

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015  
AT 1:30 P.M.  
42 BROADWAY, 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM  
NEW YORK, NY 10004

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PRESENT:       President Michael Michel  
                  Secretary Bianka Perez

Commissioners Jose Araujo, John Flateau, Maria R. Guastella, Michael Rendino, Alan Schulkin, 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 and Public Affairs  
Nina M. Crispino, Director, Personnel  
Stephen Thompson, Administrative Assistant, Election Day Operations  
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners  
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST:       Kate Doran, LWV NYC  
                  Rachel Fauss, Citizens Union  
                  Talia Werber, Citizens Union  
                  Cathy Gray  
                  K. Loving, CFB  
                  Alan Flacks, Member of NY County Democratic Committee  
                  Anna-Maria Thomas  
                  Michael Benjamin

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

Commissioner Araujo moved to adopt the minutes for the October 20, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Guastella seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

President Michel noted that Secretary Perez and Commissioner Rendino joined the meeting.

Mr. Ryan reported that Mr. Thompson will conduct a demonstration of the Board's tablet which will be utilized citywide on Election Day moving forward. Mr. Thompson recalled that there was an Election Night Reporting (ENR) Tablet Pilot Program during the May 5, 2015 Special Election and 80% of the unofficial election results were uploaded in the poll sites via tablet by 9:20 P.M. The Board has procured Microsoft Surface Pro 3 Tablets. These tablets are more flexible than the Android Tablets for purposes of centralized software updates and centralized charging. There are approximately 1,400 tablets – 1,200 for poll sites, 150 for AD Monitors, and 80 for Voting Machine Technicians. Mr. Thompson provided an overview on the following features of the tablet:

- An Election Night Reporting program was developed in which poll workers insert the voting machine's USB stick and it transmits the unofficial election results from the poll site. It was

designed to be very user friendly for the poll workers. The tablet's screen is yellow when the USB stick is inserted, then it turns red when it is uploading the unofficial election results, and lastly it turns green when the USB stick is ready to be removed. If the tablet should happen to fail uploading the unofficial results, the backup plan is for the USB sticks to be uploaded at the Police Precincts. The NYPD will open the bags only if the unofficial results were not uploaded in the system;

- The tablets can upload and troubleshoot in the field;
- Proactively generate tickets with respect to accessibility;
- Ballot information;
- The poll site's schematic;
- ADA poll site information;
- The specific amount of voting equipment in the poll site;
- Poll site supplies request icon. It was noted that the supply list can be modified to add more items after post-election review;
- Poll worker request icon;
- Voting equipment request icon;
- "Poll Site Locator" icon. It has been redesigned to be more user friendly;

- Google maps for the poll sites;
- “Table Finder” icon. It speeds up the process for the Information Clerk and voter;
- Election Day Teams can “check-in” in the field and can be tracked so staff knows which poll sites have been visited throughout the day.

The Board utilizes Verizon Wi-Fi “Jetpacks” which can have up to ten (10) devices connected per poll site. NYC DOITT handles the cost for the hardware. It was noted that there may be some poll sites with Wi-Fi connectivity issues, but there were no data transmittal issues during the May 5, 2015 Special Election. With respect to security for the unofficial election results, the USB sticks are encrypted by ES&S prior to transmission. This encryption was certified by the State Board. In addition, New York State has the most comprehensive Canvass procedures. Mr. Thompson reported that for the 2016 election cycle, staff plans to work on the following tablet features:

- Poll worker “check-in” which would help streamline payroll and allow for real-time information where stand-by poll workers are needed;
- Poll worker tips and FAQ’s;

- An alarm reminder set every two (2) hours for Coordinators to complete their ADA Journals;
- Email messaging to the Coordinators from the Borough Offices;
- Voter Registration database. Poll workers could type in the voter's name and find out the voter's Party and ED/AD. The tablets would be connected wirelessly to the Board's server which would also be encrypted for security. This feature would greatly assist poll workers and voters on Primary Day. It was noted that the Board received complaints from many voters on Primary Day because they showed up to their poll site, but were not aware that they did not have an election;

Mr. Ryan noted that the tablet is a small step away from Electronic Poll Books, but the New York State Legislature and State Board would have to approve first. It was reported that two (2) tablets will be used in the poll site and three (3) tablets will be used for larger poll sites. The tablet's battery life lasts all day and if the battery gets low it can be plugged-in to charge. The Board will look into stylus instruments for the poll workers. President Michel requested for each Commissioner to have a tablet to use on Election Day. On behalf of the Commissioners, Commissioner Umame commended the Board staff members who worked on the implementation

of these tablets. He noted that the tablet is a significant advancement for the Board and the whole Election Day process.

President Michel recognized Cathy Gray, a member of the public, who inquired about the tablet's storage space for voter registration information of 4 million voters.

President Michel recognized Kate Doran, a representative of the League of Women Voters, who requested for the public to view the tablets during the Commissioners' Executive Session.

Mr. Ryan requested to table the Election Center update until the next meeting. There was a consensus among the Commissioners to table the Election Center update until the next meeting.

President Michel recognized Alan Flacks, a member of the public, who inquired about his recommendation to hire an additional 6,000 poll workers for the 2016 election cycle, and the requirement concerning postal zip codes and apartment numbers on petitions and cover sheets.

Commissioner Guastella moved to convene 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 action taken in Executive Session:

- I. The Commissioners granted an advance of 210 hours to Betty Ann Canizio, Deputy Chief Clerk of the Brooklyn Office, to be used as needed, and is to be paid back with her accruals. Ms. Canizio's start date with the Board was June 1, 2014.

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

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 1:30 P.M.