

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2016
AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: President Maria R. Guastella
 Secretary Frederic M. Umane

Commissioners Jose Araujo, John Flateau, Lisa Grey, Michael Michel,
Michael Rendino, Alan Schulkin, Simon Shamoun, Rosanna Vargas

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 & Public Affairs
Nina M. Crispino, Director, Personnel
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Kate Doran, LWVNYC
 Amanda Melillo, NYC CFB
 Robert Hennelly
 Elisabetta Nicotra
 Katharine Loving, NYC Campaign Finance Board
 Catherine Gray

President Guastella called the meeting to order at 1:37 P.M.

Commissioner Araujo moved to adopt the minutes for the October 18, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Vargas seconded the motion, with Commissioners Guastella, Grey and Rendino abstaining. The motion was adopted.

President Guastella recognized Elisabetta Nicotra, a member of the public, who challenged the voter registrations of three (3) voters: Ethel Harris (VSN # 305820696), Sakina Foster (VSN # 304600772), and John P. Martin (VSN # 304292550). Ms. Nicotra explained that on May 6, 2016 she purchased a vacant building located at 220 W. 137th Street, New York, NY 10030 and has been receiving election mail for these three (3) voters who do not reside in her building. Ms. Nicotra returned these voters' Voter Information Notices to the Board. In response to the challenges, Mr. Ryan directed Board staff to search the voter records of these three (3) voters for the Commissioners' review and to report back before the meeting is adjourned.

Mr. Ryan reported that he received a formal invitation last Monday to testify at the New York City Council's Committee on Governmental Operations Hearing on Wednesday, October 26, 2016. Mr. Ryan testified

at the Hearing and video of the Hearing is posted on the New York City Council's website.

Mr. Ryan reminded the public that the General Election will be conducted on Tuesday, November 8, 2016. Polls will be open from 6:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Mr. Ryan provided a status report on the preparations for the November 8, 2016 General Election which follows:

- There are Interpreter shortages in Manhattan and Queens. Manhattan needs additional Chinese Interpreters and Queens needs additional Korean Interpreters. Mr. Ryan requested assistance from the public to fill these vacancies;
- A total of 68,003 pieces of voting equipment will be deployed citywide;
- A total of 3,595 Scanners and 1,254 Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs) will be deployed;
- A total of 1,205 poll sites will be open with 333 sites requiring ADA temporary equipment such as ramps, leveling systems and mats;
- A total of 2,952 tablets will be deployed. Each poll site will have 2 tablets. A total of 152 tablets will be deployed to the NYPD;

- 95% of poll workers have been assigned to work to date. Copies of the detailed poll worker assignment charts will be distributed to the Commissioners.

President Guastella recognized Elisabetta Nicotra, a member of the public, who challenged the voter registrations of three (3) voters. Board staff searched the voter records of these three (3) voters for the Commissioners' review. It was found that there was no voting history for Ms. Harris and Mr. Martin, and Ms. Foster last voted in 2008. Ms. Nicotra submitted her signed "Challenge to a Voter Registration" affidavits to the Commissioners. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 5-220(1) of the New York State Election Law, Ms. Nicotra swore before the Commissioners challenging the voter registrations of Ethel Harris (VSN # 305820696), Sakina Foster (VSN # 304600772), and John P. Martin (VSN # 304292550) at 220 W. 137th Street, New York, NY 10030. These voters will be placed on the Challenge List in accordance with Section 5-220(2) of the NYS Election Law. The Commissioners directed for a bi-partisan team in the Manhattan Office to conduct the required inquiry into these challenges pursuant to the provisions of Article 5 of the New York State Election Law.

Secretary Umame moved to convene an Executive Session for purposes of personnel and litigation. The motion was seconded, and unanimously adopted.

Following Executive Session, the open public meeting resumed.

President Guastella recognized Katharine Loving, a representative of the New York City Campaign Finance Board, who announced that the Voter Advisory Assistance Commission (VAAC) is holding a public meeting at 5:30 P.M. tonight located at 100 Church Street, New York, NY.

Mr. Ryan requested to discuss and clarify a matter about a news report claiming that there was a “telephone outage” in the Board’s Call Center on Sunday. There was not a “telephone outage” in the Call Center as staff was receiving calls on Sunday. Mr. Ryan explained that the Board works closely with New York City’s 311 Call Center for a period before Election Day. Callers can choose a telephone prompt for only poll site information in which the call is transferred to the 311 Caller Center operators. There was a switching issue with Verizon’s software and the issue was resolved Monday morning. Mr. Ryan noted that he will not

release information to the press before all matters are initially reviewed by him and staff.

Mr. Ryan reported the following action taken in Executive Session:

- I. The Commissioners granted an advance of 100 hours to Ellen Giwa, an Administrative Assistant in the General Office, to be used as necessary. Ms. Giwa has been an employee since September 8, 2008.

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

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 1:30 P.M.