

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

42 Broadway - 6th floor
Commissioners' Hearing Room

New York, NY 10004

March 9, 2021

1:30 - 1:54 p.m.

March 9, 2021

PRESENT:

President Frederic M. Umame

Secretary Miguelina Camilo

Commissioner Jose Araujo

Commissioner Michael Michel

Commissioner Rodney L. Pepe-Souvenir

Commissioner Patricia Anne Taylor

Commissioner Tiffany Townsend

Commissioner John Wm. Zaccone

Commissioner Simon Shamoun

Dawn Sandow, Deputy Executive Director

Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager

Georgea Kontzamanis, Operations Manager

Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners

Steven Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

Eleanor Guerrierri, Legal

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2 (The meeting commenced at 1:30 p.m.)

3 MS. DAWN SANDOW: Good afternoon, today
4 is Tuesday, March 9, 2021 and this is the
5 commissioners meeting of the New York City Board
6 of Elections. My name is Dawn Sandow and I'm
7 deputy the executive director. I will begin
8 today's meeting with the commissioners' roll
9 call. President Umane?

10 PRESIDENT FREDERIC M. UMANE: Here.

11 MS. SANDOW: Secretary Camilo?

12 SECRETARY MIGUELINA CAMILO: Here.

13 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Araujo?

14 COMMISSIONER JOSE MIGUEL ARAUJO:

15 Present.

16 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Marmorato?

17 COMMISSIONER GINO A. MARMORATO:

18 Present, good afternoon, everyone.

19 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Michel?

20 COMMISSIONER MICHAEL MICHEL: Here.

21 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Pepe-Souvenir?

22 COMMISSIONER RODNEY L. PEPE-SOUVENIR:

23 Good afternoon, present.

24 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Taylor?

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2 COMMISSIONER PATRICIA ANNE TAYLOR:

3 Present, good afternoon.

4 MS. SANDOW: Good afternoon.

5 Commissioner Townsend?

6 COMMISSIONER TIFFANY TOWNSEND: Good
7 afternoon, present.

8 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Zaccone?

9 COMMISSIONER JOHN WM. ZACCONE: Good
10 afternoon, everyone, present.

11 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Shamoun? He
12 should be joining shortly. We're going to get
13 started. Also joining us today from executive
14 management in another location within the agency
15 is Pamela Perkins, administrative manager,
16 Georgea Kontzamanis, operations manager, Ken
17 Moltner and Steven Denkberg counsels to the
18 commissioners have joined us as well. Eleanor
19 Guerrierri from legal has joined us as well.

20 We want to add commissioners to the
21 board to the agenda for petition calendar updates
22 as well as special election updates and upcoming
23 board staff resignations. There's also a request
24 for executive session for personnel matters.

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2 Item one on the agenda, we have been
3 invited to provide testimony at the New York City
4 budget and oversight hearing for the preliminary
5 budget for fiscal year 2022. The hearing will be
6 held virtually on Monday, March 15th at 12:30
7 p.m. We ask for your approval to attend and
8 provide requested testimony.

9 PRESIDENT UMANE: I move we so approve
10 and ask you to get as much money as you can for
11 this agency.

12 SECRETARY CAMILO: Second.

13 MS. SANDOW: All in favor?

14 MULTIPLE: Aye.

15 MS. SANDOW: Any opposed?

16 PRESIDENT UMANE: I think we're good.

17 SECRETARY CAMILO: All in favor.

18 MS. SANDOW: Adding item number two on
19 the agenda, the governor enacted into law
20 yesterday, Chapter 69, which is effective
21 immediately when the sun sets on December 31,
22 2021. The new law eliminates the opportunity to
23 ballot petitions for 2021. The staff has amended
24 the calendar to reflect the removal of OTB

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2 calendar as approved by this body last Tuesday. A
3 copy of the revised calendar was sent to all and
4 we have updated our website to reflect same view.

5 Item number three, a quick calendar
6 update on the 31st Council District special
7 election in Queens. Yesterday was the last day to
8 receive military ballots. We did not receive any
9 new ballots, but as of yesterday's mail, we still
10 have outstanding cures, the last of which are
11 returnable this Friday, March 12th. This has
12 pushed out the calendar, and in conference with
13 borough staff, we will conduct the random draw
14 and audit on Monday, March 15th. And the RCV
15 rounds can begin Tuesday, March 16th.

16 This brings us to our final add on,
17 number four, poll site designations. Under New
18 York State law, the designation period runs from
19 March 15, 2021 through March 14, 2022. The
20 boroughs are putting the final touches on their
21 work, as March 15th is a Monday, we are proposing
22 that you authorize and empower each borough
23 commissioners committee to approve the
24 designation report with the statutory timeline or

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2 the executive committee can then be ratified by
3 the full board on Tuesday, the 16th.

4 PRESIDENT UMANE: I move that the
5 borough commissioners approve their own poll
6 sites, and that we designate the borough
7 commissioners as subcommittees with full
8 authority to do the designation.

9 SECRETARY CAMILO: I would second.

10 MS. SANDOW: Okay. Can we set the
11 calendar date for the next meeting, which would
12 be Tuesday, March 16th at 1:30?

13 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: I'd just like an
14 approval on that motion.

15 PRESIDENT UMANE: Yes, let's, yeah.

16 MS. SANDOW: Oh, sorry.

17 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: That's okay.

18 MS. SANDOW: All the favor on the motion
19 for poll site designations and commissioner
20 committee approval?

21 MULTIPLE: Aye.

22 MS. SANDOW: The motion passes. The
23 next meeting for the commissioners is March 16th
24 at 1:30 p.m.

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2 PRESIDENT UMANE: I have something else
3 that I'd like to bring up. We received a letter
4 from certain members of the government groups
5 dealing with some issues involving participation
6 by the public in our meetings, and the putting of
7 minutes on our website. My understanding and
8 maybe Dawn, you might elaborate on it, as far as
9 the minutes go, under the terms of the
10 appropriate executive orders, we're required not
11 to do minutes, which are a summary of what went
12 on, but rather a transcript. So what we have done
13 and are currently doing is maintaining actual
14 hearings on the website and we are in the process
15 of preparing the transcripts going back to late
16 March, which is a expensive and elaborate
17 procedure, in order to provide the required
18 information as a result of having the virtual
19 hearings as opposed to in person hearings. And we
20 will be adding those minutes as and when they're
21 prepared, but maybe I left something out, or
22 other executive management, if you want to fill
23 in, maybe you could.

24 MS. SANDOW: No, I think you covered it

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2 all. The executive order basically permits any
3 public body to move and take such action and
4 authorized by law about permitting the public in
5 person meetings by conference call or virtual as
6 long as we provided viewing and listening
7 options, which we did, and such meetings are
8 required to be later transcribed, which we are in
9 the process of doing already. Of course, we also
10 had to redo our website, because we do want to
11 make it simple and easy for the public to obtain
12 the transcripts, so a page has been created, and
13 this is already in progress. It has been in
14 progress for some time. And as you did previously
15 mention, it is cumbersome, because it's verbatim
16 and it's transcript, it's not minutes.

17 PRESIDENT UMANE: Okay. So I would move
18 that we go into executive session for person.

19 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: I second.

20 COMMISSIONER SIMON SHAMOUN: Simon
21 Shamoun, I'd just like you to note my attendance.

22 MS. SANDOW: Mr. Shamoun, I checked you
23 off, Commissioner Shamoun. Thank you for speaking
24 up.

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2 COMMISSIONER SHAMOUN: Thank you. I
3 appreciate it.

4 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Are we setting a
5 date for the next meeting, President Umane?

6 PRESIDENT UMANE: Next Tuesday at 1:30.

7 [EXECUTIVE SESSION]

8 MS. SANDOW: Okay, good afternoon, we
9 will close the meeting, nothing to report out.
10 Next meeting will be March 16th at 1:30, March
11 16, 2021. Thank you.

12 (The meeting concluded at 1:54 p.m.)

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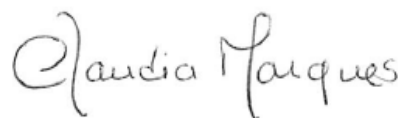
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CERTIFICATE OF ACCURACY

I, Claudia Marques, certify that the foregoing transcript of the Board of Elections in The City of New York on March 9, 2021 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Certified By



Date: October 12, 2021

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