

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

PRESENT: President Frederic M. Umane
 Secretary Miguelina Camilo

Commissioners Gino A. Marmorato, Michael Michel, Rodney Pepe-Souvenir,
Simon Shamoun, Patricia Anne Taylor, Tiffany Townsend, John Wm. Zaccone

Dawn Sandow, Deputy Executive Director
Georgea Kontzamanis, Operations Manager
Wilma Brown Philips, Administrative Manager
Hemalee J. Patel, General Counsel
Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel
Valerie Diaz, Director, Communications and Public Affairs
John Naudus, Manager, Electronic Voting Systems
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Eric Kudos, Bloomberg
 Kate Doran, LWV
 Susan Lerner, Common Cause NY
 Ese Olumhense, City Limits
 Alan Flacks, Member of NY County Democrats
 Jennifer T.

President Umane called the meeting to order at 1:38 P.M.

Ms. Sandow welcomed Wilma Brown Philips, the new Administrative Manager of the Board.

An Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel matters was added to the agenda.

Ms. Sandow provided an update on the June 22, 2021 Primary Election. A reporting error occurred on June 29, 2021 with the Board's first release of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) unofficial round-by-round elimination report. The full board of Commissioners had stated that the reporting error was unacceptable and apologized to the voters. Ms. Sandow explained that the error allowed test ballot images to be included in the first round of RCV tabulation. State procedures mandate pre-qualification testing of all voting machines before every election. Marked test ballots are run through each scanner to ensure all scanners are programmed correctly. Test ballot results are loaded into the Election Management System (EMS) to confirm results, and when testing is completed, test results are cleared in the system. In this case, procedures for clearing test data from the system were not followed in one (1) of the five (5) boroughs. Once the Board identified the error, the affected system was cleared of all results data. All election data, including Early Voting and Election Day, was then re-read back into the system. The unofficial RCV rounds were re-tabulated when the Board

started releasing the unofficial results the following day. In the immediate, the Board added additional layers of manual quality control which will be enhanced further post Certification. The process the Board followed was transparent and open. The Board was trying to satisfy expectations of quick results with the new way of voting. This issue caused no votes to be lost, no voter disenfranchised, and no incorrect results to be certified.

Commissioner Zaccone inquired about the timeline for official results to certify the June 22, 2021 Primary Election. Ms. Sandow reported that there are a total of 3,699 Absentee Ballot Cures. After the total Cures are received by the last day on July 14, 2021, then the Board can proceed with the Certification.

Commissioner Michel reiterated that RCV was a new voting experience and the Board tried to release unofficial RCV results faster for the public and press. Mr. Naudus reported that for a regular election, the Board would release unofficial election results on Election Night, then the Board would certify the results approximately three (3) weeks later. During that time, there would be a thorough review of every voting system for Early Voting and Election Day, as well as the canvass of affidavit and absentee ballots. The error of test ballot images would have been addressed and corrected during that time. Mr. Naudus confirmed that additional manual checks for each step of the process have been added to the

procedures for the Electronic Voting Systems (EVS) Department and Borough Office staff. Commissioner Michel noted that staff has been working twelve (12) hours a day since testing and thanked them for their hard work. The new RCV system has never been implemented in a city as big as New York and he congratulated all Board staff members and poll workers.

President Umame moved to convene an Executive Session for litigation and personnel matters. Secretary Camilo seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Following Executive Session, the open public meeting resumed.

The following personnel actions were taken by the unanimous decision of the Board of Commissioners in Executive Session:

- I. Aliyah Roberts, a Democrat of Queens County, was terminated by full Board ratification; and
- II. Tyece Smith, a Democrat of New York County, was promoted to Assistant to the Administrative Manager, retroactive to June 28, 2021.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 1:30 P.M.

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