

MEETING OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2014
AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: President Gregory C. Soumas
 Secretary Michael Michel

Commissioners Jose Araujo, Ronald Castorina, Julie Dent, Maria R. Guastella, Michael Rendino, Simon Shamoun, Frederic M. Umane

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director
Dawn Sandow, Deputy Executive Director
Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager
Steven H. Richman, General Counsel
Valerie Vazquez, Director, Communications & Public Affairs
Nina M. Crispino, Director, Personnel
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Monica Bartley, CIDNY
 Kate Doran, LWV
 Cathy Gray
 Kiana DeAraujo
 John D. Smith
 Elizabeth Robins, CM Kallos
 Annette Almazan, DOI
 Alex Camarda, Citizens Union
 K. Loving, CFB
 C. Katz, NYP

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

Commissioner Araujo moved to adopt the minutes for the June 3, 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded, and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Richman recommended for the Commissioners to approve the Draft Independent Nominating Petition Rules for the November 2014 General Election, the Draft Independent Nominating Filing Calendar for Federal Office for the November 2014 General Election, and the Draft Independent Nominating Petition Filing Calendar for State and Local Offices for the November 2014 General Election. Copies of the drafts were distributed to the Commissioners. Mr. Richman noted that the recommended dates for the Hearings on Specifications of Objections to Independent Nominating Petitions for Federal Office for the November 2014 General Election is Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at 1:30 P.M. The recommended dates for the Hearings on Specifications of Objections to Independent Nominating Petitions for State and Local Offices for the November 2014 General Election is Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 1:30 P.M. Mr. Richman recommended moving the regular Stated Meeting to the same date and time on Thursday, September 4, 2014. Commissioner Umare moved to adopt the Rules as submitted. Commissioner Araujo seconded the motion, which was unanimously

adopted. Commissioner Umame moved to adopt the suggested Calendar dates as submitted. Commissioner Araujo seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Ryan reported on the State Government Information and Educational Day which was held on June 10, 2014 in Albany, NY. Commissioners Castorina, Dent, Guastella, Rendino and Shamoun, and Executive and Legal Staff were in attendance. Board staff met with various Legislators and representatives from the Governor's Office to discuss the legislative agenda. The Assembly passed the following bills:

- Bill No. A.1464 which conforms the Election Law to the Federal Court decisions declaring the residency requirements of subscribing witnesses to be unconstitutional;
- Bill No. A. 9906 which codifies in statute the NYS Court of Appeals decision in Barron V. NYC BOE, which provides that a vacancy appears on the ballot only once in a year in which the office is to be elected;
- Bill No. A. 458 which would mandate rotation on Primary Election paper ballots.

The Board's Proposal #14-1 has been introduced by Assembly Member Cusick as Bill. No. A. 10102 and will be voted on this week. Commissioner

Umane inquired as to how much it would cost if Bill No. A. 458 is passed by the Senate. It was reported that Mr. Sattie and Mr. Naudus are currently gathering that specific data.

Mr. Ryan requested to discuss a personnel matter in Executive Session. He reported that Commissioner Dent had requested to discuss a personnel matter in Executive Session as well.

Commissioner Guastella requested to add an item to the agenda.

Commissioner Guastella reported that the Commissioners' Ballot Committee has conducted meetings in the previous weeks, and the Committee recommends to the full Board to move forward with acquiring a Ballot On Demand system for absentee ballots, and requested for Executive Management to research the systems, and to report back to the full Board with a recommendation. Commissioner Castorina seconded the motion. Before a vote was taken, there was discussion.

President Soumas recognized Alex Camarda, a representative of Citizens Union (CU), who reported that CU is lobbying for a couple of bills - a bill that relates to ballot design that was developed with Assembly

Member Kavanagh, a bill that relates to ballot design that was developed with Senator Golden, and a bill that relates to pre-registration for 16 year olds that was developed with Assembly Members Carlucci and Kavanagh. Mr. Camarda recommended for the Board to support these bills in the future.

Commissioner Araujo explained that a Ballot On Demand system would allow the Board to print absentee ballots as the requests come in from the voter rather than ordering large amounts of absentee ballots in advance. This new system would allow the Board to print absentee ballots in-house, and in return would be a cost savings to the Board. Each Borough Office would be able to print their own absentee ballots as the voters' requests come in.

President Soumas recognized Alex Camarda, a representative of Citizens Union, who inquired about the Ballot on Demand System.

Following discussion, Commissioner Guastella's motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Richman introduced David Inkeles and Michael Forsette, the new

law school student interns, who will be assisting the Office of the General Counsel this summer.

President Soumas moved to convene an Executive Session for purposes of personnel. Commissioner Dent seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Following Executive Session, the open public meeting resumed and President Soumas reported the following actions taken in Executive Session:

- I. Bart Haggerty was appointed as the Deputy Chief Clerk in the Queens Office, at the outgoing salary rate of his predecessor, effective June 29, 2014;
- II. Kristin Strandberg, a Temporary Clerk in the Staten Island Office, was appointed as a Trainer Assistant and transferred to the General Office;
- III. There were three (3) vacant Voting Machine Technician positions in the Manhattan Voting Machine Facility which were filled by Luvale Taylor, Anthony Jameson, and Dante Powell, at the outgoing salary rate of their predecessors;
- IV. Robert Scott, a Temporary Clerk in the Manhattan Office,

was appointed as an Administrative Assistant, a position that was vacated by Jean Burton's departure, at the incumbent salary rate;

- V. William Badger Rodriguez, a Clerk in the Manhattan Office, was appointed as an Administrative Assistant, a position formally held by James Nelson, at the incumbent salary rate;
- VI. Tirsia Fernandez was appointed as a Clerk in the Manhattan Office, a position that was vacated by William Badger Rodriguez, at the outgoing salary rate of her predecessor.

Commissioner Dent reported that there are vacancies in the Brooklyn Office and moved to approve the following:

- I. To appoint Daniel Ortiz, a Clerk in the Brooklyn Office, to the position vacated by James Howley who has retired, at the outgoing salary rate of Mr. Howley, effective June 1, 2014;
- II. To appoint Joel Ortiz, a Clerk in the Brooklyn Office, to the position of Administrative Assistant, a position vacated by Brenda Johnson who has resigned, at the outgoing salary rate of Ms. Johnson, effective June 1, 2014. Joel Ortiz is not related to Daniel Ortiz;
- III. To appoint Tobias Russo, a Temporary Clerk in the General

Office, to the position of Clerk in the Brooklyn Office, a position vacated by Joel Ortiz, at the salary of \$34,475, effective June 29, 2014;

- IV. To appoint Daniela Sherman as a Clerk in the Brooklyn Office, at the outgoing salary rate of Daniel Ortiz;
- V. The position of the Brooklyn Deputy Chief Clerk is on hold until further notice.

Commissioner Rendino seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Commissioner Umane moved to adjourn the meeting. President Soumas seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

President Soumas reminded that the Federal Primary Election is next Tuesday, June 24, 2014. The next stated meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 at 1:30 P.M.