

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

42 Broadway - 6th floor
Commissioners' Hearing Room

New York, NY 10004

January 26, 2021

1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

January 26, 2021

PRESENT:

President Frederic Umane
Secretary Miguelina Camilo
Commissioner Jose Araujo
Commissioner Michael Michel
Commissioner Gino Marmorato
Commissioner Rodney Pepe-Souvenir
Commissioner Simon Shamoun
Commissioner Patricia Ann Taylor
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

1 January 26, 2021

2 (The meeting commenced at 1:47 p.m.)

3 MR. MICHAEL J. RYAN: Yes, we are live.
4 Today is Tuesday, January 26, 2021. It is the
5 weekly meeting of the Commissioners of Elections
6 in the City of New York. I will start with the
7 commissioner's roll call and remind everyone to
8 mute all mics please, unless you're speaking.
9 Yes, President Umane? President Umane?

10 PRESIDENT FREDERIC UMANE: Yes.

11 MR. RYAN: Okay, very good. Secretary
12 Camilo is here.

13 SECRETARY MIGUELINA CAMILO: Present.

14 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Araujo?

15 COMMISSIONER JOSE ARAUJO: Present.

16 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Marmorato is
17 here.

18 COMMISSIONER GINO MARMORATO: Present.

19 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Michel?

20 COMMISSIONER MICHAEL MICHEL: Present.

21 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Pepe-Souvenir?

22 COMMISSIONER PEPE-SOUVENIR: Present,
23 good afternoon.

24 MR. RYAN: Good afternoon. And she's,

1 January 26, 2021

2 Commissioner Souvenir is here as well.

3 Commissioner Shamoun?

4 COMMISSIONER SIMON SHAMOUN: Present,
5 thank you.

6 MR. RYAN: Thank you. Commissioner
7 Taylor?

8 COMMISSIONER PATRICIA ANNE TAYLOR: Good
9 afternoon, I am here.

10 MR. RYAN: Good afternoon. Commissioner
11 Townsend?

12 COMMISSIONER TIFFANY TOWNSEND: Good
13 afternoon, present.

14 MR. RYAN: Good afternoon. And
15 Commissioner Zaccone?

16 COMMISSIONER JOHN WM. ZACCONE: Present,
17 Good afternoon.

18 MR. RYAN: Good afternoon. And I am
19 Michael Ryan, I'm the executive director. The
20 deputy executive director, Ms. Sandow is also
21 present here in the commissioners' hearing room.
22 And Georgea Kontazmanis is present elsewhere in
23 the building. We have also, we're joined via
24 video link from Mr. Kenneth Moltner and Steven

1 January 26, 2021

2 Denkberg. And Deputy General Counsel Savino is
3 seated here at the counsel's table.

4 So, item one on the agenda, we have
5 been, the Board has been, amongst others, invited
6 to testify at a New York State Senate Standing
7 Committee Hearing on elections. It is going to be
8 both a debriefing on the 2020 elections and
9 testimony, they're taking testimony with respect
10 to new legislative proposals.

11 We received this invitation, formal
12 invitation, although it had been informally
13 advised to the commissioners, we received it last
14 week after the Tuesday meeting and that hearing
15 is to take place on January 29th, Friday, 2021.
16 We will be preparing testimony upon approval of
17 the commissioners, as well as conferring with
18 senate staff to get more specifics with respect
19 to the hearing itself. So, at this time, I would
20 entertain a moment, A, approving testimony and B,
21 approving the preparation of testimony and B,
22 attendance at the hearing itself.

23 PRESIDENT UMANE: So moved. Is there a
24 second?

1 January 26, 2021

2 SECRETARY CAMILO: I would second.

3 MR. RYAN: Are there any objections?

4 Hearing none, the motion carries. Item two, I
5 will turn over to Rafael Savino, deputy general
6 counsel.

7 MR. RAFAEL SAVINO: Good afternoon,
8 commissioners. I'd like to discuss the notice to
9 all candidates that was drafted I believe by CRU
10 and examined by numerous members of different
11 departments in terms of the dates that were
12 selected. We, legal department has also looked at
13 the citation and the dates. It looks good and
14 we're asking for your approval to send this out
15 to the candidates. It basically schedules pre-
16 election and post election activities, so the
17 candidates are aware of all that.

18 PRESIDENT UMANE: I move we adopt the
19 notice.

20 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Second.

21 MR. RYAN: Any objections?

22 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I have a technical
23 issue. On the copy of the notice that I received,
24 this may have been incomplete, the pages are not

1 January 26, 2021

2 numbered, and I just think it would be easier if
3 we had the pages numbered.

4 MR. RYAN: I think that's something we
5 can take care of very easily. Thank you for the
6 suggestion.

7 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Absolutely.

8 PRESIDENT UMANE: I take that as a
9 friendly amendment.

10 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes, it's
11 definitely not an objection.

12 MR. RYAN: Okay. So, Are there any
13 objections? Hearing none, the motion carries. And
14 just as a point of information, the borough of
15 Queens is presently conducting the special
16 election for City Council and as of close of
17 business yesterday, we had 310 voters check in to
18 vote in the special election so right at this
19 point, the attendance is very light and
20 uneventful. But certainly, if anyone is watching
21 this hearing and they have interest in voting,
22 they should check out our website for all of the
23 relevant information. Early voting will run
24 through Sunday, January 31st and election day for

1 January 26, 2021

2 this election will be next Tuesday, February 2nd.

3 So that remains ongoing.

4 And also, for the special elections in
5 March, we would need a cover sheet review
6 committee and we're asking for Thursday at 3:00
7 p.m. and I believe, though I don't want to speak
8 for them, I believe both of the Bronx
9 commissioners have agreed to do that. So I would
10 recognize Secretary Camilo to appoint someone for
11 the Democrats and then also President Umane to
12 appoint someone for the Republicans.

13 SECRETARY CAMILO: Alright. So I'll
14 designate myself for the Democrat to participate
15 on this cover sheet review committee for this
16 Thursday.

17 PRESIDENT UMANE: Okay. And I designate
18 Commissioner Marmorato as the Republican.

19 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Accepted, thank
20 you Commissioner Umane.

21 SECRETARY CAMILO: And is 3:00 p.m. an
22 available time, commissioner?

23 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: 3:00 p.m.
24 works.

1 January 26, 2021

2 SECRETARY CAMILO: Is that okay, Mr.
3 Savino?

4 MR. SAVINO: Definitely.

5 SECRETARY CAMILO: Thank you.

6 MR. RYAN: Okay. Thank you. And then one
7 other matter, I know that there has been
8 communication with the president and secretary,
9 directed a letter be sent to the State Board of
10 Elections regarding ranked-choice voting and the
11 tabulation software, and I would just like to
12 publicly state that we have not received a reply
13 back from the State Board of Elections in that
14 regard and we remain awaiting their formal
15 position. That said, that concludes executive
16 management's presentation with respect to the
17 agenda today and if there is no further business,
18 we can set the next meeting date and entertain a
19 motion to go into executive session for personnel
20 matters.

21 PRESIDENT UMANE: Okay. So I move that
22 our next meeting be on February 2nd, Goundhog
23 Day, at 1:30.

24 SECRETARY CAMILO: I would second that.

1 January 26, 2021

2 PRESIDENT UMANE: And that we adjourn to
3 executive session for personnel and potential
4 litigation.

5 SECRETARY CAMILO: Second to both.

6 MR. RYAN: Any objections? Hearing none,
7 this meeting is adjourned to executive session.

8 [OFF THE RECORD]

9 [ON THE RECORD]

10 MR. RYAN: Yes, there are no matters to
11 presently report with respect to personnel
12 matters. However, there is a need to continue the
13 commissioners' meeting beyond the issues that
14 were discussed earlier. And I believe
15 Commissioner Araujo or Commissioner Michel have
16 an issue that they wish to raise. Unless I
17 misunderstood it.

18 MS. SANDOW: Neither.

19 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Araujo?

20 PRESIDENT UMANE: In connection with the
21 election that's currently going on, it's the
22 commissioners' preference that we would tabulate
23 the votes in accordance with applicable law and
24 that what we would do would be to count the votes

1 January 26, 2021

2 through the regular machines, and then employ for
3 this election an algorithm that has been
4 presented to us through an RFP which has not yet
5 been approved by the State Board of Elections, in
6 which we have asked them to approve for a
7 substantial period of time, most recently at the
8 end of last week.

9 And it is our plan to utilize this
10 program to accomplish the ranked-choice voting,
11 should it be necessary. And in addition, we are
12 going to hand compile the adjustments as if and
13 when the ranked-choice voting is necessary or
14 required.

15 But we're going to do it both ways and
16 the official record will be the, if we have to go
17 through the iterations, would be the hand count,
18 but we will use the hand count to compare it to
19 the program to ensure that as a way of checking
20 the program, to make sure that the program works.
21 And based on that, I would move that we adopt
22 that as our policy for this election on February
23 2nd, as it's been going on through early voting
24 in the county of Queens. Is there a second?

1 January 26, 2021

2 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Second.

3 COMMISSIONER PEPE-SOUVENIR: Second.

4 PRESIDENT UMANE: Commissioner Taylor
5 seconds it. And Mike, you want to ask if there
6 are any objections?

7 MR. RYAN: Are there any objections?

8 Hearing none, the motion carries. Is there
9 anything further from the commissioners to
10 discuss?

11 SECRETARY CAMILO: Motion to adjourn
12 again.

13 MR. RYAN: Okay.

14 PRESIDENT UMANE: Is there a second?

15 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Second.

16 MR. RYAN: Pardon?

17 PRESIDENT UMANE: Any objection? Okay.
18 Thank you all, stay safe, and have a great week.

19 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Have a great
20 week everyone.

21 PRESIDENT UMANE: We'll see everybody
22 next Tuesday at 1:30.

23 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Thank you
24 everyone.

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January 26, 2021

MR. RYAN: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Thank you.

MR. RYAN: Stay well.

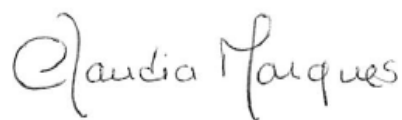
COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: You too.

(The meeting concluded at 2:45 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 January 26, 2021 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Certified By



Date: June 14, 2021

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