 right?

13 MR. SAVINO: Uh, yeah, yeah. So you  
14 wouldn't find that one as a --

15 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Right. I think the  
16 more erroneous in his attempt is the missing the  
17 petition ID numbers and doesn't identify that  
18 it's an amended cover sheet.

19 MR. SAVINO: Right.

20 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Because that seems  
21 to be an important issue, right. Because if you  
22 don't say amended, you would only be looking for  
23 one cover sheet when there might be multiple  
24 ones, so I would deem that it's an invalid cure

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2 under those two issues, right. The missing  
3 authorization language may end up being moot at  
4 this point in light of the other defects with the  
5 other absences in the cover sheet.

6 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: And this is  
7 Commissioner Michel. I also, it's not, it's  
8 uncurable because of the main thing in my opinion  
9 is that it doesn't state amended, so that amended  
10 sheet, we don't know if it is amended, it's not  
11 amended, so I would say it's not a valid cure.

12 MR. SAVINO: Okay. We'll stamp it as  
13 such. If you'd like I can put your initials and  
14 my initials next to it.

15 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: Yes.

17 MR. SAVINO: Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: And that's it,  
19 right?

20 MR. SAVINO: What's that? No, there's  
21 one more from Mr. Brown and then that's it.

22 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Okay. I'm sorry.

23 MR. SAVINO: No worries. Yeah, he, he's  
24 filing this attempted cure because the first one,

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2 again didn't have the number of volumes and  
3 petition -- well, it had one, but it didn't have  
4 any identification numbers. But in his new  
5 petition, I mean his new cover sheet, he does  
6 list the council district properly, the address,  
7 his name, and he does have one volume petition  
8 and also the petition number. He also has the  
9 certification language on this one in terms of  
10 being authorized to file this amended cover  
11 sheet. So the staff's recommendation was that it  
12 was a valid cure.

13 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: This is just a pro  
14 forma thing, right? Because he filed something  
15 else that basically making it invalid, right?

16 MR. SAVINO: Uh --

17 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: But I would agree  
18 with that.

19 MR. SAVINO: Yeah, he was running under  
20 two separate names.

21 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Oh.

22 MR. SAVINO: He was running under United  
23 Citizens, and he was I guess trying to get a  
24 second line with Community First.

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2 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Right. Understood.  
3 I didn't catch that. Alright. That's a valid  
4 cure.

5 MR. SAVINO: Alright, commissioners.  
6 That is all we have to present for today.

7 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Alright. I would  
8 make a motion -- one thing, thank you for your  
9 work on this, both you and Tommy and I would move  
10 that we would adjourn this cover sheet committee.

11 MR. SAVINO: Alright.

12 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Is there a second?

13 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: Second,  
14 Commissioner Michel.

15 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Alright. We're  
16 done.

17 MR. SAVINO: Alright. Thank you,  
18 commissioners.

19 MR. SATTIE: Thank you, commissioners.

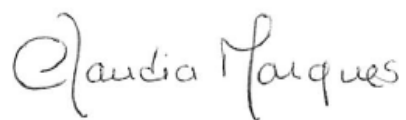
20 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: Thank you.

21 (The meeting concluded at 3:20 p.m.)  
22  
23  
24

CERTIFICATE OF ACCURACY

I, Claudia Marques, certify that the foregoing transcript of the Board of Elections in The City of New York on December 1, 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: May 28, 2021

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