

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2015
AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: President Michael Michel
 Secretary Bianka Perez

Commissioners Jose Araujo, Ronald Castorina, John Flateau, Maria R. Guastella, Michael Rendino, Alan Schulkin, Simon Shamoun, Frederic M. Umane

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

GUEST: Kate Doran, LWV NYC
 Anna-Maria Thomas
 Katharine Loving, NYC CFB
 Susan Lerner, Common Cause/NY
 John D. Smith
 Rachel Fauss, Citizens Union
 Talia Werber
 Alan Flacks, Member of NY County Democratic Committee

President Michel called the meeting to order at 1:35 P.M.

Commissioner Rendino moved to adopt the minutes for the October 13, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded, with Commissioners Guastella and Castorina abstaining. The motion was adopted. Commissioners Guastella and Castorina abstained because they were not present at that meeting.

Mr. Ryan presented the Poll Worker Exception Report for the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island for the November 3, 2015 General Election. A copy of the report is in the agenda. Mr. Ryan reported that the Commissioners previously approved their borough's poll worker exceptions and requested for full Board approval of the report as presented. Commissioner Umame moved to approve the Poll Worker Exception Report for the November 3, 2015 General Election. Commissioner Shamoun seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Ryan reported on the Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) initiatives per the Commissioners' request. Sherwin Suss, the Board's Agency Chief Contracting Officer (ACCO), conducted an analysis and prepared a full report on the Board's efforts. A copy of the report for Fiscal Years 2013, 2014 and 2015 is in the agenda. Mr. Ryan provided an overview of the report. In 2015, excluding purchases through

DCAS requirements and OGS contracts in which the Board does not control, the Board spent \$524,715 (8.92% of overall expenditures) of the monies towards M/WBE certified vendors of which the Board staff has the role in the selection of the vendor. Mr. Ryan noted that in light of the recent NYC Comptroller's Report, the Board is ahead of many other City agencies with respect to M/WBE initiatives. Commissioner Flateau commended Executive Management for the detailed report and for being ahead of the citywide agency average which is 4%. He noted that the Board is moving in the right direction with this initiative.

Mr. Ryan reported on the Board's Poll Worker Recruitment Plan for 2016. At the previous meeting, Commissioner Flateau inquired about sources of poll worker recruitment for the 2016 election cycle. Mr. Ryan reported that the current pool of poll workers, consistent with the New York State Election Law, is as follows: 12,818 poll workers are from a county political organization, and 42,630 poll workers are from a source other than county political organizations such as hard copy poll worker applications, poll worker applications on the Board's website, www.ElectionDayWorker.com, and job fairs. Mr. Ryan reported that poll worker applications are available at the boroughs' Voter Registration Outreach events and Language Assistance Program (LAP) specific events.

The Board's Voter Outreach Committee makes every effort to recruit poll worker Interpreters, Coordinators, and Inspectors. In addition, the Commissioners' Voter Outreach Committee streamlined the Voter Registration Displays which are displayed at the Board's front counters, U.S. Post Offices, public libraries and other public offices. Commissioner Guastella reported that all of the poll worker applications in the Staten Island Post Offices are gone which is a great sign. It was noted that the Board will replenish the displays on Staten Island and reiterate to the Post Offices to contact the Board when the poll worker applications have been depleted. Mr. Ryan reported that the Board is also working with CUNY representatives on poll worker recruitment and voter registration drives. He noted that poll worker recruitment can also be extended to Union, NYPD, FDNY, and DOE events. Commissioner Rendino noted that there are many qualified substitute teachers in NYC that would be great candidates to serve as poll workers on Election Day. He reported that the Bronx Office has had great success with substitute teachers as poll workers. President Michel suggested for the Board to reach out to the schools' superintendents in the districts to recruit substitute teachers. Mr. Ryan recalled that the Robo-Call Poll Worker Recruitment pilot in Brooklyn, which was proposed by Commissioner Shamoun, was a low cost and effective option. Robo-calls were made to people in specific Brooklyn districts that

had a low amount of poll workers. Mr. Ryan reported that the Robo-call Poll Worker Recruitment pilot could be expanded citywide. It was also noted that targeted mailings can be an effective method of poll worker recruitment. Commissioner Flateau inquired if the Board would recruit High School students as poll workers in the future. Mr. Ryan reported that the Board had preliminary conversations with the Administration for a more robust students as poll workers program with the DOE. Students would have to be 17 years of age according to the NYS Election Law and would have to provide a parental waiver. Mr. Ryan welcomed all suggestions from the Commissioners moving forward concerning poll worker recruitment.

President Michel recognized Susan Lerner, a representative of Common Cause, who spoke about the amount of poll workers active in the Board's system, and recommended for the Board to move forward with a CUNY poll worker program with the students.

President Michel recognized Rachel Fauss, a representative of Citizens Union, who recommended for poll worker split-shifts and for the Board to move forward with the DOE to develop a poll worker program with the students. Ms. Fauss requested for copies of Election Center's reports

that were sent to the Board. Mr. Ryan reported that item will be on next week's agenda.

President Michel recognized Kate Doran, a representative of the League of Women Voters, who spoke about the poll worker split-shift pilot in Brooklyn and the utilization of tax exempt/tax abated buildings as poll sites.

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

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

- I. The Commissioners granted an advance of 140 hours to Wanda Davis, a Clerk in the Manhattan Office, effective immediately, and is to be paid back;
- II. The Commissioners granted an advance of 35 hours to Michael Kirschbaum, a Trainer Assistant in the General Office, for October 12, 2015 through October 16, 2015, and is to be paid back;

III. There is a Personnel Hearing on October 26, 2015 for an employee in the General Office. President Michel and Commissioner Araujo were designated to serve as the Hearing Officers.

Commissioner Castorina moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 1:30 P.M.