

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2010
AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR COMMISSIONERS' ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: President Julie Dent

Commissioners Araujo, Ryan, Schacher, Sipp, Soumas, Stupp

George Gonzalez, Executive Director
Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager
Steven H. Richman, General Counsel
John Owens Jr., Director, Campaign Finance Enforcement
Dorothy Delayo, Director, Personnel

GUEST: Walter Reily, Fox 5
David Seifman, NY Post
D. Eugene, NABC – TV
J. Lago, NABC – TV
Frank Lombardi, Daily News
Grace Rauh, NY1
Mark Kottler, NY1
Christine Lee, News 12
Gail Robinson, Gotham Gazette
Aaron Shoalter, Daily News
Greg Mange, NY Post Photo Department
Stan Brooks, WINS Radio
Rich Lamb, WCBS 880 Staff Reporter
Matt Gewolb, NY City Council
Angie Abul
G. Zaker, DOITT

President Dent called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

President Dent announced that the purpose of the special meeting is for Mr. Gonzalez to explain how the General Election ballot was designed and the basis for the elements.

Mr. Gonzalez explained the layout of the ballot. Concerns were raised this week in various media reports. Copies of the ballots were distributed to the Commissioners. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the layout of the ballot was designed in accordance with New York State (NYS) Election Law. He noted that there is a concern that the instruction can confuse voters. Mr. Gonzalez explained the layout is uniform and there are instructions on the ballot. He recited instruction #2, which states: "To vote for a candidate whose name is printed on this ballot fill in the oval above or next to the name of the candidate." He stated that the ballot layout and instructions are in compliance with NYS Election Law. Commissioner Araujo inquired what the Board will do to educate the voters for Election Day. Mr. Gonzalez stated that each privacy booth has a marigold instructional flyer for the voter which supplements the NYS Election Law instructions concerning marking the ballot. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the ballot layout is the same that was used for the 2010 Primary Election and there were no issues raised during that election. He added that there will also be informational palm cards available to the voters. The text of the

palm card will be printed in various New York City newspapers the day before the General Election. Commissioner Araujo asked Mr. Richman where the format was developed. Mr. Richman stated that a statutory formula was added by Chapter 165 which was enacted by the New York State Legislature in June 2010. The statutory formula is explicit and has been pre-cleared by the United States Department of Justice for use in New York. Mr. Richman added that the Board's sample ballots, marigold instructional flyer, and public education tools have been submitted and pre-cleared by the U.S. Department of Justice as well. Commissioner Araujo inquired if the 2010 Primary Election ballots were pre-cleared as well. Mr. Richman replied yes. Commissioner Soumas stated that the different languages that appear on some ballots are mandated by federal law. In addition, the policies and procedures of the Board are subject to review by the U.S. Department of Justice. President Dent stated that the Board follows all policies and procedures that are mandated.

Commissioner Soumas moved to convene an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Sipp seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Following the Executive Session, the open public meeting resumed

and President Dent reported that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Commissioner Schacher moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Stupp seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at 1:30 P.M.