

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COMMISSIONERS' HEARINGS

42 Broadway - 6th floor
Commissioners' Hearing Room

New York, NY 10004

April 20, 2021

1:30 p.m. - 2:38 p.m.

April 20, 2021

PRESENT:

President Frederic Umane
Secretary Miguelina Camilo
Commissioner Jose Araujo
Commissioner Gino Marmorato
Commissioner Simon Shamoun
Commissioner Rodney L. Pepe-Souvenir
Commissioner Patricia Ann Taylor
Commissioner Tiffany Townsend
Commissioner John Wm. Zaccone

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
Hemalee Patel, General Counsel
Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel
Sherwin Suss, Chief Contracting Officer
Valeria Diaz, Communications Director

1 April 20, 2021

2 (The meeting commenced at 1:38 p.m.)

3 MS. DAWN SANDOW: Good afternoon,
4 commissioners and public. Today is Tuesday, April
5 20, 2021 and this is the Commissioners' meeting
6 of the Board of Elections in the city of New
7 York. My name is Dawn Sandow, and I'm the deputy
8 executive director of the Board of Elections. I
9 will begin today's meeting with the
10 commissioners' roll call. President Umane?

11 PRESIDENT FREDERIC UMANE: Here.

12 MS. SANDOW: Secretary Camilo?

13 SECRETARY MIGUELINA CAMILO: Here.

14 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Araujo?

15 COMMISSIONER JOSE ARAUJO: Present, good
16 afternoon.

17 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Marmorato?

18 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: Present, good
19 afternoon, everyone.

20 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Pepe-Souvenir?

21 COMMISSIONER RODNEY L. PEPE-SOUVENIR:
22 Good afternoon, present.

23 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Shamoun?

24 COMMISSIONER SIMON SHAMOUN: Present,

1 April 20, 2021

2 thank you.

3 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Taylor?

4 COMMISSIONER PATRICIA ANNE TAYLOR: I am
5 present.

6 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Townsend?

7 COMMISSIONER TIFFANY TOWNSEND: Present,
8 good afternoon, everyone.

9 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Zaccone?

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

12 MS. SANDOW: And Commissioner Michel
13 will not be attending. Also joining us today from
14 executive management is Pamela Perkins,
15 administrative manager, and Georgea Kontzamanis,
16 operations manager, Ken Moltner and Steven
17 Denkberg, counsels to the commissioners, as well
18 as general counsel Hemalee Patel and deputy
19 general counsel Raphael Savino. We are also
20 joined today by Valeria Diaz, our communications
21 director. Commissioners, we ask that we adjourn
22 to executive session for personnel as our legal
23 team needs to leave for court shortly.

24 PRESIDENT UMANE: And litigation. Yeah,

1 April 20, 2021

2 I move we go into executive session for
3 litigation and --

4 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Personnel.

5 PRESIDENT UMANE: -- employment issues.

6 SECRETARY CAMILO: Second.

7 PRESIDENT UMANE: All in favor?

8 MULTIPLE: Aye.

9 PRESIDENT UMANE: All opposed? Okay. So
10 we will be back shortly, but we're now going into
11 executive session to accommodate our counsel who
12 have to appear in court.

13 [EXECUTIVE SESSION]

14 MS. SANDOW: Good afternoon, the
15 commissioners meeting for April 20th continues.
16 Let's begin with today's agenda. Item number one.
17 On Thursday, April 15th at 10:00 a.m., the
18 borough commissioners, along with Commissioners
19 Zaccone and Townsend certified the special
20 election results for the 11th and 15th council
21 districts, declaring Eric Dinowitz and Oswald
22 Felix of their respective races. We ask today
23 that the full board ratify the committee's
24 decision.

1 April 20, 2021

2 PRESIDENT UMANE: So moved. Is there a
3 second?

4 SECRETARY CAMILO: Second.

5 PRESIDENT UMANE: All in favor?

6 MULTIPLE: Aye.

7 PRESIDENT UMANE: All opposed? All
8 abstentions? The decision is ratified as
9 unanimous.

10 MS. SANDOW: Item two on the agenda is
11 omitted, so we'll move to item three on the
12 agenda. I will ask legal to present, but before I
13 do, we need to designate a subcommittee for this
14 Friday, April 23rd, at 10:00 a.m. to continue the
15 New York prima facie specs. Currently, we have
16 Commissioner Umane and Townsend have agreed to
17 serve. We need two more volunteers, please.

18 COMMISSIONER PEPE-SOUVENIR: I agree to
19 serve, Commissioner Pepe-Souvenir.

20 MS. SANDOW: One Republica.

21 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: What's the time,
22 I'm sorry.

23 PRESIDENT UMANE: 10:00 a.m.

24 MS. SANDOW: 10:00 a.m.

1 April 20, 2021

2 MR. SAVINO: Or whatever you want.

3 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Fine by me.

4 MS. SANDOW: No, we've made notice for
5 10:00 a.m.

6 MR. SAVINO: Oh, sorry, sorry, sorry, I
7 apologize. My bad.

8 SECRETARY CAMILO: Commissioner Zaccone
9 is available. Thank you, commissioner.

10 MS. SANDOW: Thank you. Okay, legal,
11 item three.

12 MR. SAVINO: Sure. Commissioners, we
13 have a request from Hei Man Chan, three separate
14 words, a candidate for female member of the
15 Republican State Committee 46th Assembly
16 District. She is requesting that her name appears
17 on the ballot as Heidi Chan-Sarantopoulos. Her
18 married name is Hei Man Chan-Sarantopoulos.
19 Personally, professionally and among the Asian
20 community, I'm known as Heidi instead of Hei Man.
21 We looked at the registration for the address
22 listed, and we do see the voter there, but no
23 other name that is similar. So it's up to the
24 commissioners to either approve the name change

1 April 20, 2021

2 or [unintelligible] [00:48:50].

3 PRESIDENT UMANE: It seems to me that
4 it's a change both of the first name and the last
5 name, which might really cause some confusion. I
6 would normally be a little more quote liberal
7 unquote, on something like this. But this is,
8 it's a name change on both first and last names.
9 And so I'm going to abstain. I'm not going to
10 vote in favor of that, because I think it could
11 cause confusion. It's not like Rudolph and Rudy
12 Giuliani, or something like that. Or in the case
13 of Alan Flacks, where Alan became Alana, he
14 wanted to try and get women's votes with a
15 woman's name. But I think that it seems to be a
16 bit confusing. And so I'm not going to vote in
17 favor, I'm going to abstain, for whatever that's
18 worth.

19 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Does the name on
20 the petition match what's on her voter
21 registration card?

22 MR. SAVINO: Well, I don't have that in
23 front of me, the petitions are at the boroughs.

24 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay.

1 April 20, 2021

2 MR. SAVINO: I would have to assume that
3 in the very least, it did match the cover sheet.

4 SECRETARY CAMILO: Did they --

5 MR. SAVINO: Which is something the team
6 should have picked up on, and I would imagine
7 that CRU may have --

8 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: So the cover sheet
9 matches what's on her voter registration form?

10 MR. SAVINO: I honestly do not have that
11 paperwork before me.

12 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Oh, okay.

13 MS. SANDOW: Voter registration is right
14 behind here.

15 MR. SAVINO: But I don't have the cover
16 sheet. I attached the voter register stuff.

17 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: This is
18 Commissioner Araujo. Commissioner Umane is
19 correct. In the past we've always changed
20 possibly the first name from Jimmy to James or
21 Anthony to Tony or something like that. I don't
22 think we've come across where we've changed
23 multiple parts of a name. It's a little odd and
24 not the normal that we've done in the past. I

1 April 20, 2021

2 think Commissioner Taylor pointed a good
3 question, how did she file her petitions? How did
4 she circulate her petitions? I think in the past,
5 we've even seen petitions that had a nickname on
6 there, right. Fred, have we seen that as well?

7 PRESIDENT UMANE: Yes, yes, yes.

8 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: That also serves
9 as the basis --

10 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yeah.

11 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: -- to try to
12 change it to keep it consistent as well. So I'd
13 like to know what the petitions actually said,
14 how they were circulated.

15 MS. SANDOW: The petition is what she's
16 registered as.

17 SECRETARY CAMILO: Her full name.

18 MR. SAVINO: And essentially it is still
19 Heidi Chan instead of Hei Man Chan and then they
20 add the married name. There are some cases that -
21 - Eisenberg is one of them, that seem to allow
22 for folks to readily change their name.

23 COMMISSIONER SHAMOUN: For
24 clarification, what did the petition say?

1 April 20, 2021

2 MS. SANDOW: What's registered as, Hei
3 Man Chan.

4 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Okay. If I can
5 just clarify for myself. Her petitions say Hei
6 Man Chan, she is looking to change that to Heidi
7 Man and then the third name, I'm sorry, I
8 couldn't hear the way it was pronounced.

9 MR. SAVINO: Heidi Chan --

10 MS. KONTZAMANIS: Sarantopoulos.

11 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Sarantopoulos.

12 MR. SAVINO: The married name.

13 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Alright. It
14 sounds like a drastic change from one, the name
15 that she's registered under, and more importantly
16 to me, the name that she put on her petitions and
17 on her cover sheet. I think that's a drastic
18 change and that may lead to confusion in my mind.
19 So again, it's something I would not feel
20 comfortable voting in favor of.

21 SECRETARY CAMILO: So do we want to call
22 the question, go ahead.

23 PRESIDENT UMANE: Sure. All in favor of
24 allowing this change please signify by saying

1 April 20, 2021

2 aye, and maybe we ought to do -- let's do a roll
3 call on this.

4 SECRETARY CAMILO: Okay.

5 PRESIDENT UMANE: Let's do a roll call.

6 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Umane?

7 PRESIDENT UMANE: I abstain,
8 respectfully.

9 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Camilo?

10 SECRETARY CAMILO: No.

11 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Araujo?

12 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: No, based on these
13 facts.

14 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Marmorato?

15 COMMISSIONER MARMORATO: No.

16 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Pepe-Souvenir?

17 COMMISSIONER PEPE-SOUVENIR: No.

18 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Shamoun?

19 Commissioner Shamoun?

20 COMMISSIONER SHAMOUN: Excuse me, no.

21 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Taylor?

22 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes.

23 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Townsend?

24 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: No.

1 April 20, 2021

2 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Zaccone?

3 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: No.

4 MS. SANDOW: Seven nos.

5 PRESIDENT UMANE: Okay. So it doesn't
6 pass.

7 MS. KONTZAMANIS: One yes.

8 PRESIDENT UMANE: Okay.

9 MS. SANDOW: Not on the ballot.

10 MR. SAVINO: Well, on the ballot the
11 name will --

12 MS. SANDOW: The name remains.

13 MR. SAVINO: As the registerd.

14 MS. SANDOW: Hei Man Chan. Thank you.

15 Commissioners, I'd like to now call Mr. Suss, our
16 finance director. Commissioner Suss will be
17 giving information.

18 [CROSSTALK]

19 MS. SANDOW: Mr. Suss will be giving
20 information on our Vanguard Finance Committee
21 meeting, and trucking contract.

22 MR. SHERWIN SUSS: Good afternoon,
23 commissioners, there were two matters that were
24 brought before the finance committee. The first

1 April 20, 2021

2 one is the request to order 550 freestanding five
3 foot by two foot signs to explain RCV, ranked-
4 choice voting to be placed in every poll site and
5 in the larger poll sites to have additional
6 signs. It will be created in three lots to cover
7 all the different language requirements for the
8 specific boroughs. These signs were previously
9 used in the Queens and Bronx special elections
10 and were well received by the voters. These are
11 being ordered from Vanguard under the DCAS
12 requirements contract. The cost is \$112 per sign,
13 and the not to exceed cost is \$173,600.

14 PRESIDENT UMANE: The finance committee
15 unanimously recommends this to the full board,
16 and we discussed the number of signs and the
17 languages and all of that, and all of that will
18 be included in the signs as necessary and the
19 finance committee heartily recommends this to the
20 board. There's no need for a second, because it's
21 a committee recommendation. If there's no
22 discussion, all in favor?

23 MULTIPLE: Aye.

24 PRESIDENT UMANE: All opposed? All

1 April 20, 2021

2 abstentions? So it's approved. Next, Mr. Suss.

3 MR. SUSS: Thank you, the next one is
4 the trucking contracts and these contracts cover
5 all the elections and primary, the general
6 elections and special elections and also
7 transportation of voting equipment between
8 various borough offices. An example would be with
9 the poll pads. We program the poll pads here at
10 the general office, and then we'll be moving them
11 to the borough offices to be distributed and used
12 for elections. These would cover up to nine
13 vendors. It's a four year contract, the nine
14 vendors, there's two classes for each borough,
15 with the exception of Staten Island, which has
16 one borough.

17 This was actually done by a competitive
18 sealed bid and we did a little bit different than
19 the normal process here and I just want to spend
20 one minute going through the process. We actually
21 in this case, instead of going solely on price,
22 which we've done in the past, we actually went on
23 price, experience, staffing and equipment. And we
24 actually had the borough chiefs appoint people to

1 April 20, 2021

2 form a committee and the committee reviewed the
3 applications of the bids., We had 15 bidders and
4 as part of the bid submission, they had to fill
5 out a questionnaire, their staffing, equipment,
6 trucking locations, and also a plan regarding how
7 they would proceed to service the Board of
8 Elections if they were awarded the contract. And
9 the members of the committee did analyze this.
10 They met and they analyzed it and they scored all
11 of these vendors. The procurement department then
12 took the pricing, and we did not let them see it.
13 We didn't want them to be influenced by the
14 pricing. We calculated the pricing, added the
15 pricing score and the other scores and awarded
16 the vendors from zero to 100, they got scored on
17 different scores for each class of the nine
18 classes.

19 As it turned out, on many of the classes
20 where had already been services by truckers, they
21 were able to bid and win those classes, because
22 they knew and they came in very low. There were
23 some that were not. It turns out there's actually
24 been two new vendors in the board's class of

1 April 20, 2021

2 vendors. The new vendors are going to be in
3 Manhattan. There's a company called Smart Move,
4 that'd be Manhattan I believe West, and the
5 second new vendor is going to be in Queens, and
6 that's a company called Sunrise, and they were in
7 Queens South.

8 And as part of our process of evaluating
9 vendors, myself and Paul Rodriguez, who was the
10 head of the VEOU unit did visit these new
11 vendors, we checked out their facilities, we
12 checked out their equipment. I want to point out
13 that the Sunrise, who will be the new vendor for
14 Queens South has already been doing business with
15 the city, with the board, excuse me. They've been
16 doing our ramp, temporary ramp installation
17 contract for a number of years and have performed
18 very well in that, so they've already been doing
19 work with us on that matter.

20 So otherwise, the rest of the vendors
21 will be in the same locations for continuity that
22 they've had in the past, except for the two new
23 ones that I've indicated to you based upon the
24 scoring. This is a not to exceed contract. Again,

1 April 20, 2021

2 it's a four year contract for nine vendors, and
3 the total not to exceed is 39 million --

4 PRESIDENT UMANE: 633.

5 MR. SUSS: 633, yes, 918. Thank you,
6 Commissioner Umane.

7 PRESIDENT UMANE: The committee again,
8 after some additional questioning and review,
9 complimented the staff for a very in-depth
10 review, because the trucking contract and the
11 printing contracts are the two largest ones and
12 there are often complaints about the trucking
13 contract and this was given lots of additional
14 thought in coming in with these recommendations.
15 And it was the committee's view that we should
16 approve this and the committee unanimously
17 recommends it to the full board. Does anybody
18 have any questions regarding these contract
19 awards? I know for a fact that the Manhattan
20 chief and deputy were involved indirectly in this
21 and it's my understanding that the other chiefs
22 and deputies were also involved and they had
23 people assigned to the committee and this was
24 looked at with a lot of thought, and my

1 April 20, 2021

2 understanding was also that people went to the
3 various locations and reviewed them and made sure
4 that they had the trucks that they said they did.
5 I would heartily endorse this. If there's nobody
6 else, we'll just take a vote. All in favor?

7 MULTIPLE: Aye.

8 PRESIDENT UMANE: All opposed? All
9 abstentions? So it's carried. Thank you, Mr. Suss
10 and please thank your staff and the VEOU staff
11 and the people on the subcommittees for their
12 hard work in coming up with this.

13 MR. SUSS: Thank you so much,
14 commissioner. I will send notes to them tanking
15 them again.

16 MS. SANDOW: Thank you. Item four --

17 PRESIDENT UMANE: Ms. Sandow, anything
18 else on the agenda?

19 MS. SANDOW: Item four on the agenda,
20 I'll ask our communications director to present.

21 MS. VALERIE DIAZ: Good afternoon,
22 commissioners. I just wanted to bring to your
23 attention that our annual information notice
24 began dropping last week, meeting our statutory

1 April 20, 2021

2 mandate and included in our mailing is our very
3 popular fast pass tag that allows for a
4 contactless check-in as well as dedicated content
5 on public education informing voters of the
6 ranked-choice voting for the primary. Antonio is
7 going to share screen, just so you can see it. If
8 you have not received it, you will be getting it
9 within the next couple of days.

10 What's interesting, we'd like to
11 recognize that the Center for Civic Design and
12 Common Cause shared their survey and focus group
13 findings. We had a very inclusive public
14 education initiative where we outsourced and met
15 with some of our partners in Good Government to
16 help us with readability, review of our design
17 and overall aesthetic, again keeping in mind that
18 branding and a push to the board's website is
19 always important to us.

20 We found that the last thee specials,
21 our messaging really has resonated well with
22 voters and as well as the good government groups.
23 Antonio is going to show us a popup. We've been
24 seeking consistency not only in our branding, but

1 April 20, 2021

2 in our content and this is an example of a poll
3 site in Queens during early voting, where we had
4 our safety measures prominent as well as the
5 information, instructional information on ranked-
6 choice voting. I know it was voted on, but this
7 is what we will have at [unintelligible]
8 [01:03:33].

9 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Ms. Diaz? This is
10 Commissioner Zacccone. These look great. Thank you
11 very much for presenting them to us so we can
12 review them. I think they're very helpful. And I
13 appreciate your efforts in going beyond our
14 requirements.

15 MS. DIAZ: -- have been the best idea
16 they've come up with. So they have been
17 complimentary. Our social media pages have been
18 with complimentary feedback not only on the
19 campaign itself but our mailing. We have a
20 landing page and video, PSA video on our website.
21 I also want to highlight our public education,
22 our successful campaign that we ran for the last
23 three special elections. All, I think -- Antonio,
24 you can minimize that one. This is actually an

1 April 20, 2021

2 outdoor advertisement that's provided to us by
3 LinkNYC that all kiosks across all five boroughs,
4 we have already started doing out of home
5 advertisements again with the same branding
6 messaging, keeping that consistency which is what
7 we felt was important so voters are comfortable
8 when they enter the poll sites in June and aware
9 of their ability to rank up to five candidates in
10 particular contests.

11 Back to our successful public education
12 campaign, for the three specials, we received a
13 total of 26 million digital impressions for our
14 paid by, as well as three million impressions for
15 our print publications. I'd like to note that our
16 campaign was focused on citywide newspapers, both
17 print and digital, local, community based, as
18 well as our required languages. We also geocoded
19 and targeted specific zip codes where there was a
20 contest, and found that the strategy, along with
21 amplification on social media was very
22 successful.

23 So I want to thank the commissioners for
24 their commitment to public education and making

1 April 20, 2021

2 sure that all voters know of the new way to vote
3 come June and for those previous specials, and
4 I'm excited to present next week for our refresh
5 of the campaign as we enter into the June
6 primary.

7 SECRETARY CAMILO: Thank you, Valerie. I
8 just want to piggyback. Commissioner Zaccone
9 started and was complimenting and we all echo
10 those sentiments of all your hard work. This is
11 beyond our mandate. As we know, the New York City
12 Campaign Finance Board is mandated by the charter
13 to educate the public on ranked-choice voting,
14 but the print and media ads that we are seeing
15 are coming from our office. So we're doing a
16 fantastic job in spreading the message, making
17 sure that voters are informed about ranked-choice
18 voting, while it is our task to implement that at
19 the polls. So I just want to say thank you to
20 you, Valerie and all our staffs.

21 MS. DIAZ: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER SHAMOUN: This is
23 Commissioner Shamoun, I'd like to echo the
24 sentiments of Commissioner Zaccone and

1 April 20, 2021

2 Commissioner Camilo. Great job, it looks great,
3 and I think you'll make a lot of great
4 impressions and get the word out there. And I did
5 receive my mailer and I'm looking this beefy do
6 fast pass tag. I guess the material is a little
7 different and it looks a lot more durable so
8 people will be able to carry it all the time.

9 MS. DIAZ: Yes, thank you.

10 MS. SANDOW: Thank you, Val, great job.

11 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Thank you, very
12 well said.

13 MS. SANDOW: Commissioners, this
14 concludes today's agenda. Shall we set the next
15 meeting date before we say goodbye?

16 PRESIDENT UMANE: Yeah, I move that we
17 adjourn and that we have our next meeting next
18 Tuesday, April 27th at 1:30 p.m. Thank you and is
19 there a second to the motion?

20 SECRETARY CAMILO: Second.

21 PRESIDENT UMANE: All in favor?

22 MULTIPLE: Aye.

23 PRESIDENT UMANE: All opposed? All
24 abstentions? Thank you. Have a good week all, and

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April 20, 2021

stay safe. Take care.

MS. SANDOW: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: You as well, Fred.

COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Thank you.

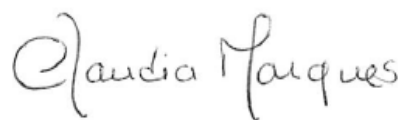
MS. SANDOW: Stay safe everyone.

(The meeting concluded at 2:38 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 20, 2021 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Certified By



Date: November 22, 2021

GENEVAWORLDWIDE, INC

256 West 38th Street - 10th Floor

New York, NY 10018