

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

42 Broadway - 6th floor
Commissioners' Hearing Room

New York, NY 10004

June 1, 2021

1:30 p.m. - 2:06 p.m.

June 1, 2021

PRESENT:

President Frederic Umane
Secretary Miguelina Camilo
Commissioner Jose Araujo
Commissioner Michael Michel
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

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

3 MS. DAWN SANDOW: Good afternoon, today
4 is Tuesday, June 1st and this is the
5 commissioners' meeting of the Board of Elections
6 in the city of New York. My name is Dawn Sandow
7 and I'm the deputy executive director of the
8 Board of Elections. We'll begin today's meeting
9 with the commissioners' roll call. President
10 Umane?

11 PRESIDENT FREDERIC UMANE: Present.

12 MS. SANDOW: Secretary Camilo?

13 SECRETARY MIGUELINA CAMILO: Present.

14 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Araujo?

15 COMMISSIONER JOSE ARAUJO: Present, and
16 good afternoon, everyone.

17 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Marmorato?

18 COMMISSIONER GINO MARMORATO: Good
19 afternoon, present.

20 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Michel?

21 COMMISSIONER MICHAEL MICHEL: Good
22 afternoon, present.

23 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Pepe-Souvenir?

24 COMMISSIONER RODNEY L. PEPE-SOUVENIR:

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2 Good afternoon everyone, present.

3 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Shamoun?

4 COMMISSIONER SIMON SHAMOUN: Present,
5 thank you.

6 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Taylor?

7 COMMISSIONER PATRICIA ANNE TAYLOR: Good
8 afternoon, I am present.

9 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Townsend?

10 COMMISSIONER TIFFANY TOWNSEND: Good
11 afternoon, present.

12 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Zaccone?

13 COMMISSIONER JOHN WM. ZACCONE: Good
14 afternoon, everyone, present.

15 MS. SANDOW: Also joining us today from
16 executive management is Georgea Kontzamanis,
17 operations manager, as well as Ken Moltner and
18 Steven Denkberg, counsels to the commissioners,
19 also general counsel Hemalee Patel and deputy
20 general counsel Raphael Savino. Before we begin,
21 I'd like to add exec session, King's personnel
22 and a report on finance committee meeting. I'd
23 like to pass it over to legal to add some
24 additional dates for the cover sheet review.

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2 MR. RAPHAEL SAVINO: Hello,
3 commissioners, we have some cures that are
4 trickling in, so we're asking for a few more days
5 of hearings. The first would be Friday, June 4th,
6 2021, at 3:00 p.m., and a second would be
7 Tuesday, next Tuesday, June 8th following the
8 commissioners' meeting.

9 COMMISSIONER PEPE-SOUVENIR: I can do
10 Friday. I can do Friday at 3:00 o'clock.

11 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay, I can back
12 Commissioner Pepe-Souvenir in case you're not
13 available, I'm available Friday at 3:00, if you
14 need a backup.

15 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: This is
16 Commissioner Zaccone. I'm available for either.

17 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: I'm available --

18 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: I think I cut off
19 Commissioner Michel, who also said he's
20 available.

21 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Michel, are
22 you available for Friday, June 4th?

23 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: Yes, if you need
24 me, I'll be there.

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2 MS. SANDOW: And Commissioner Zaccone,
3 you're available for Tuesday, June 8th?

4 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Yes, I am.

5 MS. SANDOW: And we just need a
6 Democratic commissioner for Tuesday, June 8th.

7 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Actually, I
8 think I can do Tuesday, June 8th.

9 MS. SANDOW: Okay, perfect. Okay. I'd
10 like to turn it over to Mr. Sherwin Suss.
11 Commissioner Umane, would you like to go over the
12 finance committee's tour, Quality Facility
13 Solutions?

14 MR. SHERWIN SUSS: Thank you, afternoon
15 commissioners. There was one item brought before
16 the finance committee today, a contract for
17 Quality Facility Solutions. This is a contract
18 for cleaning the early voting poll sites for the
19 upcoming June election. The sites will be cleaned
20 every day after closing. This includes the poll
21 room and the approaches to the poll room. The
22 number of sites being cleaned is 77. We have 12
23 sites in Manhattan, 22 sites in the Bronx, five
24 sites in Queens, 28 sites in Brooklyn, and ten

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2 sites in Staten Island. This is a DCAS
3 requirement contract. The service to procure this
4 is not to exceed prices \$410,183.

5 PRESIDENT UMANE: Yeah, the committee
6 reviewed this in-depth, and also the early voting
7 sites that are not included are being done by the
8 sites themselves and Mr. Suss explained to us
9 that was in part, say the museums, and he used
10 the example of not wanting the outsiders cleaning
11 the Picassos. Of course, my comment to him was
12 that the museum wasn't going to let anybody get
13 near those Picassos to touch them to begin with,
14 so that they didn't need to be cleaned. But that
15 was neither here nor there. But that's the reason
16 there are only 77 sites being done. And it's our
17 hope that COVID will be a think of the past by
18 November, because this is just for this
19 particular election. It's not for November.

20 So this was a unanimous committee
21 recommendation to the full board, and so it
22 doesn't need a motion and a second. Is there any
23 discussion?

24 SECRETARY CAMILO: Mr. Suss, can you

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2 just highlight the budget that this money is
3 going to be drafted from?

4 MR. SUSS: Yes, because this is
5 specifically related to COVID cleaning, it comes
6 out of a special code of the city. So it does not
7 come out of the Board of Elections budget.

8 PRESIDENT UMANE: So that's it. It's a
9 double home run for us. it doesn't cost our
10 agency anything. So that's another reason. Thank
11 you, Commissioner Camilo, for adding that. So if
12 there's no further discussion, all in favor of
13 approving this contract, signify by saying aye.

14 MULTIPLE: Aye.

15 PRESIDENT UMANE: All opposed? All
16 abstentions? So it's carried. Thank you.

17 MR. SUSS: Thank you, commissioners.

18 MS. SANDOW: Thank you, Mr. Suss. Item
19 one on the agenda is update for the June primary,
20 independent nominating petitions, the filing
21 deadline for independent nominating petitions for
22 the November general election has passed. We
23 received over 190 petition volumes. General
24 objections have been filed and the last day to

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2 receive specifications of those objections is
3 Thursday, June 3rd. We will present the hearing
4 schedule for review at our next meeting on the
5 8th, and as a reminder the hearing is scheduled
6 for June 15th.

7 Voter registrations, this past Friday,
8 May 28th, was the last day to register to vote
9 either in person or by postmarking an application
10 that we must receive by today, June 2nd. We did
11 receive 904 walk-ins here in the general office.
12 Registration staff was working over the weekend
13 to collect and sort applications that arrived
14 through the mail. We will update the registration
15 numbers next week after all is received and
16 entered into the system.

17 Absentee ballots, we are continuing to
18 process and send out absentee ballots. To date,
19 152,817 absentee ballots have been sent out,
20 which includes the vendor uploads to NYS Ballot
21 System and any in person absentees issued by the
22 borough offices. To date, 12,083 ballots have
23 been returned citywide.

24 Training, we continue our refresher

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2 training classes for poll workers, reinforcing
3 what is new with ranked-choice voting and the
4 two-page ballot. As of date, we have trained
5 almost 50 percent of our early voting and
6 election day workforce and remain on track to
7 have all poll workers receive a refresher class
8 online or in person before the June primary.

9 Ballot testing, as we announced last
10 week, testing of ballots is underway, of course,
11 all boroughs citywide. We anticipated a
12 substantial delay in Queens County due to a late
13 court decision adding 18 candidates back on the
14 ballot, including a borough wide candidate.

15 Commissioners, we have additional delays
16 we are contending with in Brooklyn, Manhattan and
17 in the Bronx. These delays have been caused by
18 test ballot printing errors. We added additional
19 work hours to the warehouse teams and we did stay
20 open in some of the boroughs on Memorial Day as
21 well to try and catch up.

22 Privacy sleeves, we have amended our
23 privacy sleeves to include ranked-choice voting
24 instructions as well as traditional voting

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2 instructions. We took the opportunity to upgrade
3 the paper quality of the privacy sleeve to make
4 them more durable to help protect the ballots.
5 And they are all language specific by borough.

6 In addition, we worked with the Center
7 for Civic Design, who you may remember they
8 assisted the state board with the revamping of
9 the absentee ballot envelope. They worked with
10 our internal team to create a reader friendly
11 layout for voters as well.

12 I don't know if you can see, but I'm
13 going to hold it up for everybody. It's
14 laminated, the inside has the instructions for
15 the voter, so that they can see ranked-choice
16 voting instructions and regular instructions.

17 Early voting poll site wait time, we are
18 happy to announce that the mapping program
19 showing wait times for early voting sites is
20 finished and staff is finalizing testing as we
21 speak. We will be ready to post the interactive
22 map on our website and the map will be active
23 beginning the first day of early voting. This is
24 a pilot program and we are hoping to adjust what

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2 lessons learned from the November election.

3 Antonio, can you please share the screen?

4 Using the coordinators and staff at the
5 early voting sites, the staff will be updating
6 wait times every hour at that specific site.
7 Voters will be able to look up their site and as
8 indicated by the green, red or yellow, the voter
9 will have an idea of what the wait time at their
10 assigned site is so that they may plan
11 accordingly. Green indicates not too busy, with a
12 wait time of less than 20 minutes. Antonio is
13 hovering over the green. Yellow indicates
14 moderately busy, with a wait time of 20 to 50
15 minutes. Red indicates very busy with a wait time
16 of 50 minutes or more. We would like to thank the
17 Center for Civic Design once again for assisting
18 our internal team with user friendly terms and
19 look forward to feedback from the public as well.

20 COMMISSIONER PEPE-SOUVENIR: I have a
21 question for you, Dawn.

22 MS. SANDOW: Sure.

23 COMMISSIONER PEPE-SOUVENIR: Is this,
24 can the voter download this on their phones, or

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2 must they be at an actual desktop or a laptop?

3 MS. SANDOW: Well, on their phone, they
4 can go to our website. They can use their phone
5 to go to our website. But it's not an app.

6 COMMISSIONER PEPE-SOUVENIR: Okay. So
7 they have to go to the website to then get that
8 information?

9 MS. SANDOW: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER PEPE-SOUVENIR: Okay, thank
11 you.

12 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: And this will be
13 available as of what day?

14 MS. KONTZAMANIS: First day of early
15 voting.

16 MS. SANDOW: The first day of early
17 voting.

18 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay.

19 PRESIDENT UMANE: If someone were to
20 call up the city help line, would the city people
21 have -- in other words, if they don't know to go
22 to our website, could they call the city, 411 or
23 211 --

24 MS. KONTZAMANIS: Yeah, the information

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2 is available to everyone.

3 MS. SANDOW: The information will be
4 given to everyone, yes.

5 PRESIDENT UMANE: So the operator there
6 would be able to see it and give that information
7 to a potential voter. Is that right?

8 MS. KONTZAMANIS: Correct.

9 PRESIDENT UMANE: Okay.

10 MS. SANDOW: Moving along to ranked-
11 choice voting, in regards to ranked-choice
12 voting, our staff is still working closely with
13 the State Board of Elections to finalize the RCV
14 tabulation software procedures and they will be
15 ready for your review this week and approval at
16 next week's meeting.

17 To clarify for the public, the
18 commissioner's discussion and decisions of last
19 week's meeting regarding RCV reporting, I just
20 want to go over the dates. On election night,
21 June 22nd, we will report unofficial election
22 night results beginning at the close of polls as
23 we always do.

24 I want to point out that the unofficial

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2 election night results do include all early
3 voting results. I'm saying this because there was
4 some press this morning on Channel 5 and they got
5 a little bit of the information wrong, so I just
6 want to clarify for the public that early voting
7 results are included in our unofficial results on
8 election night.

9 A week after election day, June 29th by
10 close of business, we will run, if needed, the
11 RCV rounds with all early voting and election day
12 data included. These RCV rounds will be
13 unofficial and posted to our website. They will
14 not include any absentee data.

15 A week later, July 6th, we will run the
16 RCV rounds once again to include any absentee
17 data that has been received and counted. Once
18 again, these results will be unofficial and
19 posted to our website. We will continue to run
20 the unofficial RCV rounds once a week until all
21 absentee ballots are accounted for and cure
22 deadlines have expired and we are ready to
23 certify.

24 Once the election is certified, we will

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2 release the CVR data upon request. We are in the
3 process of updating our website and we will
4 include all of these dates and explanations,
5 including a CVR request form.

6 Regarding the opening of absentees, we
7 will begin opening absentee ballots on Monday,
8 June 28th. We cannot open absentees any earlier
9 as we need to not only collect and compare
10 election day voter history to the absentees
11 received. But we are obligated to collect all
12 pre- and post- election data, including absentee
13 applications, affidavit and emergency ballots and
14 send those to voter files, along with all other
15 62 counties in New York State to the state board
16 by Thursday, June 24th, so that they may complete
17 the statewide voter comparison for potential
18 duplicates. The state board has assured all
19 counties that their completed return duplicate
20 report will be back to us no later than June
21 27th.

22 Commissioners, this concludes today's
23 agenda. Shall we set the next meeting date before
24 we go into executive session for personnel?

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2 SECRETARY CAMILO: I just have a quick
3 question. I just want to confirm, we've said it
4 before, we had the absentee ballot tracker. Is
5 that also operating so that people can see the
6 process of their own absentees? And if that can
7 be made available to the public at large as to
8 how many absentees are per district, you know, or
9 absentee ballot information.

10 MS. SANDOW: Yes, we're going to report
11 that on election day, yes. And our tracker has
12 been working, yes.

13 SECRETARY CAMILO: Thank you.

14 MS. SANDOW: Any other questions?

15 PRESIDENT UMANE: I would move that we
16 have our next meeting next Tuesday, the 8th.

17 MS. SANDOW: At 1:30.

18 PRESIDENT UMANE: At 1:30 p.m.

19 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Seconded.

20 PRESIDENT UMANE: All in favor?

21 MULTIPLE: Aye.

22 PRESIDENT UMANE: All opposed? All
23 abstentions? So that's set. And I would move that
24 we go into executive session for personnel.

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SECRETARY CAMILO: Second.

PRESIDENT UMANE: All in favor?

MULTIPLE: Aye.

PRESIDENT UMANE: All opposed? All abstentions? Okay. Thank you and have a good week everybody.

[EXECUTIVE SESSION]

MS. SANDOW: Good afternoon, and thank you for joining Board of Elections in the city of New York commissioners' meeting. There's nothing to report out, we will see you next week, June 8th at 1:30. Thank you.

(The meeting concluded at 2:06 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 June 1, 2021 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Certified By

Claudia Marques

Date: December 17, 2021

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