

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015
AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: President Michael Michel
 Secretary Bianka Perez

Commissioners Jose Araujo, John Flateau, Michael Rendino, Alan Schulkin, Simon Shamoun, 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 & Public Affairs
Nina M. Crispino, Director, Personnel
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Robert Morgan
 Kate Doran, LWV NYC
 Eddie Cuesta, Dominicanos USA
 Rachel Fauss, Citizens Union
 Katharine Loving, CFB
 Catherine Gray
 John D. Smith
 Michael Benjamin

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

Commissioner Araujo moved to adopt the minutes for the November 10, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Flateau seconded the motion, with Secretary Perez abstaining. The motion was adopted.

President Michel reported that a member of the public has requested to challenge three (3) voter registrations. This request was added to the agenda.

The report on the November 3, 2015 General Election was tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Ryan reported on the Election Center Report. Commencing in August 2014, Election Center has prepared to date six (6) reports containing suggested changes for the Board's poll worker training process. Election Center effectively edited the Poll Worker Manual with consistent language, color coding, and tabbing. Poll workers are being trained with the Manual so they can easily reference it. Mr. Ryan reported that various AD Monitors citywide have indicated that the new changes have been helpful. PowerPoint presentations with embedded videos and many graphics have been incorporated into the poll worker training to assist the Trainers and to ensure the message to the poll workers and Coordinators is

as consistent as possible. The goal was to shorten the training classes to 4 hours instead of 6 hours to leave more time for hands-on training. There is also a focus on ADA compliance and ADA sensitivity. Commissioner Araujo inquired if the new poll worker training has affected the poll worker pass/fail rate. Mr. Ryan reported that he would have to look into that information for each borough. He recalled that the poll worker training materials and video are also posted on the Board's website and would like the poll workers to utilize the website more. The poll worker training video had a total of 4,823 hits from October 2014 through November 2015. In October 2015, there were a total of 980 hits. Mr. Ryan reported that the poll worker training videos will be promoted more moving forward. It was noted that some jurisdictions conduct poll worker training on video only such as San Diego, Chicago, and Miami. Commissioner Araujo suggested for the poll worker training video to be played in the office for the stand-by pool while they wait to be sent out on Election Day. Mr. Ryan reported that will also be a focus on the opening and closing procedures moving forward. Commissioner Rendino suggested for the closing procedures to be available on the poll workers' tablets in the future. Mr. Ryan reported that staff is currently working on making the tablets more interactive by adding software so there is email capability with the General Office, and a Skype-type feature that would allow a poll worker to hold their tablet to a voting

machine and a Board Technician could walk them through an issue such as a paper jam. Mr. Ryan reported that there was also an idea to have an interactive exam on the computer instead of a paper exam to make the poll workers more conversant in the usage of training materials. Board staff will keep improving poll worker training over the course of time.

President Michel reported that there was damage to many Queens voting machines during the trucking. He reported there were some issues with the trucking company three (3) years ago as well, and requested for a report on the damage and costs associated with it, and to review and edit the trucking contracts before they are signed and awarded. Commissioner Araujo requested for a report on any damages for the past three (3) years or duration of time with the particular trucking company in Queens.

Ms. Sandow reported that the Board would also like to expand the Election Day Worker portal to all poll workers adding poll worker training materials and information notices for training classes. Commissioner Shamoun reiterated the importance of poll worker communication. He recommended for the poll site Coordinator to write the poll workers' contact information such as cell phone numbers and email addresses on Election Day on the attendance sheets which would then be given back to the

Borough Offices to be proactively updated in the system. He also suggested for the poll worker list to be in an editable form on the tablets to make any necessary contact changes in the future.

President Michel recognized Robert Morgan, a member of the public, who challenged the registrations of three (3) voters. Mr. Morgan believed the registrations should be cancelled because the voters are registered in a commercial office building. Mr. Morgan submitted three (3) signed “Challenge to a Registration of Voter” affidavits to the Commissioners. The voters’ information follows:

1. Lawrence Cassidy, 42 Broadway, Lobby 1, NY, NY 10004
VSN # 303692851
2. Sadik Ghaleb, 42 Broadway, 42-34, New York
VSN # 305834595
3. Marsha Gross, 42 Broadway, 1774, NY, NY 10004
VSN # 300840493

The Commissioners and Executive staff reviewed the registration buff cards of the three (3) voters and had a preliminary discussion. It was found that all of the voters are from the National Change of Address (NCOA) report. Two (2) voters are inactive and all have not voted. It was noted that the voters’ mail may have been forwarded to their lawyer’s office

because he/she may be ill or deceased, or they may be homeless, or there is a data entry error in the system. Mr. Morgan swore before the Commissioners, pursuant to the provisions of Section 5-220(1) of the NYS Election Law, challenging the voter registrations. The Commissioners directed Mr. Richman and Mr. Savino to conduct the required investigation into this challenge pursuant to the provisions of Article 5 of the NYS Election Law, and to report back to the full Board.

President Michel recognized Rachel Fauss, a representative of Citizens Union, and Cathy Gray, a member of the League of Women Voters, who requested for copies of the Election Center report. Mr. Ryan asked Mr. Savino to process their FOIL requests.

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

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at 1:30 P.M.