

BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COMMISSIONERS' COVER SHEET REVIEW

42 Broadway - 6th floor  
Commissioners' Hearing Room

New York, NY 10004

April 2, 2021

3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

April 2 2021

**PRESENT:**

Commissioner Gino Marmorato

Commissioner Tiffany Townsend

Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel

Unidentified Male

Unidentified Female

Zoya Shpigelman

1 April 2, 2021

2 (The meeting commenced at 3:08 p.m.)

3 MR. RAPHAEL SAVINO: Good afternoon,  
4 commissioners. We are here today on April 2, 2021  
5 for a cover sheet review committee. Kind enough  
6 to join us is Commissioner Townsend and  
7 Commissioner Marmorato. Without further ado, I  
8 suppose we suppose we should start presenting the  
9 items we have.

10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The first up is  
11 Queens, so first up is Linda Guillebeaux. It's a  
12 Democratic Party of the 27th Council District. So  
13 they, we sent out a letter of noncompliance for  
14 no identification number on the cover sheet, they  
15 amended, they sent us an amended cover sheet in  
16 the proper time. The team checked it and they  
17 listed the identification number, so we're asking  
18 that this be deemed a valid cure.

19 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay. That's  
20 your recommendation?

21 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Recommendation --

22 MR. SAVINO: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay. Great,  
24 yeah, agreed.

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2 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: So moved.

3 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Okay. The next --

4 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: I second.

5 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Okay.

6 MR. SAVINO: And with your permission,  
7 with respect to all these, rather than sending  
8 things back and forth scanned, I will initial for  
9 you and put my initials next to that, if that is  
10 acceptable.

11 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Yes, counsel.

12 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Yes.

13 MR. SAVINO: Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Thank you.

15 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: And the next item we  
16 have is Glennis Comez. Okay, so this was a  
17 pagination issue. The pages actually weren't  
18 numbered at all on the petition, so we sent out a  
19 letter and they fixed the issue, they numbered  
20 all the pages, they submitted it to the candidate  
21 records unit, and so we, the team looked it over  
22 and everything looks fine now, so we're asking  
23 that, our recommendation would be that this would  
24 be a valid cure.

1 April 2, 2021

2 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Great, agreed.

3 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Second.

4 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: So the next item is  
5 Soma Syed, judge of the civil court, District 9.  
6 This was another candidate on the exact same  
7 petition. So this is a -- we sent them the  
8 letter, they fixed page numbers, and so we're  
9 asking that this one be, our recommendation that  
10 this is a valid cure as well.

11 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay. So moved.

12 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Second.

13 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Okay. And the final  
14 item we have for Queens is Kaled Alamarie,  
15 Democrat position member of the New York City  
16 Council District 32. This was a pagination issue  
17 as well. The final page wasn't numbered  
18 correctly. They numbered it. We sent out a  
19 letter, they sent it back and our team reviewed  
20 it and thought that this, we recommend that this  
21 be a valid cure as well.

22 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay. So moved.

23 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Second.

24 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you, and

1 April 2, 2021

2 that's all we have for Queens.

3 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay.

4 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Thank you,  
6 Queens.

7 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thanks.

8 MR. SAVINO: Alright. You've got to  
9 stamp these when you're back. Alright. We've got  
10 our next victim.

11 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Happy Easter, Happy  
12 Passover.

13 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: You as well,  
14 thank you.

15 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Good afternoon,  
16 commissioners.

17 MR. SAVINO: Don't be intimidated by the  
18 stacks of papers. It's just petition numbering  
19 issues.

20 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Okay. So, okay,  
21 here we go. Okay, commissioners, our first issue  
22 is for candidate Casilda Elena Roper-Simpson, she  
23 --

24 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Which, I'm

1 April 2, 2021

2 sorry, which --

3 MR. SAVINO: Well, if there's a specific  
4 order you'd like us to go in.

5 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yeah.

6 MR. SAVINO: Obviously, we can. As I  
7 said, the scans sometimes come backwards.

8 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: I'm just  
9 looking to see which email this was sent under.

10 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Yeah, because  
11 we've got four emails, so I just want to make  
12 sure.

13 MR. SAVINO: This would be Kings.

14 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Kings County.

15 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Got it, okay.

16 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Yeah.

17 MR. SAVINO: Accepted, non-accepted.

18 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Casilda Elena  
19 Roper-Simpson?

20 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Okay.

22 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Candidate was not  
23 on the cover sheets -- candidate did not appear,  
24 I apologize, she did not appear on KG2100692 and

1 April 2, 2021

2 KG2100682. She has since sent an amended cover  
3 sheet removing herself from those petitions.

4 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay.

5 MR. SAVINO: And, it contains, you know,  
6 the required language about amended cover sheet,  
7 I'm authorized to file this amended cover sheet  
8 and the NCN is attached, so it does comply with  
9 our rules.

10 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Yeah. Okay.

11 MR. SAVINO: Our recommendation is it's  
12 valid.

13 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay. So moved,  
14 agreed.

15 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: I second.

16 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you,  
17 commissioners. The next is for Wanda Nunez. This  
18 is a Republican petition if I'm correct, yes, for  
19 mayor, candidate for mayor. Ms. Nunez, I'm sorry,  
20 yes, Ms. Nunez, I think I was looking at the  
21 wrong spot, I apologize. According to the --

22 MR. SAVINO: Bipartisan team that  
23 reviewed.

24 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: -- bipartisan team



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2 that reviewed, the cover sheet, the previous  
3 cover sheet, stated that she only had a total  
4 number of volumes, four and identification number  
5 it stated one to 204. She since --

6 MR. SAVINO: 240.

7 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I'm sorry, 240,  
8 and she since amended the cover sheet, she put  
9 that the volumes are four petitions and she  
10 numbers every petition that she's on.

11 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Counsel's  
12 recommendation that it's a valid cure?

13 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes.

14 MR. SAVINO: Yeah, again amended  
15 certification language.

16 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: So moved.

17 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Second.

18 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The next item is  
19 for Charles Barron. Charles Barron had stated on  
20 his cover sheet that he did not sign it, he sent  
21 in an amended cover sheet and he did sign his  
22 amended cover sheet.

23 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay.

24 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: So in order to

1 April 2, 2021

2 have it valid, counted valid --

3 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: I'm sorry?

4 MR. SAVINO: Our recommendation that  
5 it's a valid cure.

6 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: A valid cure.

7 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: It is a valid  
8 cure? Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: So moved.

10 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Second.

11 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The next item is  
12 for Kevin S. Parker. Mr. Parker, on his original  
13 cover sheet, did not state his middle initial,  
14 but it was on his petitions. So he sent in an  
15 amended cover sheet, staff reviewed it and he did  
16 put in his middle initial. We move for it to be  
17 valid.

18 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay. So moved.

19 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Second.

20 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Okay, we have the  
21 next one is for Art Chan. Mr. Chan has two  
22 issues. He has one on his original cover sheet,  
23 he omitted the zeros. After the KG, it should  
24 have been 2100, and he amended it by putting

1 April 2, 2021

2 zeros, the correct amount of zeros in his cover  
3 sheet.

4 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay.

5 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Is it the  
6 counsel's recommendation that it's a valid cure?

7 MR. SAVINO: Yes, it does comply with  
8 all the requirements for an amended cover sheet.

9 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay.

10 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: So moved.

11 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Second.

12 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The second issue  
13 for Mr. Arthur Chan, candidate for mayor, he had  
14 a pagination issue. And this is where the  
15 petition are here for you. The original petition,  
16 he stopped at 242 was his last page, then his  
17 next page had no number and he went to 243. He  
18 since amended it, and staff went through every  
19 single page and he did adjust his petition.

20 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay. So it's a  
21 valid cure, yeah.

22 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Second that.

23 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: And then I believe  
24 the last one we have is for Charles Finkelstein

1 April 2, 2021

2 for judge of civil court for number four vacancy,  
3 vacancy number four. And his cover sheet, oh, he  
4 corrected his address. On this one,  
5 commissioners, his original cover sheet stated  
6 that his address was 401 East 56th Street,  
7 Brooklyn, 11203, he since amended his cover sheet  
8 and put in his correct address as 156, I'm sorry,  
9 1563 East 27th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11229  
10 and staff reviewed his petitions and the address  
11 is the same.

12 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay. So moved.

13 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Second.

14 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: That's all we  
15 have.

16 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Thank you.

17 MR. SAVINO: Okay. Ms. Shpigelman.

18 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Thank you so much,  
19 commissioners, you have a wonderful weekend and  
20 Happy Easter.

21 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Thanks, same to  
22 you.

23 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Same to you.

24 MR. SAVINO: Passover as well.

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2 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: And Happy

3 Passover.

4 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: And Happy

5 Passover.

6 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Who's up next?

7 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Hello,

8 commissioners, how are you, thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Hello, Ms.

10 Shpigelman.

11 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Hi.

12 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: I can't see. I

13 can see Raphael's hands, that's it.

14 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Hi. Should we move

15 down?

16 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: No, no, no, it's

17 fine. I trust that the right people are in the

18 room.

19 MS. SHPIGELMAN: I might have a twin.

20 I'm joking.

21 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: It would make

22 for an interesting life, you know.

23 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Okay. So,

24 commissioners, there's a printers error letter

1 April 2, 2021

2 from New York County that we wanted to bring to  
3 your attention. I believe the --

4 MR. SAVINO: It corrects, or if you  
5 approve, it corrects the absence of a middle  
6 initial.

7 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Is this in  
8 regards to Carmen Quinones?

9 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Yes.

10 MR. SAVINO: Carmen R. Quinones, running  
11 for City Council member, 7th City Council  
12 District, as I said, she was sent an NCN --

13 MS. SHPIGELMAN: On March 25th.

14 MR. SAVINO: As the, one of the  
15 documents, there we go, right, the cover sheet  
16 had an R, as the middle initial --

17 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: And the  
18 petition did not?

19 MR. SAVINO: -- and the petition did  
20 not. So this is from ESCO to the World, Inc., a  
21 printing company that has, you know, confessed to  
22 their mistake. Issues like this have been  
23 accepted in the past that a candidate should not  
24 be punished by a minor error by a printer.

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2 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Okay, counsel's  
3 recommendation?

4 MR. SAVINO: That we should accept the  
5 printer's error letter.

6 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Second.

7 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Okay. Do I have your  
8 permission to continue?

9 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Yes.

10 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Okay. The next is a  
11 Richmond County, the name of the candidate Aidan  
12 Rivera. The original NCN, letter of noncompliance  
13 that we sent was on March 26th, and the defect  
14 was the name on the cover sheet did not match the  
15 petition. However, when the candidate amended it,  
16 as you can see there is --

17 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: It was an issue  
18 of the middle initial Q?

19 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Right. There was a  
20 first issue with the initial, but also when they  
21 amended it, there was no certification language.

22 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Okay.

23 MS. SHPIGELMAN: On the -- yeah, there's  
24 a fly in here, sorry about that.

1 April 2, 2021

2 MR. SAVINO: But, right, isn't this the,  
3 it appears to be the candidate's signature?

4 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Yeah, there is a  
5 signature, so it's up to your --

6 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Well, what's  
7 counsel's recommendation?

8 MR. SAVINO: Well, there have been  
9 recently been fairly consistent rulings that if  
10 it's the candidate signing the bottom of the  
11 petition, they don't also have to authorize  
12 themselves to submit the amended. So we do  
13 require, to prevent fraud etc. and make sure that  
14 the person is authorized as best we can, but  
15 there have been consistent commissioners rulings  
16 as of the past couple of years that if it's the  
17 candidate signing it, they don't need that  
18 certification.

19 MS. SHPIGELMAN: So the first defect was  
20 corrected, she added the middle initial, but, you  
21 know, it is up to your discretion to rule on this  
22 is sufficient, you know, certification language.  
23 And as Mr. Savino pointed out, in the past that  
24 if they sign, then that was ruled on that this



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2 was correctly amended. Oh, and then also,  
3 commissioners, this candidate did not put amended  
4 on the cover sheet so that's a problem, because  
5 it's supposed to say amended cover sheet and this  
6 just says designating petition cover sheet.

7 MR. SAVINO: That actually is a valid  
8 issue, unfortunately.

9 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Yeah, unfortunately.

10 MR. SAVINO: I mean and --

11 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Would it be  
12 counsel's recommendation that the candidate did  
13 not cure, pursuant to --

14 MR. SAVINO: That would be --

15 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Yes.

16 MR. SAVINO: -- my recommendation. You  
17 know, in terms of the certification, again,  
18 that's up to you, but it does appear to have --  
19 it does have another error in that it's not  
20 clearly marked amended cover sheet,  
21 unfortunately.

22 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Right.

24 MR. SAVINO: So our opinion would be

1 April 2, 2021

2 this is not a valid cure then.

3 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: I'm in agreement  
4 with that.

5 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: I second, so  
6 Commissioner Townsend, did you move to --

7 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: I'm sorry.

8 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Is it so moved  
9 that this is not a valid cure? The candidate  
10 would be off the ballot?

11 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Or is it --

12 MR. SAVINO: That would be the case.  
13 That would be the case. You get one shot, so to  
14 speak, one bite at the apple unfortunately so you  
15 need to get it right.

16 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Well,  
17 Commissioner Townsend, if you want to --

18 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Were you going  
19 to say?

20 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Well, I was  
21 going to follow counsel's recommendation and move  
22 that this is not a valid cure, and as such, the  
23 candidate is off the ballot.

24 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Yeah,

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2 unfortunately, I'm in agreement with you as well,  
3 so that I move that move the clerks' report in  
4 terms of the candidate no longer being on the  
5 ballot.

6 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Okay. Thank you,  
7 commissioners. I will go to next matter. Okay.  
8 Aramis Ocasio, Republican Party running for  
9 member of New York City Council District 15, the  
10 bipartisan team reviewed the amended cover sheet  
11 that came in. We recommend that this be deemed a  
12 valid cure because the original defect was the  
13 name of the party missing from the cover sheet  
14 did not match the petition and the total number  
15 of volumes did not match the identification  
16 numbers claimed on the cover sheet. And according  
17 to the team and it is our recommendation that  
18 this was corrected and this is a valid cure.

19 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Based on the  
20 recommendation, so moved. I only have two  
21 documents, I only see the -- I do see the amended  
22 cover sheet, so so moved.

23 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Second.

24 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Thank you. And the last

1 April 2, 2021

2 matter we have is Joyce N. Briscoe, City Council  
3 Member, District 12 of Bronx County. The original  
4 letter of noncompliance, we sent on March 29th to  
5 Ms. Briscoe was the middle initial was not on the  
6 cover sheet, and she did, she did fix that. Now  
7 it says Joyce N. Briscoe. And however, we -- do  
8 we want to bring up that this is also a prima  
9 facie?

10 MR. SAVINO: Well, this is the prima  
11 facie being on which issue?

12 MS. SHPIGELMAN: For the community  
13 board, but they fixed it on the --

14 MR. SAVINO: Yeah, I'm sorry,  
15 [unintelligible] [00:26:37] in the middle of the  
16 hearing.

17 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Sorry, commissioners,  
18 I'm just trying to get some --

19 MR. SAVINO: But for whatever it's  
20 worth, it doesn't really affect your ruling here,  
21 but it's my understanding she listed community  
22 board --

23 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Yes, on one of her  
24 petitions.

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2 MR. SAVINO: -- as to what it was she  
3 was running for on one of the petitions. So that  
4 is a separate issue that needs to be decided  
5 here.

6 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Right. But here she did  
7 fix it.

8 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Alright. So --

9 MR. SAVINO: Well, I'll just point out  
10 again though, she did not have the certification  
11 language, but it seems pretty clear when you read  
12 the bottom that it is signed by the candidate.

13 MS. SHPIGELMAN: As well, right.

14 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: So, are there  
16 two issues, one being that the name did not  
17 match, which it sounds like the candidate did  
18 cure it?

19 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: And then the  
21 other issue is the party position?

22 MR. SAVINO: Right. You have to --

23 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Was the notice  
24 to cure sent regarding that?

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2 MR. SAVINO: That is actually a prima  
3 facie defect.

4 MS. SHPIGELMAN: And I sent that as  
5 well.

6 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Okay.

7 MR. SAVINO: That will, you know, notice  
8 was sent. That's something that the commissioners  
9 will address at the April hearings. It's not  
10 really a cover sheet issue.

11 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: What's  
12 council's recommendation?

13 MR. SAVINO: In terms of the -- well,  
14 this doesn't match all of the petitions, this  
15 would match, right -- what it would match is --

16 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Well, in this case, it  
17 would --

18 MR. SAVINO: -- this one petition.

19 MS. SHPIGELMAN: -- in this case, this  
20 matches.

21 MR. SAVINO: Okay.

22 MS. SHPIGELMAN: So in this case, we  
23 recommend that it's a valid cure, but we just  
24 wanted to bring up to your attention that at some

1 April 2, 2021

2 point, this will be a prima facie matter at the  
3 April hearing.

4 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Okay.

5 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay.

6 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: With respect to  
7 the position.

8 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: So then we don't  
9 have [unintelligible] [00:28:14]?

10 MR. SAVINO: Right, you don't need to  
11 address that today.

12 MS. SHPIGELMAN: No. No.

13 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Okay. So in  
14 regards to the issue with the name, it's my  
15 understanding that the candidate validly cured  
16 it, and I move that it's a valid cure.

17 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Second.

18 MS. SHPIGELMAN: Thank you,  
19 commissioners. And that's all. That's all we have  
20 for Bronx and Staten Island.

21 MR. SAVINO: I believe that concludes --

22 MS. SHPIGELMAN: That concludes  
23 everything.

24 MR. SAVINO: -- the hearing for today.

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COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Wonderful,  
thank you. Happy Easter, Happy Passover, thank  
you everyone.

COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Happy Friday.

MS. SHPIGELMAN: Happy Easter.

COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Thank you  
Commissioner Townsend, thank you counselor.

MR. SAVINO: Our pleasure.

COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Have a good  
weekend, take care, Happy Holidays.

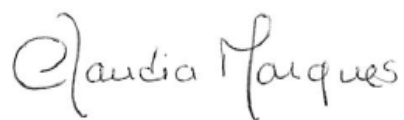
(The meeting concluded at 3:30 p.m.)



CERTIFICATE OF ACCURACY

I, Claudia Marques, certify that the foregoing transcript of the Board of Elections in The City of New York on April 2, 2021 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Certified By



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Date: November 22, 2021

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