

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: President Frederic M. Umane

Commissioners Jose Miguel Araujo, Gino A. Marmorato, Michael Michel,
Rodney L. Pepe-Souvenir, Simon Shamoun, Patricia Anne Taylor,
John Wm. Zaccone

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director
Dawn Sandow, Deputy Executive Director
Georgea Kontzamanis, Operations Manager
Wilma Phillips, Administrative Manager
Hemalee J. Patel, General Counsel
Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel
John Naudus, Manager, Electronic Voting Systems
Thomas Sattie, Associate Staff Analyst, Ballot Management
Sherwin Suss, Agency Chief Contract Officer, Procurement
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Devi Nampiaparampil

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

Commissioner Marmorato moved to adopt the August 17, 2021 and
August 24, 2021 Commissioners' Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Araujo

seconded the motion, with Commissioner Michel abstaining. The motion was adopted.

President Umane reported that Secretary Camilo resigned as Commissioner on September 13, 2021. On behalf of the Commissioners, he thanked Commissioner Camilo for her dedicated service at the Board.

Commissioner Araujo was designated to serve as the Acting Bronx Democratic Commissioner. Commissioner Taylor was designated to serve as the Acting Manhattan Democratic Commissioner.

Commissioner Araujo moved to nominate Commissioner Pepe-Souvenir as Secretary of the Board. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

President Umane requested to add the Commissioners' Finance Committee Report on the agenda.

Mr. Sattie reported on the November 2, 2021 General Election ballot. Copies of the sample ballots for all five (5) boroughs were previously circulated to the Commissioners for review. Mr. Sattie reported that pursuant to Section 7-104

of the NYS Election Law, a candidate who appears as both a Party and an independent body name that either they merge the independent body with one of the Parties, or they have multiple independent bodies in a single column on the ballot. Mr. Sattie recalled that when a candidate did not request which column to appear in, the independent body name would be merged with the Party furthest to the right. The Party header would have the Party name and inside the candidate box would appear both the Party and independent body name. Mr. Sattie reported that he received telephone calls from candidate John A. Tabacco, Jr. for Comptroller about the ballot layout. Mr. Tabacco is running as an independent body and Libertarian Party, and he prefers to appear as the Libertarian Party/independent body. Mr. Sattie reported that Mr. Tabacco would be moved to the end of column, and candidate Carreras would move below Mr. Tabacco, which would make it into a two (2) row contest. Ballot staff confirmed that it would fit with no issue if the request is accommodated. The sample ballot layouts are in the traditional wraparound format and the initial candidate is the one who filed valid petitions first and follows the highest Office. Commissioner Zaccone recommended for the Party header to be clear between the Mayor and Public Advocate without adding another ballot page or reducing the font size on the ballot for the voters. Mr. Sattie confirmed that it would not affect the ballot size and the font size would not be reduced from 12 point. Mr. Ryan noted that this matter will be brought back to the Commissioners if there are any issues building the

ballot. Commissioner Araujo moved to adopt the sample ballot layouts with the recommendation of Commissioner Zaccone. Commissioner Pepe-Souvenir seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted. President Umane thanked the Ballot Committee and staff for their hard work building the ballot.

President Umane moved to remove and amend the Policy Statement on the Board's website which concerns paper ballots and electronic voting machines, to effectively comply with the new legislation, Section 7-104 of the New York State Election Law. Commissioner Araujo seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted. Commissioner Michel recommended for the Board to bring attention to the Legislators that this law will cause potential issues for the next Presidential Election ballot. President Umane suggested to include that point in the Board's recommended proposals for next year.

Mr. Ryan reported that there was technical difficulties with the meeting's Live Stream audio connection and requested for a short break to fix the issue.

After the break, the meeting reconvened.

Mr. Sattie reported on the application of a candidate regarding how their name should appear on the November 2, 2021 General Election ballot. The Board

sent a letter to candidate Devi Nampiaparampil notifying her of Section 7-104 (2) of the NYS Election Law, in which full names containing more than fifteen (15) letters, only the surname must be printed or request for the candidate to abbreviate their name (15) fifteen characters or less. Candidate Dr. Devi Nampiaparampil appeared to speak on her application. President Umame opened the floor for Ms. Nampiaparampil. Ms. Nampiaparampil requested for her name to appear as Dr. Devi Elizabeth Nampiaparampil, MD on the ballot, not just her surname. She reported that her community knows her as a female doctor and in 2018 there was a candidate on the ballot who had Dr. before his name, and other candidates who had over fifteen (15) characters such as Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. After discussion, President Umame moved to accommodate the candidate's request to include "Dr." before her name and to include her middle name Elizabeth on the ballot. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, with Commissioner Pepe-Souvenir opposing. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Ryan reported that there is a New York City Council Committee on Governmental Operations Hearing scheduled on September 20, 2021, and a New York State Senate Standing Committee on Elections Public Hearing to review Elections Administration and Voting Rights in New York State on September 21, 2021 in Albany, New York. President Umame moved for Board

staff to appear and prepare Testimony for the Hearings. Commissioner Zaccone seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

President Umane reported that the Commissioners' Finance Committee previously reviewed and recommended the following contracts:

1. Lumen – Renewal of the Cradlepoint licenses which the Board uses to provide Wi-Fi connectivity and security for all poll sites and training locations. This is a six (6) year renewal and the Board will be charged the cost of five (5) years. These licenses were obtained through NYC DOITT and the total cost will be \$1,151,960.30; and
2. Homecare Products Inc. – Contract to sell EZ Ramp components and lifts to the Board and to provide training to installers. The Board currently uses EZ Ramp components to construct temporary ramps at Early Voting and Election Day poll sites. This will allow the Board to purchase more equipment if needed to use at new poll sites as well as replace worn and broken equipment. This is a four (4) year contract and not to exceed price is \$8,208,308.

The full Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted the Commissioners' Finance Committee Report.

Mr. Ryan requested for ratification by the full Board concerning the Notice to Candidates for the November 2, 2021 General Election. The Notice was previously approved by the Executive Committee. It was reviewed by the Legal Department and meets the statutory requirements. President Umane moved for the full Board to ratify the approval of the Notice to Candidates for the November 2, 2021 General Election. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

President Umane moved to convene an Executive Session for personnel. The motion was seconded, and unanimously adopted.

Following Executive Session, the open meeting resumed. The following personnel actions were taken in Executive Session:

- I. Lloyd Garner III, an Administrative Assistant, was granted 210 hours of an Advance of Time. This grant is effective August 23, 2021. Mr. Garner's Agency start date is June 4, 2006;
- II. Toyelle Cabbagestalk, a Financial Clerk, was granted 145 hours of an Advance of Time. This grant is effective September 20, 2021. Ms. Cabbagestalk's Agency start date is August 31, 2014; and

III. Upon the authority of the full Board of Commissioners, the recommendation of the termination of Ms. Lorna Jackson, by the Borough Committee, at the close of business on September 14, 2021, was unanimously approved.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 1:30 P.M.