

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

42 Broadway - 6th floor
Commissioners' Hearing Room
New York, NY 10004
December 15, 2020
1:30 - 3:07 p.m.

December 15, 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

Matt Graves, CRU

Rayvon Weaver, CRU

Sherwin Suss, Chief Contracting Officer

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

3 MS. DAWN SANDOW: Good afternoon. I'd
4 like to open the meeting for Tuesday, December
5 15, 2020. The roll call of commissioners,
6 Patricia Anne Taylor?

7 PRESIDENT PATRICIA ANNE TAYLOR: Yes,
8 present.

9 MS. SANDOW: Frederic Umane?

10 MR. RAFAEL SAVINO: There he is.

11 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Umane? Can you
12 unmute commissioner?

13 SECRETARY FREDERIC UMANE: Can you hear
14 me?

15 MR. SAVINO: Hey.

16 MS. SANDOW: Now, we can. Commissioner
17 Araujo?

18 COMMISSIONER JOSE ARAUJO: Present.

19 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Camilo?

20 COMMISSIONER MIGUELINA CAMILO: Present.

21 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Marmorato?

22 COMMISSIONER GINO MARMORATO: Present,
23 good afternoon.

24 MS. SANDOW: Good afternoon.

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2 Commissioner Michel?

3 COMMISSIONER MICHAEL MICHEL: Present.

4 MR. SAVINO: I see his name.

5 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Michel? I
6 think you need to unmute. I'm going to skip and
7 come back. Commissioner Pepe-Souvenir?

8 COMMISSIONER PEPE-SOUVENIR: Good
9 afternoon, present.

10 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Shamoun?

11 COMMISSIONER SHAMOUN: Present, thank
12 you.

13 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Townsend?

14 COMMISSIONER TIFFANY TOWNSEND: Good
15 afternoon, present.

16 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Zacccone?

17 COMMISSIONER JOHN WM. ZACCONE: Present,
18 good afternoon everyone.

19 MS. SANDOW: And I am Dawn Sandow,
20 deputy executive director. In another place in
21 the building, we have Georgea Kontzamanis,
22 operations manager, Pam Perkins, administrative
23 manager, Michael Ryan, executive director. We
24 are, also have legal, Rafael Savino, CRU Matt

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2 Graves, Ravon Weaver. We also have our two
3 attorneys, Mr. Moltner and Denkberg.

4 I'd like to proceed with the 24th
5 Council District matters for the February 2, 2021
6 special election in Queens County. I'm going to
7 turn it over to legal.

8 MR. SAVINO: Good afternoon,
9 commissioners. We actually have an amended cover
10 sheet that appears to be valid that we wanted to
11 make that recommendation to either a committee or
12 the full board. I did e-mail all the paperwork.

13 MS. SANDOW: Related to Brown?

14 MR. SAVINO: Yeah. it's Michael Earl
15 Brown, running under the United Citizens line. If
16 you may recall, he was removed on the Community
17 First line. But on the amended cover sheet, he
18 does, it does appear valid. That's our
19 recommendation.

20 MS. SANDOW: Any questions? Moving
21 forward.

22 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Madam President,
23 if you need a volunteer for the committee, I'll
24 do so, but if the full board wants to vote, I'm

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2 ready to vote as well.

3 MR. SAVINO: That would probably make
4 more sense to handle it now.

5 MS. SANDOW: I think the full board,
6 yeah. All in favor?

7 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: I didn't quite hear.

8 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: I said if the
9 board, if the president needs a volunteer for the
10 cover sheet, I will do so, or if the board of
11 commissioners want to vote in total, I'm ready to
12 do so as well.

13 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Mr. Savino, are you
14 recommending that we should simply vote on it
15 now?

16 MR. SAVINO: We have done it that way --

17 MS. SANDOW: Yes.

18 MR. SAVINO: -- before when it's been
19 presented at the public meeting, or this public
20 meeting.

21 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: So then a motion
22 would be in order.

23 MR. SAVINO: Yes, please.

24 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: And that being

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2 said, I have received the documentation and
3 reviewed that documentation submitted and I move
4 that we adopt the recommendation of counsel.

5 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Second.

6 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr.
7 Marmorato.

8 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Are there any
9 objections? Hearing none, the motion carries.

10 MR. SAVINO: Alright, with your
11 permission, I will sign it and initial it, unless
12 you want me to send it to the -- I'll take care
13 of it if you authorize me to do so.

14 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: That would be good
15 and you have our electronic signatures, yes?

16 MR. SAVINO: I believe we do.

17 MS. SANDOW: Yes, yes, we do. Yes.

18 Rafael --

19 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Very well.

20 MR. SAVINO: Oh, and there's also a
21 matter from CRU about a name change. One of the
22 parties did submit something. So we just wanted
23 to get --

24 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: And what's the

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2 recommendation?

3 MR. SAVINO: CRU will present that I
4 believe.

5 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Okay, then.

6 MR. SAVINO: Okay.

7 MR. MATT GRAVES: Commissioners, good
8 afternoon. Candidate Soma Syed was sent a letter
9 to change her party name because the petition
10 that she filed was under the, using the
11 independent body name Community First, which was
12 already taken by a previous filer. A letter was
13 sent to the candidate, giving her seven days to
14 make a party name change. A certificate was
15 timely filed requesting that her party name
16 change be made to Soma for Queens, which would be
17 her first name for Queens. That does not present
18 any confusion with any other independent body on
19 the ballot for the February 2nd election and also
20 is less than 15 characters. So the staff would
21 recommend that the certificate be approved and of
22 course this could be done by the full board as
23 well and not need a committee.

24 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: This is

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2 Commissioner Araujo. I move that we adopt the
3 recommendation --

4 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: Second.

5 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: -- as the name
6 change as amended.

7 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: We have a motion and
8 a second. Are there any objections? Hearing none,
9 the motion carries.

10 MR. GRAVES: Commissioners, thank you.

11 MS. SANDOW: I would just like to add
12 one thing to the agenda and that's Sherwin Suss
13 from Finance to go over the Indigov and Carahsoft
14 contracts.

15 PRESIDENT TAYLOR: Is Mr. Suss here?

16 MS. SANDOW: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Excuse me, folks.
18 I'm hearing a lot of feedback and I can't hear
19 what's being said in the meeting.

20 MR. SHERWIN SUSS: Good afternoon,
21 commissioners. Two matters were presented, two
22 items were presented to the finance committee
23 this afternoon. The first one is a contract for a
24 company called Indigov, which is actually an arm

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2 of Zendesk Platform and this is a contract to
3 provide for the Board of Elections a customer
4 service software application for tracking,
5 auditing, reporting, complaints received by the
6 Board and their resolution. Indigov is a
7 government provider of the Zendesk System. They
8 have worked with the U.S. Congress, the
9 Department of the Navy, and several other
10 governmental agencies and they're going to
11 customize the system for the Board of Elections.
12 And they're actually doing some work now.

13 This is important for us because it's
14 part of a resolution of a lawsuit Common Cause v.
15 the Board of Elections pending in the United
16 States District Court for the Eastern District
17 and part of the remedial action plan, which was
18 agreed to, drafted by the Board and agreed to by
19 the plaintiffs, Department of Justice, the New
20 York State Attorney General's Office, as well as
21 the Court. Implementation of this plan with the
22 Zendesk platform was part of the resolution.

23 This is a one year contract, not to
24 exceed \$298,500 and includes full implementation,

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2 development of software, training and support for
3 one year.

4 MS. SANDOW: I would just like to note
5 that we have a tracking system in place. This
6 will be automating everything.

7 SECRETARY UMANE: Okay. The committee
8 recommends it to the Board, so it doesn't need a
9 motion or second. And this company is obviously
10 related to the one that's doing the main part of
11 the job, and it made sense to -- they're doing a
12 good job and to keep it all consist. And they
13 were, we think, reasonably priced.

14 MR. SUSS: Okay. If there aren't any
15 questions, I'll proceed to the --

16 SECRETARY UMANE: So we should call for
17 a vote.

18 MR. SUSS: Well, the second matter --

19 MS. SANDOW: Wait. Let him --

20 MR. SUSS: Oh.

21 SECRETARY UMANE: [unintelligible]

22 [00:28:21] a vote.

23 MS. SANDOW: All in favor?

24 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Aye.

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2 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: Aye.

3 MS. SANDOW: Any abstentions?

4 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: I will abstain,
5 Commissioner John Zaccone.

6 MS. SANDOW: Okay.

7 MR. SUSS: Okay. The second matter we
8 presented was for a contract for a company called
9 Carahsoft. Carahsoft is actually now providing
10 the supported hosting of the BOE website. This
11 contract was derived from a competitive sealed
12 bid on the New York State OCG Information
13 Technology contract. The contract is for a two
14 year term not to exceed \$156,991 and as a point,
15 should be noted that this contract is actually
16 represents a reduction of \$9,000 from the
17 previous two year contract that was with the same
18 company.

19 SECRETARY UMANE: The committee also
20 voted to recommend this to the Board so that a
21 formal motion and second is not required. If
22 there's no questions, I would call the question
23 and ask for a vote.

24 MS. SANDOW: All in favor?

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2 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: Aye.

3 COMMISSIONER CAMILO: Aye.

4 MS. SANDOW: Any abstentions? The motion
5 passes.

6 MR. SUSS: Thank you, commissioners.

7 MS. SANDOW: The next meeting will be
8 December 22nd, Tuesday, 1:30. Somebody want to
9 call a close to the meeting?

10 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: If I may, I would
11 move for an executive session to discuss
12 litigation matters.

13 MS. SANDOW: Okay.

14 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Second.

15 MS. SANDOW: All in favor?

16 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Aye.

17 MS. SANDOW: We'll move to executive
18 session.

19 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER SHAMOUN: Aye.

21 MS. SANDOW: Thank you.

22 [OFF THE RECORD]

23 [ON THE RECORD]

24 MR. RYAN: Yes, there is nothing to

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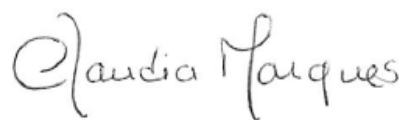
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report from executive session. The next meeting
of the Commissioners of Elections is December 22,
2020 at 1:30 p.m. thank you.

(The meeting concluded at 3:07 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 December 15, 2020 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Certified By



Date: May 28, 2021

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