

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015  
AT 1:30 P.M.  
42 BROADWAY, 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM  
NEW YORK, NY 10004

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PRESENT: President Michael Michel

Commissioners Jose Araujo, John Flateau, Alan Schulkin, Michael Rendino, Simon Shamoun, Frederic M. Umane

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director  
Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager  
Georgea Kontzamanis, Operations Manager  
Valerie Vazquez, Director, Communications & Public Affairs  
Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel  
Nina M. Crispino, Director, Personnel  
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Kate Doran, LWV NYC  
Cathy Gray  
Katharine Loving, NYC CFB  
Eddie Cuesta  
John D. Smith  
Judy Richheimer

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President Michel called the meeting to order at 1:33 P.M.

Commissioner Flateau requested to discuss a Brooklyn personnel matter in Executive Session.

Commissioner Araujo moved to adopt the minutes for the September 8, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Flateau seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Ryan requested for the Commissioners to convene a Meeting of the Board of Canvassers to authorize the Borough Commissioners' Committees to provisionally certify the results for the September 10, 2015 Primary Election for the Party Positions of Delegate and Alternate Delegate to a Judicial Convention or Member of County Committee based on the re-canvass of Election Day ballots and Emergency ballots. Mr. Ryan noted that the Board's calendar does not line up with the needs of various Party organizations citywide for their conventions. Commissioner Araujo moved to adopt Mr. Ryan's request. Commissioner Rendino seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted. Commissioner Araujo moved for the Board of Canvassers to designate the Borough Commissioners' Committees to serve as the Board of Canvassers for their respective borough for purposes of the Provisional Certification prior to the next meeting. President Michel seconded the motion. Before a final vote on the motion, Mr. Ryan requested authorization for use of the Commissioners' signature stamps as appropriate on each Statement and Return of Canvass. Commissioner Araujo moved his motion as amended

to authorize the use of the Commissioners' signature stamps as appropriate on each Statement and Return of Canvass. Commissioner Flateau seconded the amended motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Commissioner Araujo moved to adjourn the Meeting of the Board of Canvassers. Commissioner Rendino seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

President Michel re-convened the regular stated meeting.

Mr. Ryan provided an overview on the September 10, 2015 Primary Election. The Board is currently compiling all information relating to the election. There were a few poll sites that opened a little after 6:00 A.M. With respect to Election Night Reporting (ENR), 99.12% of Portable Memory Devices (PMDs) were uploaded citywide. The number has increased from the previous election which was at 98%. It was found that some PMDs were not read due to either PMD failures or poll sites did not open a machine. Commissioner Araujo inquired if the tablet ENR uploading at the poll sites is still a pilot project or fully implemented. Mr. Ryan reported that tablet ENR uploading has transitioned to a fully implemented process citywide. The Board recently received approval from

the Mayor's Office to acquire space at the 42 Broadway General Office to house all of the tablets and charging carts. All of the Windows-based tablets will be updated on the charging carts by a single program. The tablets will also be used for multiple functions throughout Election Day. The Information Clerks can assist voters more easily using the tablets. Voting Machine Technicians (VMT) will use the tablets for dispatches and resolutions. Citywide, it took an average of 30 minutes for a VMT to respond to a call and fix a scanner, and 35 minutes for Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs) with the utilization of tablet technology.

Commissioner Rendino inquired if there were any poll sites that were unable to upload election results from their tablet. Mr. Ryan reported that each poll site uploaded and noted that the tablet is equipped with a Wi-Fi Hot Spot and a gig of bandwidth. There was a 20 minute delay on Election Night due to a single code internal error message which prevented the raw data to move forward face-side. It was not a hardware or software issue. Staff diagnosed the issue within 10 minutes and it was resolved. The information jumped from 5% to 85% instantaneously. President Michel and Commissioner Araujo reported that the ENR website on their computer was frozen when they clicked on the links, but it worked on their cell phones. Mr. Ryan stated that the ENR links will be looked into. He noted

that there is an ENR terminal at the General Office, 42 Broadway, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, which is open to the public on Election Night.

President Michel noted that Commissioner Umane joined the meeting.

Commissioner Flateau reported on feedback he received from the Brooklyn Office's Call Center on Election Day. Many voters thought there was a Primary in their community and went to their poll site and found out there was not an election. Commissioner Flateau noted that part of the confusion might have been linked to the Voter Information Notices. Moving forward, he suggested for the Voter Outreach Committee and Executive Management to develop some type of messaging to voters in the future. Mr. Ryan reported that by the law the Board has to print and send, via USPS First Class Mail, the annual Voter Information Notices 45 days before an election to 4.5 million voters. The notices were mailed to voters on August 1, 2015. Inside the Voter Information Notice booklet, there was a bullet point indicating that the voter may not have an election in their District. That information was also indicated in the Board's legal notices in newspapers as well. At the time the Voter Information Notices were printed by law, the Board did not know who had an election or not.

Mr. Ryan welcomed all suggestions improving voter communication moving forward.

President Michel recognized Cathy Gray, a Poll Site Coordinator, who recommended for a letter to be sent to DOE Principals informing them if there are no contests at their site, so the Principal and Custodian can inform voters if they show up. Mr. Ryan reported that the Board sends out Election Day letters and packets to DOE Principals and Custodians six (6) weeks in advance of an election. If they do not receive a packet, they know there is no election at their site. Mr. Ryan noted that he will bring this matter up at the next DOE meeting. He added that there is a finite amount of resources for voters to get Election Day information. Ms. Gray also reported that she used the tablet all day with no problems, but around 9:15 P.M. she had an issue. Mr. Ryan reported that was the same time there was a 20 minute delay in the system.

President Michel recognized Eddie Cuesta, the New York Director of Dominicanos USA, a non-partisan organization, who reported that they registered over 70,000 New Yorkers. He thanked the Board's Voter Registration Department for being very helpful and providing them the forms. Commissioner Umame thanked Mr. Cuesta for his hard work and

requested for the voter registrations to be submitted as soon as possible so they can be processed by staff in a timely fashion. Mr. Cuesta reported that his organization submits the forms to the Board on a weekly basis.

Commissioner Araujo inquired about the Commissioners' Ballot Committee meeting via video conferencing. He reported that some members would like to join in the meeting in the Queens Office. It was reported that the Staten Island Commissioners, who are also on the Ballot Committee, have to confirm before the meeting is scheduled.

President Michel recognized Judy Richheimer, a candidate in the 2015 Primary Election and a Poll Site Monitor. Ms. Richheimer spoke about the following concerns:

- Election Districts changing;
- Dim lighting at the Bayard Rustin HS in Manhattan;
- The font size on the ballot;
- Poll Worker training;
- Rules concerning provisional certification and Party conventions.

President Michel moved to convene an Executive Session for purposes of personnel. The motion was seconded, which was unanimously adopted.

Following Executive Session, the public meeting resumed and Mr. Ryan reported the following action taken in Executive Session:

- I. The Commissioners unanimously granted an advance of 210 hours of sick leave to Betty Ann Canizio, the Deputy Chief Clerk in the Brooklyn Office, effective today. Ms. Canizio has been an employee since June 1, 2014.

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

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 1:30 P.M.