

BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
AND  
COVER SHEET REVIEW

42 Broadway - 6th floor  
Commissioners' Hearing Room  
New York, NY 10004  
June 8, 2021  
1:30 p.m. - 2:22 p.m.

June 8, 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

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2 (The meeting commenced at 1:32 p.m.)

3 MS. DAWN SANDOW: Today is Tuesday, June  
4 8th and this is the commissioners' meeting of the  
5 Board of Elections in the city of New York. My  
6 name is Dawn Sandow and I am the deputy executive  
7 director of the Board of Elections. I will begin  
8 today's meeting with the commissioners' roll  
9 call. President Umane?

10 PRESIDENT FREDERIC UMANE: Here.

11 MS. SANDOW: Secretary Camilo?

12 SECRETARY MIGUELINA CAMILO: Present.

13 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Araujo?

14 COMMISSIONER JOSE ARAUJO: Present.

15 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Marmorato?

16 COMMISSIONER GINO MARMORATO: Present  
17 and good afternoon, everyone.

18 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Michel? I see  
19 him.

20 MS. GEORGEA KONTZAMANIS: Yeah, he's  
21 there. He's muted.

22 MS. SANDOW: He's here. Commissioner  
23 Pepe-Souvenir? Commissioner Pepe-Souvenir?

24 COMMISSIONER RODNEY L. PEPE-SOUVENIR:

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2 [unintelligible] [00:03:16] can you hear me?

3 MS. SANDOW: Yes, now we can, yes.

4 Commissioner Shamoun?

5 COMMISSIONER SIMON SHAMOUN: Present,  
6 thank you.

7 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Taylor?

8 COMMISSIONER PATRICIA ANNE TAYLOR:  
9 Here.

10 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Townsend?

11 COMMISSIONER TIFFANY TOWNSEND: Good  
12 afternoon, present.

13 MS. SANDOW: Commissioner Zaccone?

14 COMMISSIONER JOHN WM. ZACCONE: Good  
15 afternoon, everybody, present.

16 MS. SANDOW: Also joining us today from  
17 executive management is Georgea Kontzamanis,  
18 operations manager, Ken Moltner and Steven  
19 Denkberg, counsels to the commissioners have  
20 joined us as well as general counsel Hemalee  
21 Patel and deputy general counsel Raphael Savino.  
22 Before we begin with today's agenda,  
23 commissioners, we need to add executive committee  
24 for two personnel issues. As a reminder, we have

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2 cover sheet review immediately following the full  
3 board meeting with Commissioner Zaccone and  
4 Commissioner Townsend. Let us begin today's  
5 agenda.

6 Item one on the agenda is update for the  
7 June primary. Independent nominating petitions,  
8 we have received all specifications. The borough  
9 teams are working on same. Hearing schedule for  
10 next week will include citywides, Queens and  
11 Richmond Counties. A draft calendar and  
12 procedures for our virtual hearing were sent out  
13 to all of you for review. The hearing is  
14 scheduled for 1:30 p.m., next Tuesday, before our  
15 regular scheduled meeting. Once the calendar is  
16 approved by the full board, we will update our  
17 website. Would anyone like to make a motion?

18 SECRETARY CAMILO: Move that we approve  
19 the calendar.

20 PRESIDENT UMANE: Approve the calendar.

21 MS. SANDOW: And is there a second?

22 SECRETARY CAMILO: Or I'll second.

23 PRESIDENT UMANE: All in favor?

24 MULTIPLE: Aye.

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2 PRESIDENT UMANE: All opposed? All  
3 abstentions? Okay.

4 MS. SANDOW: Motion carries. Voter  
5 registration, we have processed all voter  
6 registrations received by the deadline in the  
7 last week. Of the deadline for May 28th to June  
8 2nd, we received and processed a total of 5,007  
9 new voters citywide. This brings our year total  
10 to date to 52,263 new registered voters.

11 Absentee ballots, we are continuing to  
12 process and send out absentee ballots. As a  
13 reminder to the public, the last day to apply for  
14 an absentee ballot is Tuesday, June 15th. To  
15 date, 182,795 absentee ballots have been sent  
16 out, which includes the vendor uploads to NYS  
17 Ballot System and any in person absentees issued  
18 by the borough offices. To date, 31,941 ballots  
19 have been returned citywide as of 10:00 a.m. this  
20 morning.

21 Training, we continue our refresher  
22 training classes for poll workers, reinforcing  
23 what is new with ranked-choice voting and the  
24 two-page ballot. As of date, we have trained our

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2 early voting workforce, and are at 65 percent  
3 trained for our election day workers. Training  
4 will continue so that all poll workers receive a  
5 refresher class online or in-person before the  
6 June primary.

7 Ballot testing, we are at 98 percent  
8 complete for ballot testing citywide for early  
9 voting and are on track for completions before we  
10 ship this Thursday. Early voting shipments will  
11 be completed by Friday morning in preparation for  
12 our onsite team meeting on Friday. Citywide, we  
13 have completed 95 percent of election day BMD  
14 testing and are at 15 percent complete of  
15 election day scanners. Although we had a slow  
16 start due to printing test ballot errors, we are  
17 confident that we are back on track to meet all  
18 testing and delivery deadlines.

19 Election day deliveries have begun with  
20 tables, chairs and privacy booths with  
21 approximately 15 percent completed citywide as of  
22 yesterday. Deliveries are ongoing and on track.

23 We have seen an increase of contacts to  
24 our website and specifically to the poll site

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2 locator, which saw a 77 percent increase in use  
3 in the first week of June compared to the entire  
4 month of May. In preparation of potential  
5 increase in call volume, we have added additional  
6 customer service lines in conjunction with our  
7 vendor, which went live this week as well.

8 We would like to remind the public that  
9 the first day of early voting is this Saturday,  
10 June 12th and will go through Sunday, June 20th.  
11 For early voting hours or to find your early  
12 assigned site location, please visit our website  
13 at [Vote.NYC](http://Vote.NYC) or call us at 866-VOTENYC.

14 And finally, commissioners, we have  
15 forwarded to each of you the final updated  
16 procedures for using the ranked-choice voting  
17 tabulation software, based on our internal team's  
18 collaboration with the state Board of Elections  
19 operations team. The procedures cover everything  
20 required including the security concerns  
21 referenced by the state board in their public  
22 meeting, which we addressed using similar  
23 security features that we currently use with our  
24 certified voting system. We ask today that the



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2 procedures be approved for use.

3 PRESIDENT UMANE: That we approve the  
4 procedures as set forth and delivered to us  
5 previously.

6 SECRETARY CAMILO: And I second.

7 PRESIDENT UMANE: Is there a second?

8 SECRETARY CAMILO: And I second.

9 PRESIDENT UMANE: All in favor?

10 MULTIPLE: Aye.

11 PRESIDENT UMANE: All opposed? All  
12 abstentions? Okay. It's carried, thank you and  
13 please thank the staff for doing such a bang up  
14 job in a very short period of time with something  
15 that's highly complex and this is the first time  
16 through, so please thank the staff for that.

17 MS. SANDOW: We will, thank you,  
18 Commissioner Umane. Commissioners, this concludes  
19 today's agenda, shall we set the next meeting  
20 date before we go into the executive session?

21 PRESIDENT UMANE: I move that we have  
22 our next meeting after the hearings next Tuesday  
23 at 1:30 and I guess that would be the 15th. And  
24 then I move that we go into executive session for

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2 personnel. Is there a second?

3 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Second.

4 PRESIDENT UMANE: All in favor?

5 MULTIPLE: Aye.

6 PRESIDENT UMANE: All opposed? All  
7 abstentions? It's carried, thank you. We'll see  
8 everybody next week. Thank you all. Now, we'll go  
9 into executive session.

10 [EXECUTIVE SESSION]

11 MS. SANDOW: This concludes our June 8th  
12 meeting. There's nothing to report out. Our next  
13 meeting is June 15th immediately following the  
14 hearing set for 1:30 p.m. Thank you for attending  
15 our meeting.

16 [COMMISSIONERS' COVER SHEET REVIEW]

17 MR. SAVINO: Good afternoon,  
18 commissioners. The date is June 8, 2021. We are  
19 here for a commissioners' cover sheet review  
20 hearing. Kind enough to join us are Commissioner  
21 Zaccone and Commissioner Townsend. And without  
22 further ado, we will begin. Independent body,  
23 Future Party, Thomas Patrick Downs running for  
24 mayor of the city of New York. He had quite a few

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2 issues and was able to correct them.

3 Unfortunately, he appears to have typewritten the  
4 amended cover sheet, not used a sample, and it's  
5 containing -- it does not contain the  
6 certification that it has the required amount of  
7 signatures, which is a fatal defect. As per the  
8 election law, that must be on there. Must claim  
9 that, you know, as you can see they did list the  
10 identification numbers, they listed the number of  
11 petitions, but again that language is missing. So  
12 our recommendation is that it's not a valid cure.

13 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: I agree.

14 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Agreed.

15 MR. SAVINO: Thank you.

16 MS. PATEL: Thank you, commissioners.

17 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: You're welcome.

18 Unfortunately, it's the law.

19 MR. SAVINO: Next, we're going to look  
20 at Raja Michael Flores, running for New York City  
21 mayor. The original cover sheet did not match the  
22 petition because the cover sheet said Raja  
23 Flores. That has been corrected on the amended  
24 cover sheet. It has everything that is required.

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2 Our recommendation here is that it is a valid  
3 cure because they added the middle name.

4 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Okay.

5 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay.

6 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Just give me a  
7 second to review it.

8 MR. SAVINO: Certainly.

9 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Thank you, I  
10 agree. That is a valid cure.

11 MS. PATEL: Commissioner Townsend?

12 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Yes, agreed, I  
13 don't think it --

14 MR. SAVINO: Thank you, commissioners.  
15 Moving right along, we have a Erik S. Frankel,  
16 running for member of the City Council, 38th  
17 District. He did file an amended cover sheet. But  
18 the signature is not above the signature line,  
19 where often you would find amended written at the  
20 top of the page. That said, our rules don't  
21 really state where it should say amended and it  
22 does have the certification on the bottom that  
23 says I am hereby certified to file this amended  
24 cover sheet. The team wanted us to present this

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2 to you as they felt it was certainly something  
3 above their pay grade.

4 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Alright. In  
5 reviewing it, you know, it has the word amended  
6 on it. We may want to reconsider our rules for  
7 next year.

8 MS. PATEL: Yes, commissioner.

9 MR. SAVINO: We certainly can do that. I  
10 think they might be able to do --

11 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: [unintelligible]  
12 [00:43:45] on the top, just for our staff's  
13 convenience and be able to review them --

14 MR. SAVINO: Right.

15 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: -- when they get  
16 thousands of them.

17 MR. SAVINO: Agreed, yeah, that would be  
18 a problem when we get, you know, them right up  
19 against the filing period.

20 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Yeah.

21 MR. SAVINO: There's a few things we  
22 might change in the rules, but we can talk about  
23 that later.

24 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Talk about that

1 June 8, 2021

2 another day.

3 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Yeah.

4 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: But based on the  
5 existing rules and precedent, I think we accept  
6 this one.

7 MR. SAVINO: Commissioner Townsend?

8 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Agreed.

9 MS. PATEL: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: And agreed that  
11 yeah, let's revisit next year.

12 MR. SAVINO: Thank you, commissioners.  
13 With your permission, I will initial these  
14 notations on the file and also put my initials  
15 with the date, if that's okay.

16 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Yes, you're  
17 authorized --

18 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: -- to put  
20 initials down on the sheet.

21 MR. SAVINO: Okay. The next one we're  
22 going to take a look at is Trisha, is it?

23 MS. PATEL: Yes.

24 MR. SAVINO: Trisha Ocona. The attempted

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2 cure submitted two new cover sheets, each listing  
3 one volume number and did not have them together  
4 on one cover sheet. Also, she, they did not  
5 attach the original NCN or the prior cover sheet  
6 as required by our rules. And the original cover  
7 sheets obviously were defective and that's why  
8 she was asked to do an amended. So our  
9 recommendation here is that it is not a valid  
10 cure.

11 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay.

12 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Well, I, it's not  
13 a valid cure just because she didn't include the  
14 NCN or the prior cover sheet with it. Other than,  
15 for that reason, it think yes, I agree with you,  
16 it's not a cure.

17 MR. SAVINO: Okay, and --

18 MS. PATEL: Ms. Townsend?

19 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Can you guys  
20 hear me?

21 MR. SAVINO: We couldn't for a second.

22 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Okay, sorry. I'm  
23 in agreement with Commissioner Zacccone, sorry,  
24 yeah. My connection is awful today. I apologize.

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2 MR. SAVINO: Okay.

3 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: [unintelligible]  
4 [00:45:52] welcome.

5 MR. SAVINO: But there is also the other  
6 issue, I know she didn't attach the NCN or the  
7 original cover sheet, but we do have these two  
8 cover sheets filed at the same time, one lists  
9 one petition number and the other lists another  
10 petition number, so for that reason too, it does  
11 not appear to be a valid cure.

12 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: I'm not sure  
13 about that, and I didn't want to address that  
14 particular issue. Just because in theory, she  
15 could say, she could submit two separate ones and  
16 if she has enough signatures on one of them  
17 comply in that case. But that's why I don't think  
18 we have to address that one, as moot, because  
19 she's failed to meet our requirements before we  
20 even get to that.

21 MR. SAVINO: Okay. I just wanted to make  
22 sure I was clear on your findings. It's certainly  
23 well within your discretion. It makes sense.  
24 Thank you, commissioners.



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2 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Well, that was  
3 mine. We have to confirm with Commissioner  
4 Townsend.

5 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: That's fine.

6 MS. PATEL: Thank you, commissioners.

7 MR. SAVINO: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Thank you.

9 MR. SAVINO: Alright. The next matter  
10 we're going to take a look at is Walter Iwachiw,  
11 who's running for office, for mayor. And then  
12 Pillar Urevay [phonetic]. They're on the same  
13 issue, same contact person etc., running for City  
14 Council 26th District. Originally, they had Free  
15 Train N Bus Party, independent body I think it  
16 was. But the name was actually, excuse me, the  
17 name listed on the petition was actually FBNT,  
18 not Free Bus N Train Party. So it looks like that  
19 has been corrected. However, on the amended cover  
20 sheets, neither of them, Mr. Urevay or for Mr.  
21 Iwachiw, have that certification language on the  
22 bottom, I am authorized to file this amended  
23 cover sheet. I will note with respect Mr.  
24 Iwachiw, he is the candidate, he is the contact

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2 person. There is a signature on the bottom that  
3 may be his. They both have that same matching  
4 signature and he is the contact person on both.

5 So I know in the past when it was signed  
6 by the candidate, it was sometimes ruled  
7 sufficient in spite of missing that language. And  
8 there have been a number of court cases about  
9 this as well. But for the other person, Mr.  
10 Urevay, it is not obviously signed by the  
11 candidate.

12 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: And your  
13 recommendation?

14 MR. SAVINO: Oh, it appears to me that  
15 the one for Mr. Iwachiw would be valid and the  
16 one for Urevay, if I'm pronouncing that  
17 correctly, would be an invalid cure.

18 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Yeah, I'm in  
19 agreement with that.

20 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Yeah, I will  
21 agree as well. And we'll have to deal with the  
22 issues with the petitions on another day.

23 MR. SAVINO: Thank you, Commissioners.

24 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: I think we have

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2 one left?

3 MR. SAVINO: Yes. Abbey Laurel-Smith,  
4 the team ruled that this was actually a valid  
5 amended cover sheet. Originally, there were  
6 several cover sheets filed. Some were missing the  
7 number of volumes and the ID numbers. One or two  
8 were missing the name of the independent body. On  
9 the amended cover sheet, there is the independent  
10 body, ThePILGRIMS Alliance Party, it says amended  
11 on the top, it has the two volumes listed and  
12 lists two as the total number of volumes. It even  
13 has the certification on the bottom. Our  
14 recommendation is this is a valid cure.

15 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Okay. Can I just  
16 ask, in looking at this petition, I have, you  
17 know, so many various, you know, which is last  
18 amended -- there was one amended cover sheet that  
19 was filed on June 1st? Is that correct?

20 MR. SAVINO: It's also something that  
21 does not say amended on the top.

22 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Right.

23 MR. SAVINO: It does not have the  
24 certification and it was filed at the same time,

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2 based on the time stamp, but it is the same  
3 document, based on my review.

4 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: And okay, because  
5 that's what I'm trying to figure out, just what  
6 she had here. But she did have the, she included  
7 the prior cover sheet when she did it.

8 MR. SAVINO: Correct.

9 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: That was rejected  
10 and she did include the NCN notice, so --

11 MR. SAVINO: Right. It either has to be  
12 the cover sheet that they're trying to correct or  
13 the NCN notice. The NCN notice that we sent you  
14 is actually our copy.

15 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Oh, it is your  
16 copy? Okay.

17 MR. SAVINO: Apologies for the  
18 confusion.

19 COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: But she did  
20 include the other one, and it has all the  
21 information. I agree, it appears to be a valid  
22 cure.

23 COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Yeah, I'm in  
24 agreement.

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MR. SAVINO: Alright. Thank you,  
Commissioner Townsend and Commissioner Zaccone.  
That is all of the matters to be presented today,  
and it appears to me to be all the matters that  
we should be expecting attempted cures on at this  
point. Is there a motion to adjourn?

COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Yes, please.

COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: So moved.

MS. PATEL: Thank you.

MR. SAVINO: Thank you again for your  
time.

COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Thank you, guys.

COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Thank you, guys.

MR. SAVINO: Have a great day.

COMMISSIONER TOWNSEND: Take care.

MS. PATEL: You too, bye-bye.

COMMISSIONER ZACCONE: Bye.

(The meeting concluded at 2:22 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 8, 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: December 17, 2021

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