

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024 AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: President Simon Shamoun
Secretary Rodney L. Pepe-Souvenir

Commissioners Jose M. Araujo, Michael J. Coppotelli, Carol R. Edmead, Jodi Morales, Michele A. Sileo, Frederic M. Umame

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director
Vincent M. Ignizio, Deputy Executive Director
Georgea Kontzamanis, Operations Manager
Michael D. Corbett, Administrative Manager
Hemalee J. Patel, General Counsel
Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

Mr. Ryan opened the meeting with item #1 of the meeting agenda, the approval of the minutes of the December 19, 2023 Commissioners Meeting.

Hearing no objections, the minutes of the December 19, 2023 Commissioners Meeting were adopted.

Mr. Ryan stated that we as a Board would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the passing of former Commissioner John Flateau and Professor at Medgar Evers College. Not only did Commissioner Flateau have an over five-year

career here at the Board of Elections as a Commissioner, but he also had a very lengthy and, in many ways, groundbreaking career in Government for a number of years. Mr. Ryan stated that he was privileged personally to have worked with him here as a Commissioner, and to continue their work together on behalf of voters in his role on the Independent Redistricting Committees for both the City and the State. He was professional in those regards and more importantly he was a wonderful man.

President Shamoun stated that he certainly would like to echo those nice and kind words about Commissioner and Dr. Flateau. He had the pleasure of serving alongside him in Brooklyn for those years, and it is a great loss to both his family but of course the voters and the people of the City of New York. His contributions to us and to the City and the State cannot be overstated, and it is a loss for the Community. President Shamoun reminded everyone that services are tomorrow morning at Bridge Street AME Church on Stuyvesant Avenue, in Brooklyn at 9:00 AM for those who wish to pay their respects.

Secretary Pepe-Souvenir stated that she would like to also add her condolences to the Flateau family and friends, and to all of Brooklyn for what Commissioner Flateau had done and did. Secretary Pepe-Souvenir stated that he is her predecessor and is honored to say that he was a mentor to her while being here, she did not have the opportunity to work with him, but he was always there with a

kind word and with some mentoring and just letting her know what was going on. Secretary Pepe-Souvenir stated that she is very saddened by the loss to our community and extended her condolences once again to the family and friends of Dr. Flateau.

Mr. Ryan continued with item #2 of the meeting agenda, NYS Election Law Section 3-212(1) the Election of Board Officers for the Year 2024.

Mr. Ryan stated that as required by Section 3-212(1) of the Election Law, the Board is required to elect Board Officers in its first meeting, and today is the first meeting of the year. President Shamoun's tenure which started as Secretary and moved on to President is coming to a close in any event, and he will have a replacement.

Mr. Ryan stated that on behalf of the employees of the Board and Executive Management we would like to extend our thanks for his stewardship and professionalism in both of those capacities over the past several years, and we look forward to working with him as a Commissioner.

President Shamoun stated that he does appreciate those words and it really has been a pleasure for the past couple of years, serving on the Executive Committee and helping out and working with the fine folks in the General Office

to make sure that the voters in the City of New York are served well. President Shamoun stated that he continues to be engaged in all issues as required and is here to help, so this isn't goodbye this is just hello.

President Shamoun stated that he would also like to thank Secretary Pepe-Souvenir for serving alongside him for the past two years, as they did a lot of great work together. President Shamoun noted that they did their job and, in many regards, it is a thankless job and is just more responsibilities but they enjoyed it, and enjoyed working together and feels that they did pretty good on behalf of this office and on behalf of the voters.

Secretary Pepe-Souvenir thanked President Shamoun for being such a good colleague to work with and for always trying to promote all the goodness in the Board of Elections.

President Shamoun stated that he would like to make a motion for his replacement which would be Secretary. Commissioner Umane has served on this Board for a few years, and during an upcoming Presidential Election he could think of no better person to be a knowledgeable and steady even-keeled hand at the helm as Secretary to help us through such a busy and important year, and so with that President Shamoun moved to nominate Commissioner Umane as Secretary for

the calendar year 2024. Commissioner Coppotelli seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Araujo stated that he would like to nominate Commissioner Pepe-Souvenir for the position of President, noting that she has done a great job as a Secretary and as past President, and there's not doubt in anyone's mind that she can definitely take us through this Presidential Election and beyond, and with that Commissioner Araujo moved to nominate Commissioner Pepe-Souvenir for the position of President. Commissioner Umane seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Ryan stated that that passes unanimously, for the calendar year 2024 Rodney Pepe-Souvenir will be the President of the Board and Frederic Umane will be the Secretary of the Board.

Mr. Ryan stated that that concludes the public portion of the meeting agenda, and the thing would be to set the next meeting date, which Executive Management is suggesting to be January 23, 2024 because of the NYS Election Commissioners Association Winter Conference next week.

Commissioner Shamoun moved to set the date of the next meeting for Tuesday, January 23, 2024. Secretary Umane seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Secretary Umane moved to adjourn the open meeting and convene an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Araujo seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Following the Executive Session, the open meeting resumed.

The following actions were taken by the unanimous decision of the Board of Commissioners:

1. Viola Hamilton-Keith, an Administrative Associate, was granted 161 hours of an advance of sick time. This grant is effective January 9, 2024. Ms. Hamilton-Keith's agency start date is June 22, 2014.
2. Luz Ortega, a Staff Analyst, was granted 63 hours of an advance of sick time. This grant is effective December 14, 2023. Ms. Ortega's agency start date is July 14, 2002.

3. Shanette Brown, an Administrative Assistant, was granted 210 hours of an advance of sick time. This grant is effective January 2, 2024. Ms. Brown's agency start date is July 27, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners of Elections is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 1:00 P.M.